

**PRACTICE OF LAW BOARD  
STATE OF WASHINGTON**

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-  
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March 23, 2009

Pavel Stepanov  
[REDACTED]

Bellevue, WA [REDACTED]

RE: File No. 08-20 Unauthorized Practice of Law  
Complaint against Pavel Stepanov

Dear Mr. Stepanov:

The Practice of Law Board was created by order of the Washington State Supreme Court, General Rule (GR) 25. The Board is charged with the investigation of allegations of unauthorized practice of law in Washington. Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 2.48.180 states that a nonlawyer practicing law or holding himself out as entitled to practice law constitutes the unauthorized practice of law. Court rule GR 24 defines the practice of law. The unauthorized practice of law is a crime in Washington.

As you are aware, [REDACTED] V [REDACTED] filed a complaint against you alleging that you engaged in the unauthorized practice of law by misrepresenting yourself as an attorney. Ms. V [REDACTED] states she saw your advertisement in a local, Russian magazine and hired you to handle her traffic violation matter. The advertisement from the magazine *Kanon*, which was shown to the Board, states that the "clients' interests are represented by attorney C [REDACTED] S [REDACTED]," but prominently features a picture of you and another paralegal with the titles "Specialist in auto accidents" and "Specialist in immigration" under each of your names. Your cell phone is listed on the advertisement for clients to call. According to Ms. V [REDACTED], you never explained to her that you are a paralegal and not an attorney, nor did you mention to her that you work under attorney C [REDACTED] S [REDACTED]. Ms. V [REDACTED] spoke with you about her matter, gave you her money, and never actually met attorney C [REDACTED] S [REDACTED].

After three hearings regarding her traffic violation, where no attorney appeared on her behalf, Ms. V [REDACTED] went to your

office to demand a refund of her money. The secretary told her that only you could return her money. You later wrote her a check.

You are not a lawyer. RCW 2.48.180(2)(a) states that a non-lawyer practicing law or holding himself out as entitled to do so constitutes the unauthorized practice of law. Appearing in misleading advertisements, not clearly identifying yourself as a paralegal, and failing to correct clients who mistake you as the lawyer can all be considered holding yourself out as entitled to practice law.

At this time, pursuant to GR 25(f)(4)(B), we request that you enter into a written agreement with this Board, to refrain from the following conduct:

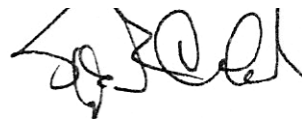
- Practicing law or holding yourself out as entitled to practice law;
- Any activity which is defined as the practice of law in GR 24.

If you disagree with the POL Board's final action, you may seek review by filing a Notice of Petition for Review with the Washington Supreme Court. The Notice must be filed within 30 days of final POL Board action. You must serve the original Notice of Petition for Review on the Supreme Court Clerk and a copy on the POL Board. Your Notice must set out your name and address, the name and address of your counsel, if any, and a concise statement of the reason for your appeal. Your Petition must comply with the Rules of Appellate Procedure (RAP). For further information on Petitions for Review, please see GR 25(g).

Please sign and date your signature and have your signature witnessed by a person over the age of eighteen, who will also sign as the witness. The signed letter should be returned to the Board within 15 days.

Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation.

Very Truly Yours,



Steve Crossland, Chair  
Practice of Law Board

JS:as

Enclosure: Agreement to Refrain

cc: [REDACTED] V [REDACTED] (w/out enclosure)