



The State Bar  
*of California*

OFFICE OF CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL

180 Howard Street, San Francisco, CA 94105

415-538-2443

paul.brennan@calbar.ca.gov

January 23, 2025

James Bennett  
30123 Rancho California Road Apt. 617  
Temecula, CA 92592

RE: Case Number: 24-O-28746  
Respondent: James A. Judge

Dear James Bennett:

An attorney for the State Bar's Office of Chief Trial Counsel has reviewed your complaint against James A. Judge to determine whether there are sufficient grounds for proceeding to prosecute a possible violation of the State Bar Act and/or Rules of Professional Conduct.

You have stated that Mr. Judge has pursued a foreclosure complaint against your wife that is fraudulent because there is no lien, no property at issue, and no personal jurisdiction. The complaint was filed on December 28, 2009.

We have concluded that because the conduct complained of is beyond the time limit allowed, we are unable to proceed with your complaint.

Rule 5.21, Rules of Procedure of the State Bar of California, prohibits the State Bar from initiating disciplinary proceedings against an attorney for alleged misconduct occurring more than five years from the date of the violation(s). The rule recognizes various exceptions to extend the five-year period, including for example, when the attorney continues to represent the complainant; when the complainant is a minor; when there are pending civil, criminal, or administrative investigations or proceedings based on the same acts against the attorney; or when the attorney conceals facts about the misconduct.

After reviewing whether any of the possible exceptions available under rule 5.21 would apply to permit your complaint to proceed, we conclude that your complaint fails to meet an exception to the five-year limitations rule. However, if you have additional information showing that an exception applies, you may request in writing that your complaint be reopened. In explaining

why an exception may apply, please give specific dates of possible violations so that we may properly evaluate your additional information.

Further, even were the complaint filed within the five-year limitations period, we find there are insufficient facts to support a finding that Mr. Judge has committed misconduct by filing his action. It is the duty of a lawyer to counsel or maintain those actions only as appear to the lawyer to be legal or just. A lawyer, however, may rely in good faith upon information received from the lawyer's client as the basis for a belief that a proceeding or litigation strategy is warranted. In addition, many disputes are reasonable disagreements between reasonable people, and even an unsuccessful action or argument is not sufficient on its own to support a finding of misconduct by a lawyer. The closing of your complaint is not a determination of the validity of any legal claim you may have, only that the allegations you made do not support a finding that the lawyer violated the State Bar Act or the Rules of Professional Conduct.

For these reasons, the State Bar is closing this matter.

If you have new facts and circumstances that you believe may change our determination to close your complaint, you may submit a written statement with the new information to the Intake Unit for review. If you have any questions about this process, you may call Trial Counsel Paul L. Brennan at 415-538-2443. If you leave a voice message, be sure to clearly identify the lawyer complained of, the inquiry number assigned, and your telephone number including the area code. We should return your call within two business days.

If you have presented all of the information that you wish to have considered, and you disagree with the decision to close your complaint, you may request that the State Bar's Complaint Review Unit review your complaint. The Complaint Review Unit will recommend that your complaint be reopened if it determines that further investigation is warranted. To request review by the Complaint Review Unit, you must submit your request in writing, either:

- 1) Via email: Within 90 days of the date of this letter, by email to: [CRU@calbar.ca.gov](mailto:CRU@calbar.ca.gov); or
- 2) Via United States Mail: Post-marked within 90 days of the date of this letter, by United States Mail to:

The State Bar of California  
Complaint Review Unit

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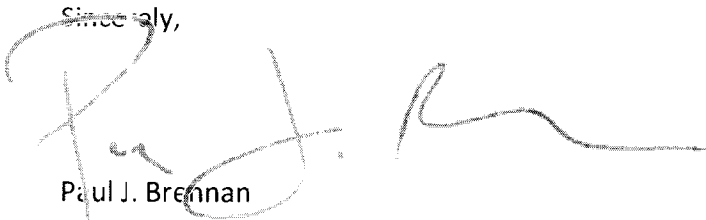
Office of General Counsel  
180 Howard Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105-1617

If you decide to send new information or documents to this office, the 90-day period will continue to run during the time that this office considers the new material. You may wish to consult with legal counsel for advice regarding any other available remedies. You may contact your local or county bar association to obtain the names of attorneys to assist you in this matter.

We would appreciate if you would complete a short, anonymous survey about your experience with filing your complaint. While your responses to the survey will not change the outcome of the complaint you filed against the attorney, the State Bar will use your answers to help improve the services we provide to the public. The survey can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HJGKWY7>.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to the attention of the State Bar.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul J. Brennan", written over a faint circular stamp or watermark.

Paul J. Brennan  
Trial Counsel

pjb



The State Bar  
*of California*

OFFICE OF CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL

845 S. Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, CA 90017

213-765-1338

bo.yang@calbar.ca.gov

January 14, 2020

James Bennett  
PO Box 675733  
Rancho Santa Fe  
CA 92067

RE: Case Number: 20-O-00479  
Respondent: James Judge

Dear Mr. Bennett:

The State Bar's Office of Chief Trial Counsel has reviewed your complaint against James Judge to determine whether there are sufficient grounds to prosecute a possible violation of the State Bar Act and/or Rules of Professional Conduct.

In your complaint to the State Bar, you stated that your wife, Pamela Bennett, was a pro se defendant in a civil case in which the plaintiff, a homeowner's association, sued to recover unpaid fees. You stated that James Judge represented the plaintiff in that case. You alleged that Mr. Judge filed this law suit in 2009, then left the case unattended for 10 years. In 2019, Mr. Judge finally moved to prosecute the case. You alleged that the events that have transpired during that time have rendered plaintiff's causes of action moot, and that therefore Mr. Judge has presented a claim unwarranted by existing law.

Along with your complaint, you provided the transcript of a trial readiness hearing on August 9, 2019. At that hearing, you appeared on behalf of your wife, the true defendant of that case. The court informed you at that time that you could not appear to argue the case because you were neither a licensed attorney nor a party to the case. At this hearing, you raised your concern that plaintiff's causes of action may have been moot, but the court refused to hear the argument because you were not a party to the case, and you were not a licensed attorney. You also provided the State Bar with the court's Judgement on the case, which indicated that the court entered judgment by default against your wife because she failed to appear at trial.

James Bennett  
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Based on our evaluation of the information provided, we are closing your complaint. Under the laws of California, the facts as you have alleged them would not be grounds for disciplinary action.

As opposing counsel, James Judge did not owe you a duty to perform legal services on your behalf or to cooperate with you in a manner favorable to you. Instead, he had a responsibility to pursue his client's best interests, and is entitled to take the civil actions he deemed necessary to protect those interests. This is true even when to do so might directly conflict with your interests, or those of other parties involved. This conflict alone is insufficient to demonstrate misconduct.

Additionally, the issues you have raised with the State Bar, i.e. that the plaintiff's causes of action were moot, are best directed to and addressed by a court of competent jurisdiction. The State Bar cannot give you legal advice regarding the appeal of your case. If you or your wife wish to consult an attorney about any other remedies available to you, a certified lawyer referral service can provide the names of attorneys who may be able to assist you. In order to find a certified lawyer referral service, you may call our automated Lawyer Referral Services Directory at 1-866-442-2529 (toll free in California) or 415-538-2250 (from outside California) or access the State Bar's website at [www.calbar.ca.gov](http://www.calbar.ca.gov) and look for information on lawyer referral services.

For these reasons, the State Bar is closing this matter.

If you have new facts and circumstances that you believe may change our determination to close your complaint, you may submit a written statement with the new information to the Intake Unit for review. If you have any questions about this process, you may call Deputy Trial Counsel Bo Yang at 213-765-1338. If you leave a voice message, be sure to clearly identify the lawyer complained of, the case number assigned, and your telephone number including the area code. We should return your call within two business days.

If you are not aware of new facts or circumstances but otherwise disagree with the decision to close your complaint, you may submit a request for review by the State Bar's Complaint Review Unit, which will review your complaint and the Intake Unit's decision to close the complaint. The Complaint Review Unit may reopen your complaint if it determines that your complaint was inappropriately closed or that you presented new, significant evidence to support your complaint. To request review by the Complaint Review Unit, you must submit your request **in**

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**writing**, together with any new evidence you wish to be considered, post-marked within **90 days of the date of this letter**, to:

The State Bar of California  
Complaint Review Unit  
Office of General Counsel  
180 Howard Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105-1617

We would appreciate if you would complete a short, anonymous survey about your experience with filing your complaint. While your responses to the survey will not change the outcome of the complaint you filed against the attorney, the State Bar will use your answers to help improve the services we provide to the public. The survey can be found at <http://bit.ly/StateBarSurvey1>.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to the attention of the State Bar.

Sincerely,



Bo Yang  
Deputy Trial Counsel



**Personal and Confidential**

**Complaint Review Unit**

March 26, 2020

Pamela Bennett  
PO Box 675733  
Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067

RE: Case No.: 20-O-00479; 20-O-00480  
Respondent(s): James Arthur Judge; David Mangikyan

Dear Pamela Bennett:

The Complaint Review Unit received your correspondence on February 18, 2020, requesting reconsideration of the decision to close your complaint. An attorney reviewed all the information provided and has determined that there is not a sufficient basis to recommend reopening your complaint.

The Complaint Review Unit will recommend reopening a complaint when there is significant new evidence or when we determine there is good cause to recommend that the matter be reopened. The State Bar Court is authorized to impose or recommend disciplinary sanctions only if there is clear and convincing evidence to establish that the attorney has committed a violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct or the State Bar Act. Therefore, the Complaint Review Unit will not recommend that a matter be reopened unless there is a reasonable possibility that a disciplinary violation can be proven by clear and convincing evidence. You have alleged that attorneys James Arthur Judge and David Mangikyan committed professional misconduct by continuing to prosecute a suit filed against Pamela Bennett 10 years earlier, the causes of action in which had been rendered moot. Specifically, you make legal and factual arguments that the causes of action, seeking to collect delinquent homeowners fees, were rendered moot by a superior lien and the recording of a Notice of Delinquent Lien. You allege that by prosecuting this case and obtaining a default judgment in their client's favor, Mr. Judge and Mr. Mangikyan violated the Rules of Professional Conduct.

The Office of Chief Trial Counsel ("OCTC") evaluated your claims carefully and explained to you by separate letters dated January 13 and 14, 2020, that it was closing your complaints because the facts as you have alleged them would not be grounds for disciplinary action. Specifically, OCTC noted that Mr. Judge and Mr. Mangikyan, as opposing counsel, did not owe you a duty to cooperate with you in a particular manner favorable to your interests, and that they were entitled to take the civil actions deemed necessary to protect their client's interests.

March 26, 2020

Case Nos.: 20-O-00479; 20-O-00480

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Furthermore, OCTC noted that the specific factual and legal issues you raised regarding whether the causes of actions in your case were moot are best directed to and addressed by a civil court of competent jurisdiction.

In your request for review, you again state that Mr. Judge and Mr. Mangikyan “obtained a default judgment by misrepresenting an unmeritorious Complaint as [] viable when in truth they admitted the Complaint was Moot.” You state that you disagree with OCTC’s conclusion and again attach the documents that accompanied your initial complaints.

The Complaint Review Unit has carefully reviewed your initial complaints, as well as your request for review and the attached documentation, and we affirm the decision of OCTC to close your complaints without further investigation. As a general matter, the Complaint Review Unit will only recommend reopening a complaint when a request for review provides significant new evidence or otherwise demonstrates good cause. Your request for review does not submit any new evidence or information that was not already considered by OCTC when it decided to close your complaint.

Furthermore, we agree with OCTC that your specific arguments regarding whether or not the causes of action in your case had been rendered moot are appropriately addressed by a civil court and not by the State Bar. The State Bar cannot substitute its judgment for the civil court in your case; nor can the State Bar give you legal advice regarding any potential post-judgment or appellate remedies.

We have thus determined your complaint was properly closed.

If you disagree with this decision, you may file an accusation against the attorney with the California Supreme Court. A copy of the applicable rule is enclosed. (See Rule 9.13, subsections (d) through (f), California Rules of Court.) If you choose to file an accusation, you must do so **within 60 days of the date of the mailing of this letter**. Together with your accusation, you should provide the Supreme Court (1) a copy of this letter and (2) a copy of the original closing letter from the Office of Chief Trial Counsel.

The State Bar cannot give you legal advice or representation. If you have not already done so, you may wish to consult with an attorney for advice regarding any other remedies which may be available to you. Attorneys can be located by contacting a lawyer referral service certified by the State Bar in your area. You may obtain a list of State Bar certified lawyer referral services by calling the State Bar at 866-442-2529 or by visiting the State Bar website at:

<http://www.calbar.ca.gov/Public/Need-Legal-Help/Lawyer-Referral-Service>

Sincerely,  
Complaint Review Unit  
Enclosure



The State Bar  
*of California*

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

180 Howard Street, San Francisco, CA 94105

415-538-2575

**Personal and Confidential**

**Complaint Review Unit**

June 15, 2021

Pamela Bennett  
PO Box 675733  
Rancho Santa Fe CA 92067

RE: Case No.: 16-31410  
Respondent(s): Jered Taylor Ede

Dear Ms. Bennett:

We have received and reviewed your most recent correspondence dated May 27, 2021, regarding the above-referenced matter.

It appears that your correspondence presents no new allegations or evidence that merit reopening your complaint. Therefore, the matter will remain closed.

Please consider this our final communication regarding the aforementioned decision to close your complaint.

Sincerely,  
Complaint Review Unit



THE STATE BAR  
OF CALIFORNIA

OFFICE OF CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL  
INTAKE UNIT  
Melanie J. Lawrence, Interim Chief Trial Counsel

845 SOUTH FIGUEROA STREET, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90017-2515

TELEPHONE: (213) 765-1000  
FAX: (213) 765-1168  
<http://www.calbar.ca.gov>

March 28, 2019

Mr. James Bennett  
Ms. Pamela Bennett  
P.O. Box 675733  
Rancho Santa Fe, Ca. 92067

RE: Case Number: 19-10988  
Respondent: Jered Taylor Ede

Dear Mr. and Ms. Bennett:

The State Bar's Office of Chief Trial Counsel has reviewed your letters dated February 23, 2019, March 9, 2019, and March 12, 2019, in which you provided additional information and documents in support of your complaint against attorney Jered Taylor Ede. As you know, the State Bar informed you in a letter dated February 5, 2019 that it decided to close your complaint against attorney Ede because there were insufficient facts to show that he committed misconduct.

In your complaint and your letters dated February 23, March 9, and March 12, 2019, you stated that attorney Ede perjured himself in two documents. He filed a false substitution of attorney in which he stated that he represented Bank of America. Later, he file a sworn declaration stating that he was representing Deutsche National Bank. You also accused attorney Ede of having an improper ex parte communication with a judge and of changing the register of actions in San Diego County Superior Court case number 37-2015-00024336-CU-FR-NC to reflect that Deutsche National Bank rather than Bank of America was the defendant.

Based on our evaluation of the information provided, we are closing your complaint. The documents you provided do not contain facts which show that attorney Ede committed misconduct.

With your complaint and your February 23 and March 9, 2019 letters, you provided the State Bar with documents which you believe show attorney Ede committed misconduct. Thank you for providing these documents. They are helpful.

One document you provided was Ms. Bennett's civil complaint in case number 37-2015-00024336-CU-FR-NC. On July 22, 2015, Pamela Bennett as plaintiff filed a complaint for fraud and wrongful foreclosure against Bank of America N.A. for the benefit of Deutsche Bank National Trust Company as Trustee for holders of the GSR Mortgage Loan Trust 2007-0A1. By naming Bank of America and Deutsche Bank National Trust as defendants, Ms. Bennett was aware of the identities of these parties and their involvement with the foreclosure of your home.

In the documents you provided, attorney Michael Withem of the law firm of Rosenthal, Withem, and Zeff represented Bank of America and Deutsche Bank National Trust in Ms. Bennet's lawsuit. You provided me with copies of pleadings signed by Mr. Withem on behalf of these parties. These

James and Pamela Bennett

March 28, 2019

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documents included demurrers to the two causes of action in the complaint and a notice of motion to expunge a lis pendens against your former home filed by Ms. Bennett.

On October 10, 2016, the law firm of Green & Hall and attorney Ede filed a substitution of attorney replacing attorney Withem and Rosenthal, Withem, and Zeff as attorneys for Bank of America N.A. and Deutsche Bank National Trust Company. Green & Hall and attorney Ede replaced attorney Michael Withem who apparently retired from the practice of law.

Based on these documents, attorney Ede did not make any false statements about the clients he represented. Nor did he substitute Deutsche Bank National Trust for Bank of America, N.A. Green & Hall and attorney Ede, as new substitute counsel, informed the superior court through the substitution of attorney that they represented the same parties as attorney Withem.

The documents you provided also included a heavily redacted e-mail dated August 9, 2017 addressed to James Bennett. The author of the e-mail is not identified. In that letter, the author stated he spoke with “[Superior Court] Clerk Garland, Judge Stern, and the supervisor in charge of the Civil Records division.” The author wrote that these persons told him that the register of actions is not a factual document and that what happened in court is the fact, not what is listed in the register of actions. The author wrote “[a] dispute about what is on the ROA is a dispute about how the court keeps their records not a dispute of facts.

Perhaps you are focusing on the following statement in the August , 2017 e-mail: “[i]n this case, Bank of America and Deutsche Bank both had an interest in the property and when a new attorney became part of the case, he updated the record from Bank of America to Deutsche Bank for whatever reason....” This statement is not supported by the documents you submitted. Attorney Withem’s demurrers and motion to expunge the lis pendens were filed on behalf of Bank of America and Deutsche Bank National Trust. Deutsche Bank National Trust was not added as a party by Green & Hall and attorney Ede.

The facts and documents you provided do not show that attorney Ede committed misconduct. Further, the court having jurisdiction over this matter is the appropriate venue for deciding whether attorney Ede improperly changed the register of actions, whether he filed a false substitution of attorney, and whether he had an improper ex parte communication with a judge. These are procedural matters within the jurisdiction of the San Diego County Superior Court.

For these reasons, your matter will remain closed.

If you have new facts and circumstances that you believe may change our determination to close your complaint, you may submit a written statement with the new information to the Intake Unit for review. If you have any questions about this process, you may call Senior Trial Counsel Brandon K. Tady at (213) 765-1385. If you leave a voice message, be sure to clearly identify the lawyer complained of, the inquiry number assigned, and your telephone number including the area code. We should return your call within two business days.

If you are not aware of new facts or circumstances but otherwise disagree with the decision to close your complaint, you may submit a request for review by the State Bar’s Complaint Review Unit, which will

James and Pamela Bennett  
March 28, 2019  
Page 3

review your complaint and the Intake Unit's decision to close the complaint. The Complaint Review Unit may reopen your complaint if it determines that your complaint was inappropriately closed or that you presented new, significant evidence to support your complaint. To request review by the Complaint Review Unit, you must submit your request **in writing**, together with any new evidence you wish to be considered, post-marked within **90 days of the date of this letter**, to:


The State Bar of California  
Complaint Review Unit  
Office of General Counsel  
180 Howard Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105-1617

The State Bar cannot give you legal advice. If you wish to consult an attorney about any other remedies available to you, a certified lawyer referral service can provide the names of attorneys who may be able to assist you. In order to find a certified lawyer referral service, you may call our automated Lawyer Referral Services Directory at 1-866-442-2529 (toll free in California) or 415-538-2250 (from outside California) or access the State Bar's website at [www.calbar.ca.gov](http://www.calbar.ca.gov) and look for information on lawyer referral services.

We would appreciate if you would complete a short, anonymous survey about your experience with filing your complaint. While your responses to the survey will not change the outcome of the complaint you filed against the attorney, the State Bar will use your answers to help improve the services we provide to the public. The survey can be found at <http://bit.ly/StateBarSurvey1>.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to the attention of the State Bar.

Very truly yours,

  
Brandon K. Tady  
Senior Trial Counsel

BKT



THE STATE BAR  
OF CALIFORNIA

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL  
COMPLAINT REVIEW UNIT

180 HOWARD STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94105-1639

TELEPHONE: (415) 538-2000  
FAX: (415) 538-2220  
<http://www.calbar.ca.gov>

Personal and Confidential

April 18, 2017

Pamela Bennett  
P.O. Box 675733  
Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067

RE: Case No.: 16-31410  
Respondent: Jered Ede

Dear Ms. Bennett:

The Complaint Review Unit received your correspondence on April 5, 2017, requesting review of the decision to close your complaint. Your request has been assigned to attorney Carissa Andresen.

The Complaint Review Unit, housed in the State Bar's Office of General Counsel, reviews decisions of the Office of Chief Trial Counsel to close complaints against attorneys when requested by complainants. The Complaint Review Unit will recommend to the Office of Chief Trial Counsel that a case be re-opened when there is good cause to do so. Whether a particular re-opened matter is investigated further or whether charges are filed is within the sole discretion of the State Bar's Chief Trial Counsel.

The Complaint Review attorney assigned to review your complaint will inform you whether the matter will be re-opened. If your complaint is re-opened, the matter will be returned to the Office of Chief Trial Counsel with a recommendation for further investigation. If your complaint remains closed, the Complaint Review attorney will explain the reasons for that decision and advise you of your right to file an accusation against an attorney directly with the Supreme Court of California.

Please note that the State Bar is not your attorney. The State Bar's function is to determine whether a particular complaint warrants disciplinary action. If you believe that you have a civil, criminal or administrative claim related to your complaint, you should consult an attorney regarding any available remedies. Attorneys can be located by contacting a lawyer referral service certified by the State Bar in your area. For a list of certified lawyer referral services call the State Bar at 866-442-2529 or visit the State Bar's website at <http://www.calbar.ca.gov/Public/LawyerReferralServicesLRS.aspx>.

Very truly yours

Stefanie Miranda  
Administrative Assistant II