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SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO
SAN BERNARDINO DISTRICT

OCT 01 2019

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10 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

11 **FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO**

12 In the Matter of the Assumption of
Jurisdiction Over the Unauthorized Law
13 Practice of:

14 SAMARIS ESTRADA doing business as
15 IMMIGRANTS LEGAL OPTIONS,
IMMIGRATION LEGAL OPTIONS, AND
16 IMMIGRATION LEGAL OPTION, INC.

17 Respondent.

) Case No: CIVDS1929353
) EX PARTE APPLICATION FOR ORDER TO
) SHOW CAUSE AND FOR INTERIM
) ORDERS ASSUMING JURISDICTION OVER
) THE UNAUTHORIZED LAW PRACTICE OF
) SAMARIS ESTRADA dba IMMIGRANTS
) LEGAL OPTIONS, IMMIGRATION LEGAL
) OPTIONS, AND IMMIGRATION LEGAL
) OPTION, INC.; REQUEST FOR
) INJUNCTION; MEMORANDUM OF POINTS
) AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT
) THEREOF; DECLARATION OF MICHAEL
) CHAVEZ AND EXHIBITS IN SUPPORT
) THEREOF; DECLARATION OF MELVIN
) OMAR CONTRERAS AND EXHIBITS IN
) SUPPORT THEREOF; AND DECLARATION
) OF ANA MERCEDES CORADO AND
) EXHIBITS IN SUPPORT THEREOF

) [Rules of Court, rules 3.1200 et seq.;
) Bus & Prof. Code §§ 6125, 6126(a), 6126.3, &
) 6030]

) Hearing Date: 10-3-19
) Time: 8:30
) Dept.: 529 

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27 **EX PARTE APPLICATION FOR ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE AND FOR INTERIM ORDERS ASSUMING**
28 **JURISDICTION OVER THE UNAUTHORIZED LAW PRACTICE OF SAMARIS ESTRADA DBA**
IMMIGRANTS LEGAL OPTIONS, IMMIGRATION LEGAL OPTIONS, AND IMMIGRATION LEGAL
OPTION, INC. AND REQUEST FOR INJUNCTION

1 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Melanie Lawrence, Interim Chief Trial Counsel of the
2 State Bar of California (“State Bar”), by and through Deputy Trial Counsel Veronica Trejo
3 hereby applies to this court ex parte for interim orders in accordance with California Rules of
4 Court, rule 3.1200 et seq. and Business and Professions Code sections 6125, 6126 and 6030 et
5 seq. (All statutory references are to the Business and Professions Code, unless otherwise
6 specified.)

7 Not only is the practice of law by non-attorneys unlawful, but the State Bar may apply to
8 the Superior Court to assume jurisdiction over the unlawful practice. Section 6126.3 states, “[i]n
9 addition to any criminal penalties pursuant to section 6126 or to any contempt proceedings
10 pursuant to section 6127, the courts of the state shall have the jurisdiction provided in this
11 section when a person advertises or holds himself or herself out as practicing or entitled to
12 practice law, or otherwise practices law, without being an active member of the State Bar or
13 otherwise authorized pursuant to statute or court rule to practice law in this state at the time of
14 doing so.”

15 As part of a court proceeding under section 6126.3, the court may order the State Bar to
16 carry out various functions and duties including:

- 17 (1) Examine the files and records of the practice and obtain information as to any pending
18 matters that may require attention.
- 19 (2) Notify persons and entities who appear to be clients of the person of the occurrence of the
20 event or events stated in subdivision (a) of section 6126, and inform them that it may be
21 in their best interest to obtain other legal counsel.
- 22 (3) Apply for an extension of time pending employment of legal counsel by the client.
- 23 (4) With the consent of the client, file notices, motions, and pleadings on behalf of the client
24 where jurisdictional time limits are involved and other legal counsel has not yet been
25 obtained.

1 (5) Give notice to the depositor and appropriate persons and entities who may be affected,
2 other than clients, of the occurrence of the event or events.

3 (6) Arrange for the surrender or delivery of clients' papers or property.

4 (7) Arrange for the appointment of a receiver, where applicable, to take possession and
5 control of any and all bank accounts relating to the affected person's practice.

6 (8) Do any other acts that the court may direct to carry out the purposes of this section. (Bus.
7 & Prof. Code § 6126.3).

8 As stated in section 6126.3(j), upon a finding by the court that it is more likely than not
9 that the application will be granted and that delay in making the orders described in section
10 6126.3(e) will result in substantial injury to clients, or to others, the court, may make interim
11 orders containing such provisions as the court deems appropriate under the circumstances.

12 As evidenced by the declarations of Melvin Omar Contreras, Ana Mercedes Corado, and
13 State Bar Investigator Michael Chavez there is probable cause to believe that (1) Samaris Estrada
14 dba Immigrants Legal Options, Immigration Legal Options, and Immigration Legal Option, Inc.
15 (collectively referred to as "Estrada") are engaged in the unauthorized practice of law in
16 violation of section 6126(a); (2) the State Bar of California has an interest in matters relating to
17 administration, admission, discipline, and regulation of the practice of law and in matters relating
18 to the administration of justice; and (3) the interests of one or more of Estrada's clients or of an
19 interested person or entity will be prejudiced if the court does not assume jurisdiction over
20 Estrada's unauthorized law practice.

21 Probable cause is based upon the facts that Estrada: (1) is not and never has been entitled
22 to practice law in California, and she is not otherwise authorized pursuant to statute or court rule
23 to practice law in this state at any time; (2) is holding herself out as entitled to practice law, or
24 recently has held herself out as entitled to practice law, and is practicing, or has recently
25 practiced law out of her principal office located at 8456 Sierra Ave., Fontana, CA 92335; (3) is

1 offering, or until recently has offered, unauthorized legal services to her clients; and (4)
2 maintains active client files at her principal office located at 8456 Sierra Ave., Fontana, CA
3 92335. Consequently, there is probable cause to believe that the interests of a client or of an
4 interested person or entity will be prejudiced if this proceeding is not maintained.

5 THEREFORE, the State Bar requests that the court issue an order that the State Bar of
6 California be appointed to do the following:

- 7 (1) Examine, retrieve, remove, and secure in a protected area all files and records of the
8 unauthorized practice of law of Samaris Estrada dba Immigrants Legal Options,
9 Immigration Legal Options, and Immigration Legal Option, Inc., located at 8456 Sierra
10 Ave., Fontana, CA 92335, or at any other site in California where reliable evidence
11 establishes that client files or records of the unauthorized law practice may be stored, and
12 obtain information as to any pending matters that may require attention. The areas to be
13 examined shall be as described in **Attachment A**. The items to be retrieved, removed,
14 and secured in a protected area and examined shall be as described in **Attachment B**;
- 15 (2) Notify persons and entities whom the State Bar reasonably believes to be the clients of
16 Samaris Estrada dba Immigrants Legal Options, Immigration Legal Options, and
17 Immigration Legal Option, Inc. of the occurrence of the event or events stated in
18 subdivision (a) of Section 6126, and inform them that it may be in their best interest to
19 obtain other legal counsel;
- 20 (3) Give notice to the depositor and appropriate persons and entities who may be affected,
21 other than clients, of the occurrence of the event or events;
- 22 (4) Arrange for the surrender or delivery of clients' papers or property;
- 23 (5) Apply to the court for the appointment of a receiver, where applicable, to take possession
24 and control of any and all bank accounts relating to the unauthorized practice of Samaris
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1 Estrada dba Immigrants Legal Options, Immigration Legal Options, and Immigration
2 Legal Option, Inc.;

3 (6) Do any other acts that may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this
4 section, including but not limited to the following:

5 (i) Photograph and/or videotape the execution of this order as necessary to
6 document compliance with this Court's order.

7 (ii) Make and retain electronic or hard copies of all data and information
8 retrieved in accordance with a court order.

9 (iii) Retain all client files retrieved from the unauthorized practice and
10 distribute those client files to the clients.

11 (iv) Freeze any and all bank accounts in the name of Samaris Estrada,
12 Immigrants Legal Options, Immigration Legal Options, and Immigration Legal
13 Option, Inc., or any and all law-office-related bank accounts in the name of Samaris
14 Estrada, Immigrants Legal Options, Immigration Legal Options, and Immigration
15 Legal Option, Inc.

16 (v) Endorse any check received by the State Bar that is made payable to the
17 order of Samaris Estrada, Immigrants Legal Options, Immigration Legal Options, and
18 Immigration Legal Option, Inc., or any and all law-office-related bank accounts in the
19 name of Samaris Estrada, Immigrants Legal Options, Immigration Legal Options, and
20 Immigration Legal Option, Inc., frozen pursuant to subparagraph (iv), above.

21 (vi) Direct the appropriate telephone company or companies to disconnect any
22 and all internet connections, telephone, telefax, DSL, and pager lines associated with
23 Samaris Estrada, Immigrants Legal Options, Immigration Legal Options, and
24 Immigration Legal Option, Inc., at the following address and phone numbers:

25 (a) 8456 Sierra Ave., Fontana, CA 92335;

- 1 (b) 909-357-9087;
- 2 (c) 800-798-9366;
- 3 (d) 909-292-2115;
- 4 (e) 909-251-4545;
- 5 (f) 909-292-2373;

6 or at any other site in California where reliable evidence establishes that client
7 files or records of the unauthorized law practice may be stored, and to refer all
8 calls to a specific telephone line at the State Bar, which shall be established to
9 receive the calls.

10 (vii) File a change of address notification with the United States Postal Service
11 to forward all mail addressed to Samaris Estrada, Immigrants Legal Options,
12 Immigration Legal Options, and Immigration Legal Option, Inc., 8456 Sierra Ave.,
13 Fontana, CA 92335, or at any other site in California where reliable evidence
14 establishes that client files or records of the unauthorized law practice may be stored
15 to the attention of Veronica Trejo, State Bar of California, Office of Chief Trial
16 Counsel, 845 S. Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, CA 90017-2515.

17 (viii) Open and examine all forwarded mail addressed to Samaris Estrada,
18 Immigrants Legal Options, Immigration Legal Options, and Immigration Legal
19 Option, Inc.

20 MOREOVER,

21 (7) Samaris Estrada, or any other knowledgeable person found on any of the premises of the
22 unauthorized law practice, should be ordered or authorized to provide to the State Bar
23 any and all passwords and/or protocols required to access the electronic data stored on
24 any computer processing unit located at any of the premises of the unauthorized practice
25 and/or removed from the unauthorized law practice pursuant to this order.

- 1 (8) Samaris Estrada, or any other person who is a signatory on any bank account frozen
2 pursuant to subparagraph (iv), above, should be ordered or authorized not to withdraw
3 any funds from any frozen account prior to the freeze order becoming effective.
- 4 (9) Any and all financial institutions should be ordered or authorized to provide, forthwith at
5 the time of service of a copy of this order, a true copy of signature cards, the account
6 numbers, and the last available monthly statements of any and all accounts frozen
7 pursuant to subparagraph (iv), above, and should be ordered or authorized to disclose to
8 the State Bar the balance of the frozen account(s) at the time of service without further
9 order or subpoena.
- 10 (10) The appropriate telephone company or companies should be ordered or authorized to
11 disconnect any and all telephone, telefax, and pager lines associated with the
12 unauthorized law practice at the following address and phone numbers:
- 13 (a) 8456 Sierra Ave., Fontana, CA 92335;
14 (b) 909-357-9087;
15 (c) 800-798-9366;
16 (d) 909-292-2115;
17 (e) 909-251-4545;
18 (f) 909-292-2373;

19 or at any other site in California where reliable evidence establishes that client files or
20 records of the unauthorized law practice may be stored and to refer all calls to a specific
21 telephone line at the State Bar, which shall be established to receive the calls.

- 22 (11) The owner, manager, or any custodian of the premises should be ordered or
23 authorized to modify or remove any and all websites, social media pages and any other
24 Internet platform where legal services are marketed or advertised by Samaris Estrada dba
25 Immigrants Legal Options, Immigration Legal Options, and Immigration Legal Option,

1 Inc., and/or the State Bar be authorized to contact the web hosts of the applicable website,
2 social media page, or internet platform to modify or remove any existing marketing or
3 advertising by Samaris Estrada dba Immigrants Legal Options, Immigration Legal
4 Options, and Immigration Legal Option, Inc.

5 (12) The owner, manager, or any custodian of the premises should be ordered or
6 authorized to unlock the doors and provide access to the premises. If such owner,
7 manager or custodian cannot be located, any qualified locksmith should be ordered or
8 authorized to secure entry upon request of the State Bar using such devices or techniques
9 as are standard in the industry.

10 (13) Samaris Estrada, and/or any person having possession of any files and/or records
11 associated with the unauthorized practice of law, including electronic data stored on
12 computer processing units or in any other form or format, irrespective of site, should be
13 ordered or authorized to maintain such files and records intact, without alteration or
14 change of location, and to turn over all such files and records to the State Bar.

15 (14) The United States Postal Service should be authorized to enter a change of
16 address for all mail addressed to Samaris Estrada, Immigrants Legal Options,
17 Immigration Legal Options, and Immigration Legal Option, Inc., 8456 Sierra Ave.,
18 Fontana, CA 92335, or at any other site in California where reliable evidence establishes
19 that client files or records of the unauthorized law practice may be stored to the attention
20 of Veronica Trejo, State Bar of California, Office of Chief Trial Counsel, 845 S. Figueroa
21 Street, Los Angeles, CA 90017-2515.

22 (15) Samaris Estrada dba Immigrants Legal Options, Immigration Legal Options, and
23 Immigration Legal Option, Inc. located on 8456 Sierra Ave., Fontana, CA 92335, or at
24 any other site in California where reliable evidence establishes that client files or records
25 of the unauthorized law practice may be stored, should be ordered to immediately cease

1 and desist from: (1) holding herself or themselves out as entitled to practice law in
2 California; (2) offering to perform or actually performing any act that constitutes the
3 unauthorized practice of law in violation of Business and Professions Code section
4 6126(a); (3) entering into any oral or written contractual agreement with any individual
5 or business to provide any service the performance of which would constitute the
6 unauthorized practice of law; and (4) receiving any money or fees from any individual or
7 business for any service the performance of which would constitute the unauthorized
8 practice of law.

9 As the administrative arm of the California Supreme Court dealing with attorney
10 discipline and the administration of justice, the State Bar has a duty to prevent the destruction
11 and/or secretion of client files or other law office records and to rectify the continuing harm
12 suffered by clients whose case is being worked on by non-attorneys engaged in the unauthorized
13 practice of law. This duty constitutes good cause to grant the ex parte relief requested.

14 This application is made in accordance with sections 6126(j) and 6030 since, based upon
15 the facts and circumstances outlined in detail below, it is more likely than not that the court will
16 grant the State Bar's application for assumption of jurisdiction and because a delay in issuing
17 interim orders will result in substantial injury to clients and/or others.

18 This ex parte application is based upon the attached Memorandum of Points and
19 Authorities, as well as on the Petition and Verified Application for Assumption of Jurisdiction
20 Over the Unauthorized Law Practice of Samaris Estrada Immigrants Legal Options,
21 Immigration Legal Options, and Immigration Legal Option, Inc., and the original supporting
22 declarations of Michael Chavez, Melvin Omar Contreras, Ana Mercedes Corado, and the
23 attachments thereto, all of which are attached to the State Bar's Petition and Verified Application
24 filed contemporaneously herewith and hereby incorporated by reference.

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Dated: 9/25/2019

Respectfully submitted,
THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA
OFFICE OF CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL

BY: Veronica Trejo
VERONICA TREJO
Deputy Trial Counsel
Attorneys for the Petitioner
THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA

1 **MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES**

2 **I. STATEMENT OF FACTS**

3 Samaris Estrada is doing business as (“dba”) Immigrants Legal Options, Immigration
4 Legal Options, and Immigration Legal Option, Inc. (collectively referred to as “Estrada”) and
5 maintains her principal office at 8456 Sierra Ave., Fontana, CA 92335. (See Declaration of
6 Michael Chavez ¶11, hereinafter “Chavez Decl.,” attached hereto.) Estrada is not and never has
7 been an active member of the California State Bar, and she has never been otherwise authorized
8 pursuant to statute or court rule to practice law in California. (See Chavez Decl. ¶5, and Exhibit
9 1 hereto.)

10 Estrada has a history of engaging in the unauthorized practice of law and has been subject
11 to several investigations by the State Bar. (See Chavez Decl. ¶7, and Exhibit 3 hereto.) In 2013
12 the State Bar found that Estrada had engaged in the unauthorized practice of law by performing
13 legal work and calling herself an “Immigration Specialist.” (See Chavez Decl. Exhibit 3.)
14 Estrada was issued a letter ordering her to cease and desist from further engaging in the
15 unauthorized practice of law. In that letter she was also provided the relevant Business and
16 Profession Code sections that informed her that the unauthorized practice of law is a crime and
17 that the State Bar may assume jurisdiction over the practice of any person engaged in the
18 unauthorized practice of law. (See Chavez Decl. Exhibit 3.) However, in 2016 and 2017 she
19 once again came under investigation when the State Bar received two new complaints regarding
20 the unauthorized practice of law. (See Chavez Decl. Exhibit 3.) The investigations of those
21 complaints revealed that Estrada was hired to complete immigration related legal work on behalf
22 of her clients, including working on a U visa application in one case and drafting a Motion to
23 Terminate to file in Immigration Court in another. (See Chavez Decl. Exhibit 3.)

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1 Contreras met Estrada in August 2018 when he was in search for an immigration lawyer
2 for his wife who at the time was in an immigration detention facility in Arizona. (See Contreras
3 Decl. ¶4.) Contreras called a phone number he had saved years before and he was given an
4 appointment to go to Estrada’s office. (See Contreras Decl. ¶3.) When Contreras spoke to
5 Estrada he became confident that she was one of the best immigration attorneys. (See Contreras
6 Decl. ¶3.)

7 On August 17, 2018, Contreras met with Estrada again and she quoted him \$5,000 with a
8 \$2,500 deposit and a \$300/mo. payment plan to handle his wife’s immigration matter. (See
9 Contreras Decl. ¶4, and Exhibit 1 hereto.) Contreras decided to hire Estrada and paid the down
10 payment because he felt certain Estrada was an attorney and that she would attend all
11 immigration appointments and court hearings with his wife. (See Contreras Decl. ¶¶4-5.)

12 After Corado was released from immigration detention in Arizona she reunited with
13 Contreras in Santa Ana, CA and she met Estrada at the end of August 2018. (See Declaration of
14 Ana Mercedes Corado ¶ 3, hereinafter “Corado Decl.,” attached hereto. Corado met with Estrada
15 on two occasions. (See Corado Decl. ¶4.) Corado gave Estrada copies of all the documents she
16 was given upon her release from immigration detention and she also signed a few forms for
17 Estrada so she could begin working on her case. (See Corado Decl. ¶5.) During the first meeting
18 with Estrada, Corado told her that she had an immigration court hearing in October 2018 and
19 that she wanted representation at that first hearing. (See Corado Decl. ¶5.) Estrada confirmed
20 that she could represent her in immigration court. (See Corado Decl. ¶5.) However, at the
21 second appointment Estrada told Corado and Contreras not only that she was going to charge
22 them an additional \$7,000 for court representation but that she does not actually attend any court
23 hearings. (See Contreras Decl. ¶7.)

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1 Contreras and Corado decided to terminate Estrada’s representation of Corado and asked
2 for a refund. (See Contreras Decl. ¶10.) Contreras states, “had [Estrada] told me that she did not
3 have an attorney’s license to practice and be able to represent my wife I would have never hired
4 her.” (See Contreras Decl. ¶5.)

5 Estrada has not refunded any of the money to Contreras and Corado. (See Contreras Decl.
6 ¶11.) They also incurred an additional expense to hire an actual immigration attorney who could
7 represent her in immigration court. (See Corado Decl. ¶9.)

8 On June 26, 2019, Investigator Chavez conducted a site visit at 8456 Sierra Avenue,
9 Fontana, CA 92335 to determine if Estrada is unlawfully practicing law and providing legal
10 advice to clients regarding immigration matters. Chavez observed signage in the front of the
11 building that read “Immigrants Legal Options” (“ILO”) in large blue letters. (See Chavez Decl.
12 ¶14, and Exhibit 9 thereto.) Chavez also noted that the office did not have any disclaimers
13 stating that ILO was not a law office supervised by attorneys and that they were prohibited from
14 providing legal advice. (See Chavez Decl. ¶14.) Chavez observed a sign-in sheet on the counter
15 which listed the names of approximately 100 current and potential clients from June 1, 2019
16 through June 26, 2019. (See Chavez Decl. ¶14, and Exhibit 9 hereto.) During the site visit,
17 Chavez spoke to Estrada over the phone regarding Contreras’s complaint to the State Bar
18 alleging that she engaged in the unauthorized practice of law and illegally charged \$5,000 and
19 collected \$2,500 from him. (See Chavez Decl. ¶14.) Estrada responded by saying that she did
20 not recognize Contreras’s name but would look into it once she returned to her office. (See
21 Chavez Decl. ¶14.)

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1 **II. SAMARIS ESTRADA IS ENGAGED IN THE UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF**
2 **LAW.**

3 Section 6125 states: “[n]o person shall practice law in California unless the person is an
4 active member of the State Bar.”

5 Section 6126(a) states, in relevant part, “[a]ny person advertising or holding himself or
6 herself out as practicing or entitled to practice law or otherwise practicing law who is not an
7 active member of the State Bar, or otherwise authorized pursuant to statute or court rule to
8 practice law in this state at the time of doing so, is guilty of a misdemeanor”

9 Giving legal advice and the preparation of legal instruments, whether or not rendered in
10 the course of litigation, is the practice of law. (*State Bar of California v. Superior Court* (1929)
11 207 Cal.323, 335) One such act is sufficient. (*People v Ring* (1937) 26 Cal. App.2d Supp. 768,
12 770-771.)

13 “The cases uniformly hold that the character of the act, and not the place where it is
14 performed, is the decisive element, and if the application of legal knowledge and technique is
15 required, the activity constitutes the practice of law” (*Benninghoff v. Superior Court*
16 (2006) 136 Cal. App 4th 61, 68, quoting *Baron v. City of Los Angeles* (1970) 2 Cal.3d 535, 543.)

17 In *People v. Merchants Protective Corp.* (1922) 189 Cal. 531, 535, the California
18 Supreme Court considered whether member merchants could incorporate to provide its members
19 with legal services. In defining the practice of law, the Court relied on several out-of-state cases
20 including *Eley v. Miller* (1893) 7 Ind. App. 529, 535; 34 N. E. 836, which said, “[a]s the term is
21 generally understood, the practice of the law is the doing and performing services in a court of
22 justice in any matter depending therein throughout its various stages and in conformity with the
23 adopted rules of procedure. But in a larger sense it includes legal advice and counsel and the
24 preparation of legal instruments and contracts by which legal rights are secured although such
25 matter may or may not be pending in a court.” The Court also relied on *People v. Alfani* (1919)

1 227 N.Y. 334, 125 N. E. 671, which held, “[i]t is common knowledge for which the above
2 authorities were hardly necessary, that a large, if not the greater work, of the bar today is out of
3 court, or office work. Counsel and advice, the drawing of agreements, the organization of
4 corporations and preparing papers connected therewith, the drafting of legal documents of all
5 kinds, including wills, are activities which have been long classed as law practice.”

6 *Birbrower, Montalbano, Condon & Frank v. Superior Court* (1998) 17 Cal.4th 119,
7 involved a legal malpractice case against a New York law firm whose attorneys traveled to
8 California to negotiate the settlement of a dispute and who filed for arbitration. The Court
9 considered whether the unauthorized practice of law would act to deprive the New York firm of
10 its disputed fees and found that the prohibiting the unauthorized practice of law is designed to
11 ensure that those providing legal services do so competently. The Court concurred with *People*
12 *v. Merchants Protective Corp, supra*, in finding that the practice of law included “in its definition
13 legal advice and legal instruments and contract preparation, whether or not those subjects were
14 rendered in the course of litigation.” (*Birbrower, Montalbano, Condon & Frank v. Superior*
15 *Court, id.*, at 128.)

16 In *Baron v. City of Los Angeles* (1970) 2 Cal.3d 535, the California Supreme Court
17 considered whether a requirement that an attorney register as a lobbyist was preempted by the
18 right of the State to regulate the practice of law. In reaching the question, the Court relied on
19 *State Bar of California v. Superior Court* (1929) 207 Cal. 323, 331, and its holding that “the
20 profession and practice of the law, while in a limited sense a matter of private choice and
21 concern insofar as it relates to its emoluments, is essentially and more largely a matter of public
22 interest and concern, not only from the viewpoint of its relation to the administration of civil and
23 criminal law, but also from that of the contacts of its membership with the constituent
24 membership of society at large, whose interest it is to be safeguarded against the ignorance or
25

1 evil dispositions of those who may be masquerading beneath the cloak of the legal and
2 supposedly learned and upright profession.”

3 The Supreme Court again affirmed the holding of *People v. Merchants Protective Corp.*,
4 *supra*, and stated, “[i]t is difficult to draw logical distinctions among the varied services
5 performed by lawyers for their clients and to determine that only some of the services constitute
6 the ‘practice of law.’ In a pragmatic sense, the practice of law encompasses all of the activities
7 engaged in by attorneys in a representative capacity, including legislative advocacy.” (*Baron v.*
8 *City of Los Angeles* (1970) 2 Cal.3d 535, 542.)

9 In determining whether or not a particular activity involved the practice of law, the *Baron*
10 Court applied the following test: “[i]n close cases, the courts have determined that the resolution
11 of legal questions for another by advice and action is practicing law ‘if difficult or doubtful legal
12 questions are involved which, to safeguard the public, reasonably demand the application of a
13 trained legal mind.’” (*Baron v. City of Los Angeles, id.* at 543, quoting *Agran v. Shapiro* (1954)
14 127 Cal.App.2d Supp. 807, 818.)

15 Here, Estrada has never been admitted to the State Bar of California. The investigation
16 results show she deliberately misled clients into believing that she is entitled to perform legal
17 services on their behalf, specifically in immigration matters. Thus, Estrada fraudulently
18 misrepresented to her clients that she is an attorney through her statements, omissions, and
19 actions.

20 Estrada met with Contreras after he had requested to meet with attorney Patricia Mireles
21 whom he believed worked there. (See Contreras Decl. ¶3.) Instead of introducing Contreras to
22 an attorney, and, failing to inform him that Estrada was not an attorney, Estrada told Contreras
23 that “she was more than the attorneys and that the attorneys go consult with her when they do not
24 know how to resolve their immigration cases.” (See Contreras Decl. ¶3.) And when Contreras’s
25 wife was about to be released from immigration detention, Estrada told him that she would

1 charge him \$5,000 to work on his wife’s immigration case. (See Contreras Decl. ¶4.) Contreras
2 made an initial payment of \$2,500 to Estrada to hire her because at that time he believed her to
3 be one of the best immigration attorneys. (See Contreras Decl. ¶4.)

4 Contreras states that he never signed a contract with Estrada. (See Contreras Decl. ¶4.)
5 Yet one emerged after Contreras disputed the \$2,500 with Synchrony Bank when he attempted to
6 get a refund from Estrada. (See Contreras Decl. ¶12.) Synchrony Bank replied to Contreras
7 telling him the \$2,500 transaction was valid and provided him a copy of a Spanish contract that
8 was provided to them by Estrada. (See Contreras Decl. ¶12, and Exhibit 2 hereto.) Contreras
9 states that this was the first time he had seen the contract, that he did not sign it, and that he did
10 not know an Anyiam Law Firm. (See Contreras Decl. ¶12.) The attorney named in the contract
11 is Christian Anyiam (“Anyiam”), although no one from the Anyiam Law Firm signed it. (See
12 Contreras Decl. Exhibit 2.) Investigator Chavez reached out to Mr. Anyiam on July 27, 2019 to
13 have him explain how his fee agreement ended up in the hands of Estrada when Contreras states
14 that he never met with him. (See Chavez Decl. ¶9.) Mr. Anyiam first stated that he did not
15 know. (See Chavez Decl. ¶9.) However, after he retained counsel, he now asserts that he in fact
16 met with Contreras and that Estrada simply acted as the interpreter to explain the terms of the fee
17 agreement. (See Chavez Decl. ¶9.) However, both Contreras and Corado unequivocally state
18 that they did not meet Mr. Anyiam and that they did not sign the contract. (See Contreras Decl.
19 ¶12 and Corado Decl. ¶6.)

20 It is the State Bar’s position that Estrada operates independently and does not work under
21 the supervision of attorney Christian Anyiam. In fact, on July 26, 2017, Mr. Anyiam issued
22 Estrada a Cease and Desist letter after he learned from the State Bar on a separate matter that
23 Estrada claimed she worked under his supervision and was using his name while she engaged in
24 the unauthorized practice of law. (See Chavez Decl. ¶8, and Exhibit 4 hereto.) This fact, in
25 conjunction with the fact that Contreras and Corado are certain they never met with or hired

1 Anyiam, makes it more probable that Estrada does not operate under Anyiam’s supervision and
2 is engaged in the unauthorized practice of law.

3 Estrada currently advertises her business as “Immigrants Legal Options.” She has a
4 business website, a Facebook page and a Yelp page. (See Chavez Decl. ¶¶10-12, and Exhibits 6-
5 8.) She describes her business as being able to help people with all of their immigration needs
6 and having an immigration specialist. (See Chavez Decl. ¶10, and Exhibit 6.) On her Facebook
7 and Yelp pages she describes her business as a “law office.” (See Chavez Decl. ¶¶11-12, and
8 Exhibits 7 & 8.) The declarations provided by Contreras and Corado show that Estrada provided
9 legal advice.

10 Moreover, there is probable cause to believe that there are numerous clients and that there
11 are active client files at Estrada’s office located at 8456 Sierra Avenue, Fontana, CA 92335.
12 Estrada was meeting with clients as recently as June 2019 in her office. (See Chavez Decl. ¶13.)

13 In summary, there is probable cause to believe that Estrada is engaged in the
14 unauthorized practice of law based on the following facts: (1) is not a licensed attorney and she
15 does not work under the direction or supervision of an attorney; (2) offers her legal services
16 directly to clients who employ her to represent them in connection with their immigration
17 matters; (3) she obtained employment from clients to render legal services on their behalf and
18 collected fees; and (3) continues to offer unauthorized legal services directly to consumers
19 through Immigrants Legal Options. As such, it is more than likely that Estrada maintains active
20 files involving pending legal matters at 8456 Sierra Avenue, Fontana, CA 92335. (Chavez
21 Decl.)

22 **III. THE INTEREST OF CLIENTS WILL BE PREJUDICED IF THIS PROCEEDING IS**
23 **NOT MAINTAINED.**

24 Estrada’s clients will be prejudiced if the court does not assume jurisdiction over her illegal
25 and unauthorized practice of law. Based on Chavez’s declaration that states that when he visited

1 Estrada's office he saw a sign in sheet for the month of June 2019 that contained approximately
2 100 current and potential clients, there is probable cause to believe that there are current clients
3 who may be suffering harm due to Estrada's ongoing unauthorized practice of law. (See Chavez
4 Decl. ¶13, and Exhibit 9 hereto.)

5 Moreover, there is substantial evidence that the public, the legal profession, and the
6 administration of justice, will be prejudiced if the court does not assume jurisdiction over
7 Estrada's unauthorized practice of law. "Two public policies underlie the strictures against the
8 unlicensed practice of law. First, attorneys must be licensed so that the public is protected from
9 being advised and represented by persons who are not qualified to practice law Second, the
10 litigation of cases by unlicensed attorneys threatens the integrity of the judicial process itself."
11 (*Russell v. Dopp* (1995) 36 Cal.App.4th 765, 773.)

12 **IV. THIS COURT HAS THE AUTHORITY TO ASSUME JURISDICTION OVER THE**
13 **UNAUTHORIZED LAW PRACTICE OF A NON-ATTORNEY.**

14 Business and Professions Code section 6126.3 expressly empowers the superior courts of
15 California to assume jurisdiction over an unauthorized law practice of a non-attorney.

16 Business and Professions Code section 6126.3 (a) states:

17 In addition to any criminal penalties pursuant to Section 6126 or to any contempt
18 proceedings pursuant to Section 6127, the courts of the state shall have the
19 jurisdiction provided in this section when a person advertises or holds himself or
20 herself out as practicing or entitled to practice law, or otherwise practices law,
21 without being an active member of the State Bar or otherwise authorized pursuant
22 to statute or court rule to practice law in this state at the time of doing so.

20 Business and Professions Code section 6126.3 (b) states:

21 The State Bar, or the superior court on its own motion, may make application to
22 the superior court for the county where the person described in subdivision (a)
23 maintains or more recently has maintained his or her principal office for the
24 practice of law or where he or she resides, for assumption by the court of
25 jurisdiction over the practice to the extent provided in this section. In any
26 proceeding under this section, the State Bar shall be permitted to intervene and to
27 assume primary responsibility for conducting the action.

25 Business and Professions Code section 6126.3 (c) states:

26 An application made pursuant to subdivision (b) shall be verified, and shall state
27 facts showing all of the following:

- (1) Probable cause to believe that the facts set forth in subdivision (a) of Section 6126 have occurred;
- (2) the interest of the applicant;
- (3) probable cause to believe that the interests of a client or of an interested person or entity will be prejudiced if the proceeding is not maintained.

Business and Professions Code section 6126.3 (d) states:

The application shall be set for hearing, and an order to show cause shall be issued directing the person to show cause why the court should not assume jurisdiction over the practice as provided in this section. A copy of the application and order to show cause shall be served upon the person by personal delivery or, as an alternate method of service, by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested, addressed to the person either at the address at which he or she maintains, or more recently has maintained, his or her principal office or at the address where he or she resides. Service is complete at the time of mailing, but any prescribed period of notice and any right or duty to do any act or make any response within that prescribed period or on a date certain after notice is served by mail shall be extended five days if the place of address is within the State of California, 10 days if the place of address is outside the State of California but within the United States, and 20 days if the place of address is outside the United States. If the State Bar is not the applicant, copies shall also be served upon the Office of the Chief Trial Counsel of the State Bar in similar manner at the time of service on the person who is the subject of the application. The court may prescribe additional or alternative methods of service of the application and order to show cause, and may prescribe methods of notifying and serving notices and process upon other persons and entities in cases not specifically provided herein.

Business and Professions Code section 6126.3 (e) states:

If the court finds that the facts set forth in subdivision (a) of Section 6126 have occurred and that the interests of a client or an interested person or entity will be prejudiced if the proceeding provided herein is not maintained, the court may make an order assuming jurisdiction over the person's practice pursuant to this section. If the person to whom the order to show cause is directed does not appear, the court may make its order upon the verified application or upon such proof as it may require. Thereupon, the court shall appoint one or more active members of the State Bar to act under its direction to mail a notice of cessation of practice, pursuant to subdivision (g), and may order those appointed attorneys to do one or more of the following:

- (1) Examine the files and records of the practice and obtain information as to any pending matters that may require attention.
- (2) Notify persons and entities who appear to be clients of the person of the occurrence of the event or events stated in subdivision (a) of Section 6126, and inform them that it may be in their best interest to obtain other legal counsel.
- (3) Apply for an extension of time pending employment of legal counsel by the client.
- (4) With the consent of the client, file notices, motions, and pleadings on behalf of the client where jurisdictional time limits are involved and other legal counsel has not yet been obtained.

1 (5) Give notice to the depositor and appropriate persons and entities who
may be affected, other than clients, of the occurrence of the event or
events.

2 (6) Arrange for the surrender or delivery of clients' papers or property.

3 (7) Arrange for the appointment of a receiver, where applicable, to take
possession and control of any and all bank accounts relating to the affected
person's practice.

4 (8) Do any other acts that the court may direct to carry out the purposes of
this section.

5
6 The court shall have jurisdiction over the files and records and over the practice of
the affected person for the limited purposes of this section, and may make all
orders necessary or appropriate to exercise this jurisdiction. The court shall
7 provide a copy of any order issued pursuant to this section to the Office of the
Chief Trial Counsel of the State Bar.
8

9 This court has authority to assume jurisdiction over the unauthorized law practice of
10 Samaris Estrada dba Immigrants Legal Options, Immigration Legal Options, and Immigration
11 Legal Option, Inc.

12 **V. ASSUMPTION OF JURISDICTION OVER SAMARIS ESTRADA'S**
13 **UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF LAW IS APPROPRIATE.**

14 As evidenced by the declarations of State Bar Investigator Michael Chavez, Melvin Omar
15 Contreras, and Ana Mercedes Corado, there is probable cause to believe that Estrada: (1) is not
16 and never has been entitled to practice law in California, and she is not otherwise authorized
17 pursuant to statute or court rule to practice law in this state at any time; (2) is holding herself out
18 as entitled to practice law, or recently has held herself out as entitled to practice law, and is
19 practicing, or has recently practiced law out of her principal office located at 8456 Sierra
20 Avenue, Fontana, CA 92335; (3) is offering, or until recently has offered, unauthorized legal
21 services to her clients; and (4) maintains active files at her principal office located at 8456 Sierra
22 Avenue, Fontana, CA 92335. Consequently, there is probable cause to believe that the interests
23 of a client or of an interested person or entity will be prejudiced if this proceeding is not
24 maintained.

25 //

1 business or otherwise continue to defraud the public. The entry of an injunction will resolve this
2 matter.

3 **VIII. THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY AND GOOD CAUSE EXISTS TO GRANT THE**
4 **RELIEF REQUESTED EX PARTE.**

5 California Rules of Court, rule 3.1202(c) requires that good cause be shown by any an
6 affirmative showing of irreparable harm, immediate danger, or any other statutory basis for
7 granting relief ex parte. In this case, a showing has been made that Estrada's clients may be
8 suffering harm due to her unauthorized legal representation in their legal matters.

9 Therefore, good cause exists to grant the requested relief ex parte.

10 **IX. CONCLUSION**

11 Based on the facts and circumstances of this matter as detailed above, the State Bar
12 respectfully requests that the court issue interim orders appointing Melanie J. Lawrence, Interim
13 Chief Trial Counsel of the State Bar of California, and her designees, to act under its direction to
14 obtain physical possession of the client files and financial records and undertake such other
15 duties as may be required to protect the interests of Estrada's clients and other interested parties,
16 as delineated herein. Additionally, the State Bar requests that the Court issue an Interim
17 Injunction.

18
19 Respectfully submitted,
20 THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA
21 OFFICE OF CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL

22 Dated: 9/25/2019

23 BY: Veronica Trejo
24 VERONICA TREJO
25 Deputy Trial Counsel
26 Attorney for the Petitioner
27 THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA

1 **Attachment B**

2 The items to be retrieved, secured, and examined shall include all client files and client
3 records including, but not limited to, notes, memoranda, reports, correspondence, and other
4 documents pertaining to legal or investigative service sought or provided, compensation sought
5 or obtained for clients, and disbursement of client funds.

6 The items to be retrieved, secured and examined shall include all law office records,
7 including, but not limited to, office memoranda, ledgers, journals, financial statements, checking
8 and savings account records, bank statements, cancelled and uncanceled checks, cash, check
9 ledgers, check registers, bank signature cards, bank books, deposits, withdrawals, legal files, and
10 bank or other financial records, evidencing the obtaining, secreting, transferring, or concealing of
11 assets.

12 The items to be retrieved, secured, and examined shall include any of the above-
13 described evidence whether printed, hand-produced, or recorded photographically, electronically,
14 mechanically, or by any other means. Where a file or record is maintained in a mechanical
15 device such as cellular phone, fax machine, computer, video or audio apparatus, magnetic tapes,
16 flash drive, discs (floppy, mini, CD, laser, flash drive, and hard drive), such apparatus in its
17 entirety including complete hardware, supporting software for data retrieval, and material
18 describing operation of the apparatus shall be retrieved, removed, and secured.

19 Where records and files are stored or maintained in a file cabinet or similar unit, the file
20 cabinet or unit may be retrieved, removed, and stored with the records and files intact.

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**DECLARATION OF
MICHAEL CHAVEZ**

1 fees as an active or inactive member. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 2** is a true and correct copy of a
2 California attorney search conducted on the name of Samaris Estrada.

3 7. Estrada has been the subject of prior State Bar investigations which involved the
4 allegations of the unauthorized practice of law. On October 30, 2013, the State Bar of California
5 issued Estrada a Cease and Desist Letter in connection with Case No. 13-26017. On July 28,
6 2017, Estrada was issued a second Cease and Desist Letter in connection with State Bar Case
7 Nos. 16-NA-1776, 17-NA-2844 and 17-NA-2845. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 3** are true and
8 correct copies of the State Bar's Cease and Desist Letters dated October 30, 2013, and July 28,
9 2017.
10

11 8. On July 26, 2017, California Attorney Christian U. Anyiam (SBN 217326) sent a
12 Cease and Desist Letter to Estrada for her unauthorized use of Mr. Anyiam's business cards
13 which identified Mr. Anyiam as an attorney associated with Immigrants Legal Options. Mr.
14 Anyiam learned about Estrada's unauthorized use of his name and law office when the State Bar
15 asked him to explain his relationship with Estrada after Estrada claimed that she was being
16 supervised by him. As a result, Mr. Anyiam also issued a Cease and Desist letter to Estrada
17 where he ordered her to refrain from engaging in any activities that represented that he was
18 associated with Estrada and her business. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 4** is a true and correct copy
19 of Mr. Anyiam's Cease and Desist Letter dated July 26, 2017.
20

21 9. On July 27, 2019, I reached out to Mr. Anyiam to discuss how his fee agreement with
22 the name of Melvin Contreras ended up in Estrada's hands. Mr. Anyiam said that he did not
23 know but that he would review the fee agreement once I sent it to him. After our telephone
24 conversation I emailed him the fee agreement. On July 03, 2019, Mr. Anyiam's counsel,
25 Kenneth Kocourek, called me to tell me that Mr. Anyiam had hired him to discuss the matter
26

1 with us. I informed Mr. Kocourek that we needed Mr. Anyiam to clarify his relationship with
2 Estrada, specifically, how the Contreras fee agreement got into the hands of Estrada when
3 Contreras claims that he never met with Mr. Anyiam. On July 05, 2019, I received a response
4 from Mr. Anyiam's counsel stating that Mr. Anyiam did meet with Melvin Contreras and that
5 Estrada acted as the interpreter for Mr. Anyiam and Contreras to explain the terms of the
6 agreement.

7
8 10. On August 15, 2019, I conducted an online search on Samaris Estrada and
9 Immigrants Legal Options in Fontana, CA and found the Statement of Information on the
10 California Secretary of State website that was filed on January 25, 2019. Attached hereto as
11 **Exhibit 5** is a true and correct copy of the Statement of Information.

12 11. I found a business website at <https://www.imigrants-legal-options.negocio.site/> that
13 advertises citizenship and immigration services to the general public. Specifically, legal
14 assistance with the drafting of DACA renewals, residency renewals and citizenship applications.
15 The homepage contained three (3) testimonials from former and current clients, who gave ILO a
16 five (5) star rating. The website recommended that potential clients "*Call and set up an*
17 *appointment with us for a brief consultation with our Immigration Specialist.*" The website also
18 has a section titled "Professional Guidance" in which she states "Need help with your
19 Immigration status? DACA renewal? Residency renewal? or looking to become a Citizen? We at
20 Immigrants Legal Options can and would love to help you with all your immigration needs. Call
21 and set up an appointment with us for a brief consultation with our Immigration Specialist." The
22 website listed ILO's business address at 8456 Sierra Avenue, Fontana, CA 92335. Attached
23 hereto as **Exhibit 6** is a true and correct copy of ILO's homepage.
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1 12. I located a Facebook profile for ILO at [https://immigrants-legal-options-law-](https://immigrants-legal-options-law-office)
2 [office](https://immigrants-legal-options-law-office), which advertised “Deferred Action Help” and described ILO as a “Law Office” and “Law
3 Firm” in Fontana, CA. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 7** is a true and correct copy of the Facebook
4 profile homepage.

5 13. I also located Yelp reviews for ILO at <http://www.yelp.com/biz/attorney>, which
6 revealed a 1 ½ star rating based on three (3) reviews going back as early as January 2016. She
7 advertises the business as “Immigrants Legal Options Law Office.” The reviews complain about
8 the lack and quality of services rendered by ILO and described Estrada as a “*scammer.*”
9 Attached hereto as **Exhibit 8** is a true and correct copy of the reviews posted on yelp.com.
10

11 14. On June 26, 2019, I conducted a field investigation to ILO’s principal place of
12 business located 8456 Sierra Avenue, Fontana, CA 92335. The purpose of the field investigation
13 was to determine if Estrada is unlawfully practicing law and providing legal advice to clients
14 regarding immigration matters. While walking up to the building, I observed signage on the
15 building in large blue letters that read “IMMIGRANTS LEGAL OPTIONS” with a large circular
16 emblem next to it that also contained the business name and the year 1990. Upon entering the
17 office, I observed a sign-in sheet on the counter which listed the names of approximately 100
18 current and potential clients from June 1, 2019, through June 26, 2019. I also observed
19 numerous file cabinets located directly behind the counter. I did not observe any signs, notices,
20 warnings and/or disclaimers posted within the office, which stated that ILO was not a law office
21 supervised by attorneys and that they were prohibited from dispensing legal advice. Estrada was
22 not present during my field investigation. However, one of her assistants present called Estrada
23 so I could speak with her while I was present in her office. I explained to her the complaint filed
24 by Contreras alleging she engaged in the unauthorized practiced of law and illegally charged
25
26 by Contreras alleging she engaged in the unauthorized practiced of law and illegally charged

1 \$5,000 and collected \$2,500 from him. Estrada stated that she did not recognize Contreras's
2 name but that she would look into it once she returned to her office. I told her that I was going to
3 take some photographs of the interior and exterior of her office. Estrada remained silent and we
4 terminated the phone call. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 9** is a true and correct copy of the
5 photographs taken of June 2019 client appointment list and the business location.

6 15. Based on the information obtained through the course of this investigation, I believe
7 Estrada is conducting business as ILO and is engaged in the unauthorized practice of law.

8 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the
9 foregoing is true and correct.
10

11 Executed this 25th day of September 2019 at Los Angeles, California.



12
13 Michael Chavez, Inv.
14 Declarant

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Exhibit 1



Attorney Search

Your search for *Samaris Estrada* returned no results.

Would you like to search for names that sound like *Samaris Estrada*?

For more search options, including the ability to search for certified specialists, try **Advanced Search**.

Search Tips

- Do not use nicknames. Use either a first initial or proper first name.

Sample Search Phrases

- J Smith
- Smith, J
- J D Smith
- John D Smith
- Smith, John D
- 123456

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Exhibit 2



The State Bar
of California

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY REGULATION
& CONSUMER RESOURCES

180 Howard Street, San Francisco, CA 94105

888-800-3400

AttorneyRegulation@calbar.ca.gov

CERTIFICATE OF STANDING

August 19, 2019

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to certify that undersigned Custodian has conducted a diligent search of the licensing records of the State Bar of California and found no record showing that any person by the name of SAMARIS ESTRADA has been admitted to the practice of law in this state, or has registered as a licensee of the State Bar of California, or has paid fees as an active or inactive licensee thereof from the date of the organization of the State Bar on July 29, 1927, to date hereof. Although the State Bar has a complete record of those persons admitted since its organization, its record of those admitted prior thereto is not necessarily complete, as it has been assembled from various unrelated sources.

THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DV", positioned above the name of the signatory.

Denise Velasco
Custodian of Records

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Exhibit 3



THE STATE BAR
OF CALIFORNIA

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL
INTAKE

Dane Dauphine, Assistant Chief Trial Counsel

1149 SOUTH HILL STREET, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90015-2299

TELEPHONE: (213) 765-1000

FAX: (213) 765-1168

<http://www.calbar.ca.gov>

October 30, 2013

Samaris Estrada
Immigration Legal Options, Inc.
7470 Luane TRL
Colton, CA 92324

BY CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

RE: Case No. UPL - 13-26017

To Whom it May Concern:

The State Bar of California has received information that you and your employees may have engaged, or may be engaging on an ongoing basis, in the unauthorized practice of law. According to our official membership records, you are not an attorney licensed to practice law in this state. California Business and Professions Code section 6125 provides, "No person shall practice law in California unless the person is an active member of the State Bar."

The practice of law includes, but is not limited to, the following activities: (1) giving legal advice and counsel; (2) preparing legal instruments and contracts; and (3) doing and performing services in a court of justice. The unauthorized practice of law occurs when someone who is not a member of the State Bar engages in any of these activities, unless specifically permitted to do so by statute. It also occurs when a person who is not an active member of the State Bar holds himself or herself out as being entitled to engage in these prohibited activities, whether or not the person holds himself or herself out as being an attorney.

We have received documentation that you are the owner of Immigration Legal Options, Inc., and although you are not an attorney, you have held your business out as a law firm. In addition, you have charged and received funds from clients to provide legal services. Further, although you describe yourself as an "Immigration Specialist," California Secretary State records indicate that neither you nor Immigration Legal Options, Inc. has posted bond as required by Business and Professions Code section 22443.1.

Paralegals:

Paralegals are subject to the provisions of California Business and Professions Code sections 6450 through 6456.

A paralegal must either contract with or be employed by an attorney, law firm, corporation, governmental agency, or other entity; while working under the direction and supervision of an active member of the State Bar of California. A paralegal may not provide legal advice, or represent a client in court, or select, explain, draft, or recommend the use of any legal document except to your attorney

employer or supervisor, or engage in any conduct that constitutes the unlawful practice of law. In addition, a paralegal may not establish the fees to charge a client for services. The fees charged to the client are to be set only by the attorney who supervises the paralegal's work. A paralegal who does any of these prohibited activities is engaged in the unauthorized practice of law.

Paralegals must meet certain educational requirements and fulfill mandatory continuing legal education requirements; and be certified by their supervising attorney every two years.

Legal Document Assistants:

Legal document assistants are subject to the provisions of California Business and Professions Code sections 6400 through 6415.

A legal document assistant provides only self help service to a member of the public who is representing himself or herself in a legal matter. "Self help service" means all of the following: "(1) completing legal documents in a ministerial manner, selected by a person who is representing himself or herself in a legal matter, by typing or otherwise completing the documents at the person's specific direction; (2) providing general published factual information that has been written or approved by an attorney, pertaining to legal procedures, rights, or obligations to a person in representing himself or herself; (3) making published legal documents available to a person who is representing himself or herself in a legal matter; and (4) filing and serving legal forms and documents at the specific direction of a person who is representing himself or herself in a legal matter." If a legal document assistant gives any advice, explanation, opinion, or recommendation to a consumer about possible legal rights, remedies, defenses, options, selection of forms, or strategies, then he or she is engaged in the unauthorized practice of law.

Legal document assistants are required to register with their county clerk, pay a registration fee, and post a bond.

Immigration Consultants:

Immigration consultants or those holding themselves out as an immigration consultant, are subject to the provisions of California Business and Professions Code sections 22440 through 22448.

An immigration consultant may provide non-legal assistance or advice on an immigration matter, including, but not limited to, the following: (1) completing a form provided by a federal or state agency, but not advising a person as to their answers on those forms; (2) translating a person's answers to questions posed in those forms; (3) securing for a person supporting documents, such as birth certificates, which may be necessary to complete those forms; (4) submitting completed forms on a person's behalf and at their request to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services; and (5) making referrals to persons who could undertake legal representation activities for a person in an immigration matter. If an immigration consultant provides any legal advice or assistance to consumers in immigration matters beyond these limited "non-legal" activities, then the immigration consultant is engaged in the unauthorized practice of law.

Samaris Estrada
October 30, 2013
Page 3

Immigration consultants are required to post a bond and file a disclosure form with the Secretary of State.

WARNING:

The unauthorized practice of law is a crime, punishable by up to one year in county jail or by a fine of up to one thousand dollars (\$1000), or both. (Business and Professions Code section 6126(a).)

The unauthorized practice of law is also a contempt of the authority of the courts and may be punished as a contempt of court. (Business and Professions Code section 6127(b).)

The unauthorized practice of law may be enjoined in a civil action brought in the Superior Court by the State Bar of California. (Business and Professions Code section 6030.)

The Superior Court, upon application of the State Bar of California, may assume jurisdiction over the practice of any person engaged in the unauthorized practice of law and may issue orders directing the State Bar to shut that practice down. (Business and Professions Code section 6126.3.)

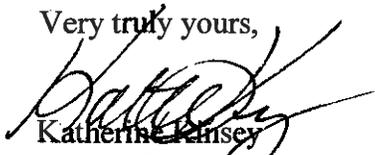
Certain additional penalties and remedies may also apply to violations by paralegals, legal document assistants, and immigration consultants. (See Business and Professions Code sections 6412.1, 6415, 6455, 22445, 22446.5, and 22447.)

You are now put on **NOTICE** that if your employees are engaged in the unauthorized practice of law, they must

IMMEDIATELY CEASE AND DESIST.

If the State Bar of California receives additional information that, despite this notice, your business continues to engage in conduct in violation of the above laws, the State Bar may take any appropriate action to ensure your compliance with these laws, including but not limited to a referral of the complaint to criminal law enforcement authorities without further notice to you.

Very truly yours,


Katherine Kinsey
Deputy Trial Counsel



THE STATE BAR
OF CALIFORNIA

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

OFFICE OF CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL
ENFORCEMENT
Steven Moawad, Chief Trial Counsel

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

DIRECT DIAL: (213) 765-1342

July 28, 2017

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Samaris Estrada
IMMIGRANTS LEGAL OPTIONS
8456 Sierra Avenue
Fontana, CA 92335

Re: Case Nos. UPL – 16-NA-17761, 17-NA-02844 & 17-NA-02845

Dear Ms. Estrada:

The State Bar of California has received information that you may have engaged, or that you may be engaging on an ongoing basis, in the unauthorized practice of law. California Business and Professions Code section 6125 provides, “*No person shall practice law in California unless the person is an active member of the State Bar.*” According to our official membership records, you are not an attorney licensed to practice law in this state.

The practice of law includes, but is not limited to, the following activities: (1) performing services in court cases/litigation; (2) giving legal advice and counsel; and (3) preparing legal instruments and contracts that secure legal rights – even if the matters involved do not have anything to do with lawsuits or the courts. (*People v. Merchants Protective Corp.* (1922) 189 Cal. 531, 535.)

The unauthorized practice of law occurs when someone who is not licensed as a member of the State Bar engages in any of these activities, unless specifically permitted to do so by law. It also occurs when an unlicensed person holds himself or herself out as being entitled to do these activities, even if the person does not actually represent that he or she is a licensed California attorney. (*Business & Professions Code, §§ 6126, subdivision (a) and 6126.7.*)¹

SUMMARY OF ALLEGED CONDUCT:

In or around April 2015, Ms. Maria Avila Ituarte hired you and your office, Immigrants Legal Options Law Office, to represent her in connection with her immigration matter. You were paid \$5000 in legal fees to secure a “U” Visa on Ms. Avila’s behalf. Ms. Avila claims you advised her that she had a good

¹ The California Business and Professions Code may be reviewed at http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/html/bpc_table_of_contents.html.

case and that she qualified for a “U” Visa because she was a victim of domestic violence. Ms. Avila stated that her application was denied and claims that you refused to discuss the reasons for the denial and/or discuss the refund of her fees.

The second complaint involves a referral to our office received from the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR). EOIR was contacted by an immigration judge in Los Angeles complaining that an applicant, who was proceeding in pro per, submitted a very sophisticated English language Motion to Terminate. Evidently, the in pro per applicant did not read, speak or write in English. The judge inquired with the applicant as to who filed the motion and the court was informed that “Mrs. Estrada with Immigrants Legal Options Law Office.” The applicant informed the court that he had paid you \$1500 for the motion but that he could not afford to pay you additional fees to appear in court on his behalf. The drafting of the motion appears to constitute the practice of law.

In a recent site visit conducted by State Bar Investigator Michael Chavez revealed that you were engaged in the unauthorized use of attorney Christin U. Anyiam’s name and law office. You agreed to make numerous changes to the way you conduct business in order to comply with sections 6125 and 6126 of the Business and Professions Code. In that regard, you agreed to the following changes:

- Destroy any and all business cards that identify you as an employee of Mr. Christian Anyiam’s law office;
- Destroy any and all business cards that identify Attorney Christina Anyiam as an attorney associated with Immigrants Legal Options;
- Remove any and all signage that states that Immigrants Legal Options is a LAW OFFICE;
- Remove any and all signage that associates and/or implies that attorney Christian Anyiam is associated with Immigrants Legal Options;
- Arrange a payment schedule to refund the fees paid by Maria Avila Ituarte to Immigrants Legal Options; and
- Remove any and all postings from websites that identify Immigrants Legal Options as a Law Office and/or that refer to you as an attorney.

In addition, please be advised of the following:

POTENTIAL LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Engaging in the unauthorized practice of law may result in serious legal consequences if a court determines that you have violated the law. The unauthorized practice of law is a crime, punishable by up to one year in county jail or by a fine of up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or both. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 6126, subd. (a).) The unauthorized practice of law is also contempt of the authority of the courts and may be punished as contempt of court. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 6127, subd. (b).)

Moreover, the unauthorized practice of law may be enjoined in a civil action brought in the Superior Court by the State Bar of California. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 6030.) The Superior Court, upon application of the State Bar of California, may assume jurisdiction over the practice of any person

engaged in the unauthorized practice of law and may issue orders directing the State Bar to shut that practice down. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 6126.3.)

Certain additional penalties and remedies may also apply to violations by paralegals, legal document assistants, and immigration consultants. (Bus. & Prof. Code, §§ 6142.1, 6415, 6455, 22445, 22446.5, and 22447.)

Please note that the State Bar does not have authority to order you to discontinue providing your services. Only a court may determine that you have violated, or are violating, any law and, if appropriate, impose a remedy or penalty for such violation. You may have a right, prior to the initiation of any court action by the State Bar, to request a declaratory ruling regarding whether the performance of your service is lawful. You are further notified that any right to a declaratory ruling supplements any other legal rights that you may already have to establish the legality of your services.

PARALEGALS:

Paralegals are subject to the provisions of California Business and Professions Code sections 6450 through 6456.

A paralegal must either contract with or be employed by an attorney, law firm, corporation, governmental agency, or other entity, while working under the direction and supervision of an active member of the State Bar of California. A paralegal may not provide legal advice, or represent a client in court, or select, explain, draft, or recommend the use of any legal document, except to his or her attorney employer or supervisor, or engage in any conduct that constitutes the unlawful practice of law. In addition, a paralegal may not establish the fees to charge a client for services. The fees charged to the client are to be set only by the attorney who supervises the paralegal's work. A paralegal who does any of these prohibited activities is engaged in the unauthorized practice of law.

Paralegals must meet certain educational requirements and fulfill mandatory continuing legal education requirements; and be certified by their supervising attorney every two years. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 6450, subd. (d).)

LEGAL DOCUMENT ASSISTANTS:

Legal document assistants are subject to the provisions of California Business and Professions Code sections 6400 through 6415.

A legal document assistant provides only self-help service to a member of the public who is representing himself or herself in a legal matter. "Self-help service" means all of the following: "(1) completing legal documents in a ministerial manner, selected by a person who is representing himself or herself in a legal matter, by typing or otherwise completing the documents at the person's specific direction; (2) providing general published factual information that has been written or approved by an attorney, pertaining to legal procedures, rights, or obligations to a person in representing himself or herself; (3) making published legal documents available to a person who is representing himself or herself in a legal matter;

and (4) filing and serving legal forms and documents at the specific direction of a person who is representing himself or herself in a legal matter.” If a legal document assistant gives any advice, explanation, opinion, or recommendation to a consumer about possible legal rights, remedies, defenses, options, selection of forms, or strategies, then he or she is engaged in the unauthorized practice of law.

Legal document assistants are required to register with their county clerk, pay a registration fee, and post a bond. (Bus. & Prof. Code, §§ 6402-6407.)

IMMIGRATION CONSULTANTS:

Immigration consultants, or those holding themselves out as immigration consultants, are subject to the provisions of California Business and Professions Code sections 22440 through 22448.

An immigration consultant may provide non-legal assistance or advice on an immigration matter, including, but not limited to, the following: (1) completing a form provided by a federal or state agency, but not advising a person as to his or her answers on those forms; (2) translating a person’s answers to questions posed in those forms; (3) securing for a person supporting documents, such as a birth certificate, which may be necessary to complete those forms; (4) submitting completed forms on a person’s behalf and at his or her request to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services; and (5) making referrals to persons who could undertake legal representation activities for a person in an immigration matter. If an immigration consultant provides any legal advice or assistance to consumers in immigration matters beyond these limited “non-legal” activities, then the immigration consultant is engaged in the unauthorized practice of law.

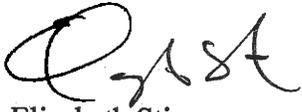
Immigration consultants are required to post a bond and file a disclosure form with the Secretary of State. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 22443.1.)

NOTICE:

You are hereby on notice that, based upon our investigation to date and your actions described above, it is the opinion of the State Bar Office of Chief Trial Counsel (“OCTC”) that you have engaged in the unauthorized practice of law. You are hereby notified that OCTC may, if it finds cause, take appropriate action to ensure your compliance with these laws, to include referring this matter to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

You should immediately **CEASE AND DESIST** engaging in the unauthorized practice of law. If the State Bar of California receives additional information that, despite, this notice, you continue to engage in violation of the above laws, the State Bar may take additional appropriate action to ensure your compliance with these laws and to protect the public.

Respectfully,



Elizabeth Stine
Senior Trial Counsel

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Exhibit 4

357 W. 2nd Street, Suite 16
San Bernardino, CA 92401
Telephone (909) 383-9500
Facsimile: (909) 383-9533

Anyiam Law Firm

July 26, 2017

Samaris Estrada
Immigrants Legal Options
8456 Sierra Avenue
Fontana, CA 92335

Re: Cease & Desist

Dear Mrs. Samaris Estrada:

It has come to my attention that you have made and/or making an unauthorized use of my name and law office. Specifically, you have business cards which identify you as an employee of Christian Anyiam's law office; business cards which identify Christian Anyiam as an attorney associated with Immigrants Legal Options; and signage which associates and/or implies that Mr. Christian Anyiam is associated with Immigrants Legal Options.

I demand that you cease and desist from these activities forthwith upon your receipt of this letter. I further demand that you (1) destroy all business cards that identify you as an employee of Christian Anyiam's office; (2) destroy all business cards that identify Christian Anyiam as an attorney associated with Immigrants Legal Options; and (3) remove all signage that associates and/or implies that Christian Anyiam is associated with Immigrants Legal Options. If action is not taken by you to cease and desist within the given time frame, I will have no choice but to take appropriate action against you.

Sincerely,

Christian U. Anyiam, Esq.
Attorney at Law

Enclosure(s): Your Business Card, Business Card with my name, and Signage in your Office

Professional Law Firm

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Exhibit 5



**State of California
Secretary of State**

S

Statement of Information

(Domestic Stock and Agricultural Cooperative Corporations)

FEES (Filing and Disclosure): \$25.00.

If this is an amendment, see instructions.

IMPORTANT – READ INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE COMPLETING THIS FORM

G349818

FILED

In the office of the Secretary of State
of the State of California

JAN-25 2019

This Space for Filing Use Only

1. CORPORATE NAME

IMMIGRATION LEGAL OPTION, INC.

2. CALIFORNIA CORPORATE NUMBER

C2189450

No Change Statement (Not applicable if agent address of record is a P.O. Box address. See instructions.)

3. If there have been any changes to the information contained in the last Statement of Information filed with the California Secretary of State, or no statement of information has been previously filed, this form must be completed in its entirety.

If there has been no change in any of the information contained in the last Statement of Information filed with the California Secretary of State, check the box and proceed to **Item 17.**

Complete Addresses for the Following (Do not abbreviate the name of the city. Items 4 and 5 cannot be P.O. Boxes.)

4. STREET ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICE	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
8456 SIERRA AVENUE SUITE 109, FONTANA, CA 92335			
5. STREET ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL BUSINESS OFFICE IN CALIFORNIA, IF ANY	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
8456 SIERRA AVENUE SUITE 109, FONTANA, CA 92335			
6. MAILING ADDRESS OF CORPORATION, IF DIFFERENT THAN ITEM 4	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE

Names and Complete Addresses of the Following Officers (The corporation must list these three officers. A comparable title for the specific officer may be added; however, the preprinted titles on this form must not be altered.)

7. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER/	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
SAMARIS ESTRADA	8456 SIERRA AVENUE SUITE 109, FONTANA, CA 92335			
8. SECRETARY	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
SAMARIS ESTRADA	7470 LUANE TRAIL, COLTON, CA 92335			
9. CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER/	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
SAMARIS ESTRADA	8456 SIERRA AVENUE SUITE 205, FONTANA, CA 92335			

Names and Complete Addresses of All Directors, Including Directors Who are Also Officers (The corporation must have at least one director. Attach additional pages, if necessary.)

10. NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
SAMARIS ESTRADA	8456 SIERRA AVENUE, FONTANA, CA 92335			
11. NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
12. NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE

13. NUMBER OF VACANCIES ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, IF ANY: 0

Agent for Service of Process If the agent is an individual, the agent must reside in California and Item 15 must be completed with a California street address, a P.O. Box address is not acceptable. If the agent is another corporation, the agent must have on file with the California Secretary of State a certificate pursuant to California Corporations Code section 1505 and Item 15 must be left blank.

14. NAME OF AGENT FOR SERVICE OF PROCESS				
SAMARIS ESTRADA				
15. STREET ADDRESS OF AGENT FOR SERVICE OF PROCESS IN CALIFORNIA, IF AN INDIVIDUAL	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	
7470 LUANE TRAIL, COLTON, CA 92335				

Type of Business

16. DESCRIBE THE TYPE OF BUSINESS OF THE CORPORATION
FILING IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS

17. BY SUBMITTING THIS STATEMENT OF INFORMATION TO THE CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE, THE CORPORATION CERTIFIES THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN, INCLUDING ANY ATTACHMENTS, IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

01/25/2019 SAMARIS ESTRADA CEO
DATE TYPE/PRINT NAME OF PERSON COMPLETING FORM TITLE SIGNATURE

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Exhibit 6



IMMIGRANTS LEGAL OPTIONS

[CONTACT US](#)

Contact

CALL NOW

- (909) 357-9087
- (800) 798-9366

Address

GET DIRECTIONS

8456 Sierra ave
Fontana, CA 92335
United States

Business Hours

Mon: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Tue: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Wed: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Thu: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Fri: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Sat: 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Sun: Closed

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TESTIMONIALS

2 months ago



Flag as inappropriate

I definitely recommend everyone who needs help or even has questions in regards to their immigration status to come and see Mrs Estrada. When I thought had I had no options she open

more than one door for me and now, today I received my Permanent Residency Card. I am truly blessed I had Mrs Estrada and her team to help me on my dream.

- Jacqueline J

10 months ago



Flag as inappropriate

Very happy with the service provided. Definitely recommend this place. And definitely will be coming back

- Diana M

a year ago



Flag as inappropriate

I fill like a family member

- Tranquilino D

[WRITE A REVIEW](#) [READ MORE](#)

Professional Guidance

Need help with your Immigration status? DACA renewal? Residency renewal? or looking to become a Citizen? We at Immigrants Legal Options can and would love to help you with all your immigration needs. Call and set up an appointment with us for a brief consultation with our Immigration Specialist.

GALLERY

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Exhibit 7

For a better experience on Facebook, [update your browser.](#)

Email or Phone Password

[Forgot account?](#)



Immigrants Legal Options Law Office

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- Videos
- Posts
- Events
- About
- Community

[Create a Page](#)

1990 **AYUDANDO A LA COMUNIDAD LATINA**

Deferred Action Help

Veá detalles al reverso

8462 Sierra Ave., Ste. A
Fontana, CA 92335
909.357.9087 / Fax 909.357.1576
E-mail: ilo8462@yahoo.com

228 W. C Street
Ontario, CA 91762
909.292.2115 / Fax 909.292.2373
E-mail: ilocovina@yahoo.com

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Immigrants Legal Options Law Office
September 24, 2012 ·

Immigrants Legal Options Law Office
Lawyer & Law Firm in Fontana, California

[Open Now](#)

Community

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- 30 people like this
- 31 people follow this
- 39 check-ins

About

[See All](#)



8462 Sierra Ave, Ste A (46.76 mi)
Fontana, California 92335

[Get Directions](#)

(909) 434-9086

[Contact Immigrants Legal Options Law Office on Messenger](#)

Lawyer & Law Firm

Price Range \$\$

Hours 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM
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Page created - September 14, 2012

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Immigration Office & Associates
Business Service



The Knox County Public Defend...
Government Organization



DEFERRED ACTION IS HERE EVERYONE!!! SPREAD THE WORD
LET SOMEONE YOU LOVE OR KNOW ABOUT THIS GREAT NEW
LAW FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE!!!!



2



Immigrants Legal Options Law Office is at 8462 SIERRA AVE. STE. A FONTANA, CA. 92335.

September 19, 2012 ·

WORK PERMITS FOR ALL THOSE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ENTERED THE COUNTRY AT 15YRS OR YOUNGER AND WHO ARE 30YRS OR YOUNGER TODAY!! CALL US NOW!!!

2

1 Comment 0 Views

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Exhibit 8

Find tacos, cheap dinner, Max's

Near Montebello, CA

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- Write a Review
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Fontana Lewis Library & Technology Center
Spring
Miller Park
Arrow Blvd
DOWNTOWN

8462 Sierra Ave Ste A
Fontana, CA 92335

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[\(909\) 357-9087](#)
[Send to your Phone](#)

You Might Also Consider

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The Law Offices of Daniel Kim

311 reviews

23.9 miles away from Immigrants Legal Options Law Office

Tina D. said "Let me start off by saying I am tremendously terrified of anything that deals with governmental issues. When I got into my first car accident, I quickly tried to brush it off as soon as possible. My family, however, insisted that I..." [read more](#) in Personal Injury Law



U.S. Law Center

22 reviews

19.5 miles away from Immigrants Legal Options Law Office

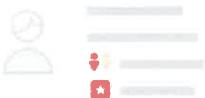
Miguel M. said "Last week we came in to US Law center to get information for a family member of ours as to how to apply for a green card. Its always nerve wracking to walk into a immigration lawyer's office especially with whats going on in this..." [read more](#) in Immigration Law

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Your trust is our top concern, so businesses can't pay to alter or remove their reviews. [Learn more.](#)

Search within the reviews

Sort by **Yelp Sort**



With so few reviews, your opinion of Immigrants Legal Options Law Office could be huge. Start your review today.

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Hours



Walter M.
First to review

You Might Also Consider

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Law Offices of Vincent B Garcia & Associates

17 reviews

8.3 miles

Jairot P. said "I truly believe Attorney Garcia has been my ally when it comes to defending and..." [read more](#)



The Accident Guys - Personal Injury Attorneys

64 reviews

8.0 miles

Brittney M. said "I was in an accident the day after my birthday on 5/23/18 on the 210 freeway. I..." [read more](#)

People also viewed



R Bracken & Associates

14 reviews

Immigration Law



Walter M.
 Long Beach, CA
 49 friends
 3 reviews

1/30/2016
 First to Review

well at this time my mom has her husband in jail, she gave Mrs. Estrada a \$3,500 down payment to start the case. this was around the 24th of this month (January) 2016, so far nothing has happend but we hope this coming weeks we could see a [difference.so](#) far service has been good. i will keep posting the results as they happened.



Sonic H.
 Vernon, CA
 47 friends
 8 reviews
 2 photos

8/17/2018

This place has been all headaches, and wasted of my time. Their staff ain't all their in the head as well. You've been warned.....



Maria P.
 Ontario, CA
 35 friends
 29 reviews
 14 photos

5/28/2016

This place is a scam. Do not trust them. Samaris Estrada is scammer. She took over 3,000 dollars from us plus kept immigration fees. Do not trust them!! And she did not do anything for our case. Just got paid for services she did not provide.

Page 1 of 1

2 other reviews that are not currently recommended ▾

You Might Also Consider

Sponsored ⓘ



Kia Law Firm
 35 reviews

9.1 miles away from Immigrants Legal Options Law Office

Christine T. said "I contacted this law firm to schedule an appointment with hopes to be put on their calendar & expected for a response from a secretary to schedule me in... what I encountered left me stunned. Not only did I get the opportunity to..." [read more](#) in Personal Injury Law, Criminal Defense Law, DUI Law



RP Law Group
 37 reviews

9.0 miles away from Immigrants Legal Options Law Office

Lupita C. said "I got hurt on the job and I wasn't sure who I should run too for advice. After calling a couple of different law offices and my gut telling me they weren't the ones for me I found Mr. Raj Patel through a reccommendation of another..." [read more](#) in Workers Compensation Law

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Claim your free business page to have your changes published immediately.

People found Immigrants Legal Options Law Office by searching for...

Immigration Lawyer Fontana

Near Me

Free Immigration Services Near Me

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Exhibit 9

8456



IMMIGRANTS LEGAL OPTIONS



Get what you want...
**GET YOUR
PASSPORT
PHOTOS
HERE!**

Immigrants
Legal Options

BUSINESS HOURS
MON - FRI
9 AM - 5 PM
SAT
9 AM - 2 PM
SUNDAY CLOSED

SHORT
SALE
ACCION
HOMES
SE HABLA
ESPAÑOL

LUIS CASTILLO, CPA
Certified Public Accountant
(909) 997-3033





IMMIGRANTS LEGAL OPTIONS



While you wait...
**GET YOUR
PASSPORT
PHOTOS
HERE**



Immigrants
Legal Options



BUSINESS HOURS
MON - FRI
8 AM - 5 PM
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9 AM - 2 PM
SUNDAY CLOSED

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8456

 **IMMIGRANTS
LEGAL OPTIONS**



**Immigrants
Legal Options Inc.**

SUAREZ INCOME TAX
BODAS CIVILES

 **Luis Castillo, CPA**
Certified Public Accountant.

WESTERN BROKERAGE CO.

Rojas Team Realty



IMMIGRANTS LEGAL OPTIONS



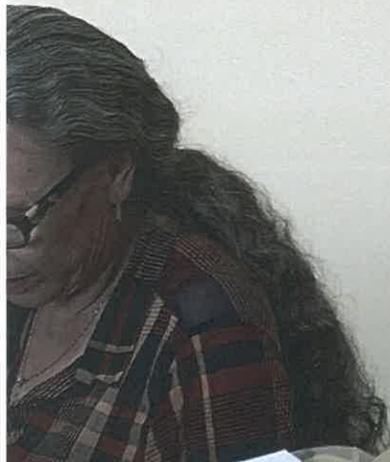
¡ENVÍE SUS
IMPUESTOS
HOY!

How to get ready for an Audit or Request a Refund. These steps are for you!

How to get ready for an Audit or Request a Refund. These steps are for you!

How to get ready for an Audit or Request a Refund. These steps are for you!

MENTS
IONS



JUNE 2019

DATE / FECHA	NAME / NOMBRE	PHONE NUMBER / NUMERO DE TELEFONO	CLIENT / ES CLIENTE?	APPOINT. / APPOINT. / CUEN
6/11/19	[Redacted]	[Redacted]		
6/11/19	Pedro	[Redacted]		
6/11/19	Maria Isabel	[Redacted]		
6/11/19	TERIBWIT	[Redacted]		
6-11-19	Gama	[Redacted]		
6/11/19	Dulio	[Redacted]	Yes	12:30
6/11/19	Willy	[Redacted]		
06/11/19	Paul	[Redacted]		SP 2:00 PM
06/11/19	Wulp	[Redacted]		81
6-11-19	Graciela	[Redacted]		81
6-11-19	Gama	[Redacted]		NO 3:30
6/12/19	ANGELA	[Redacted]		NO 1:00 PM
6/12/19	Abentin	[Redacted]		NO 11:00 AM
6/12/19	Rebeca	[Redacted]		11:5
6/12/19	Maria E	[Redacted]		SP
6-12-19	maxia E	[Redacted]		NO 12:30
6-12-19	Angela	[Redacted]		NO 12:30
6-12-19	OPR De	[Redacted]		NO N
6-12-19	Guadalupe	[Redacted]		SI

JUNE 2019

DATE / FECHA	NAME / NOMBRE	PHONE NUMBER / NUMERO DE TELEFONO	CLIENT / ES CLIENTE?	APPOINT. WITH / QUIEN
6-12-19	Roberto	[REDACTED]	NO	NO
6-12-19	Mercedes	[REDACTED]	SI	NO
6-12-19	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	SI	ESTRADA
6-12-19	Alejandro	[REDACTED]	SI	ESTRADA
6-13-19	Edizabeth	[REDACTED]	SI	ESTRADA
6-13-19	Osvaldo	[REDACTED]	SI	ESTRADA
6-13-19	Jose	[REDACTED]	SI	ESTRADA
6-13-19	Efrain	[REDACTED]	SI	ESTRADA
6-13-19	Virginia	[REDACTED]	SI	ESTRADA
6-13-19	Roberto	[REDACTED]	SI	ESTRADA
6-13-19	Martina	[REDACTED]	SI	ESTRADA
6-13-19	MARISOL	[REDACTED]	SI	ESTRADA
6-13-19	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	SI	ESTRADA
6-13-19	Angela	[REDACTED]	SI	ESTRADA
6-13-19	Elias	[REDACTED]	SI	ESTRADA
6-14-19	GABRIEL	[REDACTED]	SI	ESTRADA
6-14-19	MARIO	[REDACTED]	SI	ESTRADA
6-14-19	Leticia	[REDACTED]	SI	ESTRADA

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JUNE 2019

DATE / FECHA	NAME / NOMBRE	PHONE NUMBER / NUMERO DE TELEFONO	CLIENT / ES CLIENTE?	APPOINT. WITH / CON QUEH
06/14/19	Elizabeth	[REDACTED]		11:30
06/14/19	IRMA	[REDACTED]	si	12:00
06/14/19	Martin	[REDACTED]	si	12:30
06/14/19	Mercedes	[REDACTED]	si	12:45
06/14/19	Patricia	[REDACTED]	si	
06/14/19	Zayda	[REDACTED]	si	si
06/14/19	Yolanda	[REDACTED]	si	si
06/14/19	Dayana	[REDACTED]	si	si
06/14/19	IVONNE	[REDACTED]	si	3:00P
06/14/19	Ximena	[REDACTED]		NO 3:30
06/14/19	Jean It	[REDACTED]		Yes 4P
06/14/19	Jenny	[REDACTED]		Yes 5:00
	Jose	[REDACTED]		si
	JOSUX	[REDACTED]		
	Lupe	[REDACTED]		
06/17/19	Alejandra	[REDACTED]		si

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DATE / FECHA	NAME / NOMBRE	PHONE NUMBER / NUMERO DE TELEFONO	CLIENT / ES CLIENTE ?	APPOINT. WITH / QUIEN	GTI
6/15/19	Angelica	[REDACTED]	SI	SI	SI
6/15/19	Salvador	[REDACTED]	NO	NO	NO
6/15/19	Selustosh	[REDACTED]	SI	SI	SI
6/15/19	Frank	[REDACTED]	SI	SI	SI
6/15/19	Roxa	[REDACTED]	SI	SI	SI
6/15/19	Alfonso	[REDACTED]	SI	SI	SI
6/15/19	Carolina	[REDACTED]	SI	SI	SI
6/15/19	Pedro	[REDACTED]	SI	SI	SI
6/15/19	Edwards	[REDACTED]	SI	SI	SI
6/15/19	Alvaro	[REDACTED]	SI	SI	SI
6/17/19	Guadalupe	[REDACTED]	SI	SI	SI
6/17/19	Eduardo	[REDACTED]	SI	SI	SI
6/17/19	Juan	[REDACTED]	SI	SI	SI
6/17/19	Sandra	[REDACTED]	SI	SI	SI
6/17/19	Felisa	[REDACTED]	SI	SI	SI
6/17/19	Luzma	[REDACTED]	SI	SI	SI
6/17/19	Radis	[REDACTED]	SI	SI	SI
6/17/19	Rogex	[REDACTED]	SI	SI	SI

JUNE 2019

DATE / FECHA	NAME / NOMBRE	PHONE NUMBER / NUMERO DE TELEFONO	CLIENT / ES CLIENTE ?	APPOINT. WITH / QUIEN
6-17-19	Hernandez	[REDACTED]		
6-17-19	DORA F	[REDACTED]		
6/18/19	Roger A	[REDACTED]		
6-18-19	Duan	[REDACTED]		
6/18/19	Hoseas	[REDACTED]		→ Mrs. Es
6/18/19	Beatriz De L	[REDACTED]		
6/18/19	Bobadilla	[REDACTED]		
6/18/19	Maria L	[REDACTED]		Mrs.
6-18-19	Alma R	[REDACTED]		M
6-18-19	Yessica	[REDACTED]		Si
6-18	Yolanda	[REDACTED]		Si
6-18-19	Gabriel	[REDACTED]		Si
6-18-19	LORENO	[REDACTED]		
7-19-19	Estelita	[REDACTED]		
7-19-19	Ana Leticia	[REDACTED]		Si
7-19-19	Beatriz	[REDACTED]		
6-19-19	Rayne	[REDACTED]		

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DATE / FECHA	NAME / NOMBRE	PHONE NUMBER / NUMERO DE TELEFONO	CLIENT / ES CLIENTE?	APPOINT. WITH/ QUIEN
6-19-19	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	SI	Gravell
6-19-19	Bryana	[Redacted]	SI	Sra Estrada
6-19-19	Ismael Gonzalez	[Redacted]	SI	Sra Estrada
6-19-19	Lopez	[Redacted]	SI	Sra Estrada
6-19-19	Martha Elena	[Redacted]	SI	Sra Estrada
6-19-19	Fera Rodriguez	[Redacted]	SI	Sra Estrada
6-19-19	Elizabeth	[Redacted]	SI	Sra Estrada
6-19-19	Paul	[Redacted]	SI	Estrada
6-19-19	Ramon	[Redacted]	SI	Sra Estrada
6-19-19	Luis Edgardo	[Redacted]	SI	Sra Estrada
6-19-19	Sandra	[Redacted]	SI	Sra Estrada
6-20-19	Alfonso	[Redacted]	SI	Sra Estrada
6-20-19	Manuel	[Redacted]	SI	Sra Estrada
6-20-19	Ramon	[Redacted]	SI	Sra Estrada
6-20-19	Norma Fray	[Redacted]	SI	Sra Estrada
6-20-19	Eder	[Redacted]	SI	Sra Estrada
6-20-19	Sergio	[Redacted]	SI	Sra Estrada
6-20-19	Judith	[Redacted]	SI	Sra Estrada

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DATE / FECHA	NAME / NOMBRE	PHONE NUMBER / NUMERO DE TELEFONO	CLIENT / ES CLIENTE?	APPOINT. WITH/ QUIEN
06/20	Kabombay	[REDACTED]	Yes	Estadista
06/20	Enrique	[REDACTED]		
6/20	Ignacio	[REDACTED]		
6-20	Orlando	[REDACTED]		
6-20	José	[REDACTED]	si	Estadista
6-20	Cesar	[REDACTED]	si	Estadista
6-21	Sophía	[REDACTED]	si	Estadista
6-21	Juan Antonio	[REDACTED]		
6-21	IRAKI	[REDACTED]	si	Estadista
6-21-19	Estacio	[REDACTED]	si	Estadista
6-21-19	Genesis	[REDACTED]	Yes	Estadista
6/21/19	Jennifer	[REDACTED]	si	Estadista
6/21/19	J. Edoardo	[REDACTED]	si	Estadista
6/21/19	Marina	[REDACTED]	si	Estadista
6-21-19	JAIMZ	[REDACTED]	si	Estadista
6-21-19	Juan A.	[REDACTED]		
6-21-19	José Luis	[REDACTED]		
6-21-19	Sergio	[REDACTED]		

JUNE 2019

DATE / FECHA	NAME / NOMBRE	PHONE NUMBER / NUMERO DE TELEFONO	CLIENT / ES CLIENTE?	APPOINT. WITH / QUIEN
6/21	Ana Maria	[REDACTED]		
6/19	Mario	[REDACTED]		
6-22-19	Luis R.	[REDACTED]		9:30 AM.
6-22-19	AGUSTIN	[REDACTED]		9-45am
6-22-	CN2 De	[REDACTED]		10AM
6-22-	Sergio	[REDACTED]		1030
6-22-	Rafael	[REDACTED]		
6-22-	Teofilo de	[REDACTED]		11:00.
6-22-	Salvador	[REDACTED]		11:00
6-22/19	Blanca	[REDACTED]		
6-22-19	Rogelio	[REDACTED]		
6-22-19	Romelia	[REDACTED]		
6-22-19	Gerardo	[REDACTED]		
6-22-19	Alex	[REDACTED]		
22-14	Francisco	[REDACTED]		
22-19	Mauricio	[REDACTED]		
22-19	Martin	[REDACTED]		
22-19	JOSE	[REDACTED]		

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DATE / FECHA	NAME / NOMBRE	PHONE NUMBER / NUMERO DE TELEFONO	CLIENT / ES CLIENTE?	APPOINT. WITH / QUIEN
6/24/19	Luzmila	[REDACTED]	SI	NO
6/24/19	Maria O P	[REDACTED]		
6/24/19	Sonia	[REDACTED]	SI	
6/24/19	Teresa	[REDACTED]		SI Estrada
6/24/19	Rocío	[REDACTED]		
6/24/19	Fernando	[REDACTED]		SI Estrada
6/24/19	Maria	[REDACTED]		SI Estrada
6/24/19	José Luis	[REDACTED]		SI Estrada
6/24/19	Ohrenochi	[REDACTED]		SI Estrada
6/24/19	Luis R.	[REDACTED]		NO Estrada
6/24/19	J. Eduardo Rojas	[REDACTED]		
6-24-19	Mariela Bracamontes	[REDACTED]		YES ESTI
6/24/19	Gladis	[REDACTED]		YES ESTI
6/24/19	Dora	[REDACTED]		SI
6/24/19	Claudia	[REDACTED]		
6/24/19	Martin	[REDACTED]		
6/24/19	Francisco	[REDACTED]		

JUNE 2019

DATE / FECHA	NAME / NOMBRE	PHONE NUMBER / NUMERO DE TELEFONO	CLIENT / ES CLIENTE?	APPOINT. WITH / CITA CON QUIEN
6/24/19	Froilan	[REDACTED]	SI	Estrada
6/24/19	Luis Edgardo	[REDACTED]	SI	5:00pm Estrada
6/24/19	Luis	[REDACTED]	NO	5:00pm Estrada
6/25/19	Andrea	[REDACTED]	SI	Estrada
6/25/19	Maxia E	[REDACTED]	SI	Estrada
6/25/19	Glady's VIT	[REDACTED]	SI	Estrada
6/25/19	Mexico	[REDACTED]	SI	Estrada
6/25/19	Chibs	[REDACTED]	SI	Estrada
6/25/19	Martha	[REDACTED]	SI	Estrada
6/25/19	Jose	[REDACTED]	SI	Estrada
6/25/19	Maria	[REDACTED]	SI	Estrada
6/25/19	Jose	[REDACTED]	SI	Estrada
6/25/19	Minera	[REDACTED]	SI	Estrada
6/25/19	Leys	[REDACTED]	SI	Estrada
6/25/19	Reynan	[REDACTED]	SI	Estrada
6/25/19	Ramon	[REDACTED]	SI	Estrada
6/25/19	Berto	[REDACTED]	SI	Estrada
6/25/19	Ebodio	[REDACTED]	SI	Estrada
6/25/19	Luis	[REDACTED]	SI	Estrada
6/26/19	Roberto	[REDACTED]	SI	Estrada
6/26/19	Beatriz De	[REDACTED]	SI	Estrada

6/25/19 Luis
 6/26/19 Roberto
 6/26/19 Beatriz De

**DECLARATION OF MELVIN
OMAR CONTRERAS**

OFFICE OF CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL



DATE RECEIVED: August 19, 2019

COMPLETION DATE: September 25, 2019

RESPONDENT: Options, Immigrants Legal (upl: 704844) TIME SPENT:

CW: Contreras, Melvin Omar

INQUIRY/CASE #: 18-NA-18449

TRANSLATOR: Fredi Castillo

[Page 1]

DECLARATION OF MELVIN OMAR CONTRERAS

I, Melvin Omar Contreras, hereby declare the following:

1. My name is Melvin Omar Contreras. I have personal knowledge of what I have written here and if I am called to testify I could do so competently.

2. I met Samaris Estrada in August 2018 when I went to see her because I needed an immigration attorney to help me with my wife, Ana Mercedes Corado's, case. My wife came from Guatemala and upon crossing into the U.S. she was detained by immigration. My wife was detained in Arizona, at a detention center for two months and she was detained when I met Samaris.

3. I called a telephone number that I had heard on the "El Piolin" radio program many years prior. Back then they advertised an attorney named Patricia Mireles. But I never called until I needed an immigration attorney in 2018. The number I called is 1-800-798-9366. When I called that number they gave me an appointment to go to a consultation. I imagined that the consultation would be with attorney Mireles. When I arrived at the office located at 8456 Sierra Ave., Fontana, CA 92335 I asked for attorney Mireles but the office assistant told me that she no longer worked there and she introduced me to Samaris Estrada. I assumed that Samaris was the new attorney at the office. When I spoke to Samaris she told me that she was more than the attorneys and that the attorneys go consult her when they do not know how to resolve their immigration cases. So I did not doubt that she was an attorney. I gained trust in Samaris because with her comments she was leading me to believe that she was one of the best immigration attorneys. Samaris never mentioned any other person who would work on my wife's case. She did not mention another attorney.

4. My wife was released from the immigration detention center in Arizona around August 20, 2018. I remember that on August 17th when I was gathering the money for the bond which was \$12,000.00 so that my wife would be released, I called Samaris to ask her for her advice. Samaris then told me to go to her office to speak further about the case. That day

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DECLARATION OF MELVIN OMAR CONTRERAS

OFFICE OF CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL



[Page 2]

Samaris told me that she would charge me \$5,000 to take my wife's case. Since at that time I thought Samaris was one of the best immigration attorneys I decided to hire her. I initially paid her \$2,500 dollars and I agreed to pay \$300/month. Attached to this as Attachment 1 is the receipt for payment. I did not sign any contract when I paid the \$2,500.

5. When I decided to hire Samaris to handle my wife's case I was sure that she was an attorney and that she would accompany Ana to every appointment with the different immigration agencies, including court. I had told her that my wife needed an immigration attorney to handle her case once she was released from the detention center. Had Samaris told me that she did not have an attorney's license to practice and be able to represent my wife I would have never hired her.

6. Upon exiting the detention center, my wife reunited with me here in Santa Ana, CA, and we went to see Samaris to further discuss the case and give her all of the documents that immigration had given my wife. Samaris said that she would fill out the application where my wife requested political asylum here in the U.S. I was present at both appointments that my wife had with Samaris.

7. I remember that I signed a document in English at one of those appointments but I do not know exactly what I signed. Samaris did not give me copies of the document. My wife signed some sheets also. I did not sign any contract, neither in English nor in Spanish. Truthfully since Samaris had treated me very well I trusted her and I did not think to ask her for a written contract.

8. At my wife's second and final appointment with Samaris at her office, her assistant asked my wife some biographical questions. We reminded Samaris that the immigration hearing was approaching and we wanted to know what would happen that day, where would my wife meet her the day of the hearing, etc. I could not believe when Samaris told my wife and me that in order for someone to appear with my wife on the court date it would be \$7,000 more, for a total of \$12,000. Samaris told us that she did not go to hearings and that for

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DECLARATION OF MELVIN OMAR CONTRERAS

OFFICE OF CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL



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someone to go it would cost us more money. At that time I did not know how to react. My wife and I told Samaris that we would think about it and we left.

9. Upon leaving the office, my wife and I began thinking and we decided that \$12,000 was excessive. We also asked ourselves why Samaris said that she did not go to hearings. We had specifically told her initially that we were looking for an attorney to appear at the hearings with my wife. I reached the conclusion that Samaris was not an attorney and that she had made us believe that she was. I was furious, not just because I had already paid her \$2,500 but rather because she was playing with our lives, since my wife's case is sensitive and it is very important to us.

10. Days later I called Samaris on the telephone and I asked her why the \$5,000 did not cover representation in court, because she was now saying that it would be an additional \$7,000, and because she was now telling us that she did not appear in court. She told me again that she did not go to the courts and that if we were going to require for an attorney to go court with my wife then we already knew that it would cost us more money. Samaris told me that if we did not agree with her way of doing things we could cancel the contract and we could look for someone else. But that she would only return to us part of the money of the \$2500 supposedly for all of the work she had already done. Then I told her that we did want to cancel the contract. This happened around September 2018.

11. Weeks passed and she never returned any of the money that we had already paid her. We needed that money to be able to hire a real attorney. I called the office and the assistants who would answer my call would tell me that they knew nothing about the refund, that Samaris had not mentioned any of that to them. And they would not transfer me to Samaris to speak to her about the money.

12. Since many months passed and Samaris was not refunding my money, I went to the bank that did the payment transaction when I paid her on August 17, 2018. I thought they could return the money I had paid Samaris. But Synchrony Bank sent me

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DECLARATION OF MELVIN OMAR CONTRERAS

OFFICE OF CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL



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a letter telling me that they could not help me. Synchrony Bank contacted Samaris and she sent them a letter telling them that I had hired her services and had signed a contract. Attached with the letter she sent them the copy of a contract in Spanish supposedly signed by me and the receipt she gave me on August 17, 2018 when I paid her with a card. When Synchrony Bank answered my complaint they sent me the documents that Samaris had sent them. Attached to this as Attachment 2 is the contract. It is the first time I had seen that contract in Spanish. I did not sign this contract. I also do not know Anyiam Law Firm, which is mentioned on the first and last page of the contract. I hired Samaris and her office Immigrants Legal Options. Samaris never mentioned Anyiam. I never met anyone other than Samaris and a female assistant at her office. Neither my wife nor I met an attorney with the name Anyiam.

13. After trying many times to communicate with Samaris for clarification about the refund, I decided to call a phone number that I saw on Telemundo to ask them for help. They gave me the phone number of the state bar of California. When I called the state bar they told me I could submit a complaint against Samaris and her business in writing. In October 2018 I submitted two complaints, one against Samaris and another against her business Immigrants Legal Options.

14. Luckily my wife and I found a new attorney to take her immigration case. But the time and money we lost with Samaris caused us much stress.

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DECLARATION OF MELVIN OMAR CONTRERAS

OFFICE OF CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL



[Page 5]

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.
Executed this 12th day of September of 2019 in Anaheim, California.

/s/ Marvin Omar Contreras

Marvin Omar Contreras
Declarant

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DECLARATION OF MELVIN OMAR CONTRERAS

1 **DECLARACION DE MELVIN OMAR CONTRERAS**

2 Yo, Melvin Omar Contreras, por este medio declaro lo siguiente:

3 1. Mi nombre es Melvin Omar Contreras. Tengo conocimiento personal de lo que he
4 escrito aquí y si soy llamado a testificar podría hacerlo competentemente.

5 2. Conocí a Samaris Estrada en agosto del 2018 cuando la fui a ver porque yo necesitaba
6 a un abogado de inmigración para que me ayudara con el caso de mi esposa, Ana Mercedes
7 Corado. Mi esposa vino de Guatemala y al cruzar a los EE.UU fue detenida por inmigración.
8 Mi esposa estuvo detenida en Arizona en un centro de detención por dos meses y se encontraba
9 detenida cuando conocí a Samaris.

10 3. Yo llame a un número de teléfono que había escuchado en el programa de radio “El
11 Piolin” hace muchos años atrás. En ese entonces anunciaban a una abogada llamada Patricia
12 Mireles. Pero nunca llame hasta que necesite un abogado de inmigración en el 2018. El número
13 que llame es el 1-800-798-9366. Cuando yo llame a ese número me dieron una cita para ir a una
14 consulta. Yo imagine que la consulta iba a hacer con la abogada Mireles. Cuando llegue a la
15 oficina localizada en 8456 Sierra Ave., Fontana, CA 92335 pregunte por la abogada Mireles pero
16 la asistente de la oficina me dijo que ella ya no trabajaba allí y me presento a Samaris Estrada.
17 Yo supuse que Samaris era la nueva abogada de la oficina. Cuando hable con Samaris ella me
18 dijo que ella era más que los abogados y que los abogados van a consultar con ella cuando ellos
19 no saben cómo resolver sus casos de inmigración. Entonces no dude de que ella era abogada. Yo
20 agarre confianza con Samaris porque con sus comentarios me estaba dando entender que ella era
21 una de las mejores abogadas de inmigración. Samaris nunca menciono a ninguna otra persona
22 quien iba a trabajar en el caso de mi esposa. No menciono a otro abogado.

23 4. Mi esposa fue soltada del centro de detención de inmigración en Arizona alrededor del
24 20 de agosto del 2018. Me acuerdo que el 17 de agosto cuando yo estaba reuniendo el dinero de
25 la fianza que fueron \$12,000 para que saliera libre mi esposa, llame a Samaris para pedirle su
26 asesoría. Samaris entonces me dijo que fuera a su oficina para hablar más sobre el caso. Ese dia

1 Samaris me dijo que me cobraba \$5,000 dólares para tomar el caso de mi esposa. Como yo en
2 ese tiempo pensé que Samaris era una de las mejores abogadas de inmigración decidí contratarla.
3 Inicialmente le pague \$2,500 dólares y quede con pagar \$300/mes. Adjunto al presente como
4 Anexo 1 es el recibo de pago. No firme ningún contrato cuando le pague los \$2,500.

5 5. Cuando decidí contratar a Samaris para que llevara el caso de mi esposa yo estaba
6 seguro que ella era abogada y que iba a acompañar a Ana a todas las citas con las diferentes
7 agencias de inmigración, incluyendo la corte. Yo le había dicho que mi esposa necesitaba un
8 abogado de inmigración para que llevara su caso ya que la soltaran del centro de detención. Si
9 Samaris me hubiera dicho que ella no tenía licencia de abogada para ejercer y poder representar a
10 mi esposa yo jamás la hubiera contratado.

11 6. Al salir del centro de detención, mi esposa se reunió conmigo aquí en Santa Ana, CA,
12 y fuimos a ver a Samaris para hablar más sobre el caso y darle todos los documentos que
13 inmigración le había dado a mi esposa. Samaris dijo que ella iba a llenar la aplicación donde mi
14 esposa pedía asilo político aquí en los EE.UU. Yo estuve presente en las dos citas que mi esposa
15 tuvo con Samaris.

16 7. Me acuerdo que firme una hoja en ingles en una de esas citas pero no sé exactamente
17 que firme. Samaris no me dio copias de la hoja. Mi esposa firmo unas hojas también. No firme
18 ningún contrato, ni en ingles ni en español. La verdad como Samaris me había atendido muy bien
19 yo le agarre confianza y no me dio por preguntarle por un contrato por escrito.

20 8. En la segunda y última cita de mi esposa con Samaris en su oficina, sus asistente le
21 hizo unas preguntas biográficas a mi esposa. Le recordamos a Samaris que la audiencia de
22 inmigración se acercaba y queríamos saber que iba a pasar ese día, donde se iba a encontrar mi
23 esposa con ella el día de la audiencia, etc. No podía creer cuando Samaris nos dijo a mi esposa y
24 a mí que para que alguien se presentara el día de la corte con mi esposa iban a ser \$7,000 más,
25 para un total de \$12,000. Samaris nos dijo que ella no iba a las audiencias y que para que

1 alguien fuera iba a constarnos más dinero. En ese momento no supe cómo reaccionar. Mi
2 esposa y yo le dijimos a Samaris que lo íbamos a pensar y nos fuimos.

3 9. Al salir de la oficina, mi esposa y yo nos pusimos a pensar y decidimos que \$12,000
4 era excesivo. También nos preguntamos porque Samaris había dicho que ella no iba a las
5 audiencias. Nosotros específicamente le habíamos dicho inicialmente que estábamos buscando a
6 un abogado que se presentara a las audiencias con mi esposa. Llegue a la conclusión que
7 Samaris no era abogada y nos había hecho creer que lo era. Estaba furioso, no solo porque ya le
8 había pagado a ella \$2,500 si no porque estaba jugando con nuestras vidas, ya que el caso de mi
9 esposa es delicado y es muy importante para nosotros.

10 10. Días después le llame a Samaris por teléfono y le pregunte porque los \$5,000 no
11 cubría representación en la corte, porque estaba ahora diciendo que serían \$7,000 adicionales, y
12 porque ahora nos estaba diciendo que ella no se presentaba en la corte. Me volvió a decir que
13 ella no iba a las cortes y que si íbamos a requerir que un abogado fuera con mi esposa a la corte
14 que ya sabíamos que nos iba a costar más dinero. Samaris me dijo que si no nos parecía su
15 manera de hacer las cosas que entonces podíamos cancelar el contrato y podíamos buscar a
16 alguien más. Pero que solo nos regresaría parte del dinero de los \$2,500 según por todo el
17 trabajo que ella ya había hecho. Entonces yo le dije que si queríamos cancelar el contrato. Esto
18 ocurrió como alrededor de septiembre del 2018.

19 11. Pasaron las semanas y nunca nos regresó nada del dinero que ya le habíamos pagado.
20 Nosotros necesitábamos ese dinero para poder contratar a un abogado de verdad. Yo llame a la
21 oficina y las asistentes que me contestaban la llamada me decían que ellas no sabían nada del
22 reembolso, que Samaris no les había mencionado nada de eso. Y no me comunicaban con
23 Samaris para hablar con ella sobre el dinero.

24 12. Como pasaron muchos meses y Samaris no me reembolsaba mi dinero, acudí al
25 banco que hizo la transacción de pago cuando le pague en agosto 17 del 2018. Yo creía que ellos
26 podían regresarme el dinero que le había pagado a Samaris. Pero Synchrony Bank me mandó

1 una carta diciéndome que ellos no podían ayudarme. Synchrony Bank contacto a Samaris y ella
2 les mando una carta diciéndoles que yo había contratado sus servicios y había firmado un
3 contrato. Adjunto con la carta ella les mando la copia de un contrato en español según firmado
4 por mí y el recibo que ella me dio el 17 de agosto del 2018 cuando le pague con tarjeta. Cuando
5 Synchrony Bank contesto mi reclamo me mando los documentos que Samaris les había
6 mandado. Adjunto al presente como Anexo 2 esta el contrato. Es la primera vez que había visto
7 ese contrato en español. Yo no firme este contrato. Tampoco conozco a Anyiam Law Firm, que
8 esta mencionado en la primera y última página del contrato. Yo contrate a Samaris y su oficina
9 Immigrants Legal Options. Samaris nunca menciona a Anyiam. Yo no conocí a nadie más que a
10 Samaris y una mujer asistente en su oficina. Ni mi esposa ni yo conocimos a un abogado con el
11 nombre Anyiam.

12 13. Después de intentar muchas veces comunicarme con Samaris para aclarar lo del
13 reembolso, decidí llamar a un número de teléfono que vi en Telemundo para pedirles ayuda.
14 Ellos me dieron el número telefónico de la barra de abogados de California. Cuando llame a la
15 barra de abogados me dijeron que yo podía someter una queja en contra Samaris y su negocio
16 por escrito. En Octubre del 2018 sometí dos quejas, una en contra Samaris y otra en contra de su
17 negocio Immigrants Legal Options.

18 14. Por suerte yo y mi esposa encontramos a un nuevo abogado para que tomara el caso
19 de inmigración de ella. Pero el tiempo y dinero que perdimos con Samaris nos causó mucho
20 estrés.

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Declaro bajo pena de perjurio según las leyes del Estado de California que lo anterior es verdadero y correcto. Ejecutado este 12 de septiembre del 2019 en anaheim, California.



Melvin Omar Contreras
Declarante

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Exhibit 1



Immigrants Legal Options

RECEIPT 8476

8456 Sierra Ave.
Fontana, CA 92335
(909) 357-9087

228 W. C Street
Ontario, CA 91762
(909) 292-2115

Date: 8/17/18

CHK # Credit CASH

Amount Due \$5000
Amount Paid \$2500
Balanced Due \$2500

Received from Coronado Contreras Ana M
Address 2813 W Camila St
City/State/Zip Santa Ana, CA 92704
Amount: \$2,500 - Asylum
Received By Jaky
Next Payment 9-17-18 \$300



Immigrants Legal Options

RECEIPT 16444

8456 Sierra Ave. Ste. 109
Fontana, CA 92335
(909) 357-9087 • (909) 292-2115

Fax (909) 251-4545
Fax (909) 292-2373

Date: 8/17/18

CHK # _____ CASH

Amount Due \$30
Amount Paid \$30
Balanced Due 0

Received from Coronado Contreras Ana M
 Consultations _____
 Public Notary _____
 Others Cargo de tarjeta
Received By Jaky
Next Payment _____

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Exhibit 2

IMMIGRANTS LEGAL OPTIONS

8456 Sierra Ave. Suite A Fontana, Ca. 92335 (909)357-9087 E-Mail ito8462@yahoo.com

January 24, 2019

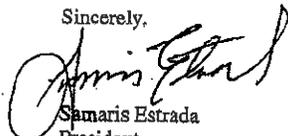
Response for request for transaction Documentation

Case number: 132656984
Merchant Number : 372679145881
Credit card Number: 524306XXXXXXXX9539
Transaction Method: Card present
MCC 811
Transaction Amount: 2,500.00

On August 17, 2018 Mr. Melvin Contreras retained our services. He signed a contract agreement to pay the total amount of \$5,000 dollars. As a retainer/down payment agreement he paid \$2,500.00. This was a face-to-face transaction. The card was signed, and card was swipe. The Cardholder was present during the transaction. A receipt was given to him. He signed the agreement contract. Find attached a copy of the agreement contract, office received and transaction signed receipt.

If there is anything else, you may need please let us know.

Sincerely,


Samaris Estrada
President

copy # 13 265 6984

ANYIAM LAW FIRM

CONTRATO hecho este 8/17/18 en la ciudad de Fontana California
Condado de San Bernardino Ca entre Ana Mercedes Coronado Contreras

1. **PROPOSITO DE LA REPRESENTACION.** El cliente contrata y emplea por este medio abogado Christian Anyiam para representar a cliente en (n) un Asylum en FONTANA, estado de California. Abogado **NO** represente a cliente en los procedimientos de la ejecucion deportaciones y apelaciones al menos que estos servicios sean especificados arriba. El cliente y el abogado tendran que entrar en un contrato escrito por una suma adicional que se paga al abogado.

2. **HONORARIO DEL ABOGADO.** Estos honorarios no serán reembolsables el cliente se compromete a pagar una cantidad de \$ 3000 pagado de la siguiente manera. Un Deposito de (entre) \$ 2500 EL BALANCE SERA PAGADO pagos mensuales comenzando el día 9-17-18 por la cantidad de \$300 cada mes. El cliente está de acuerdo. El depósito asegura el trato entre el cliente y el abogado. El cliente autoriza a abogados a retirar fondos del fondo de la cuenta mientras que se realizan los servicios. El cliente entiende que el abogado puede preguntar que el fondo de la cuenta esté llenado durante la representación y que el cliente debe llenar el fondo como sea necesario. La falta de llenar la diversión constituirá una abertura material de este acuerdo para la cual el abogado pueda retirarse de la representación.

El abogado será compensado por los servicios rendidos sin importar el resultado del caso el abogado no puede garantizar el resultado del caso, los servicios se basan solo en representación del cliente. El abogado se compromete a tramitar la representación al cliente in una suma fija en lugar de la tarifa actual. Actualmente, los honorarios de los abogados son como sigue; \$375.00 por la hora para los socios, \$275.00 por la hora para los asociados mayores y \$225.00 por la hora para los asociados menores, tiempo del Paralegal serán mandados la cuenta en \$140.00 por hora; el tiempo auxiliar legal se manda la cuenta en \$96.00 por hora; el tiempo administrativo se manda la cuenta en \$50.00 por hora. Las tarifas ya mencionadas pueden cambiar sobre treinta días de escritos el aviso. Este no es el caso el abogado llevara el caso por una suma fija enumerada en la sección dos de este contrato

3. **COSTOS DEL PLEITO.** El abogado puede, en su descripción propia, emplear a investigadores y a otros expertos para investigar los hechos y las opiniones de referentes al tema de esta trato. Estos costos serán adicionales de los honorarios del abogado escritos arriba. Los honorarios y los costos cargando por tales expertos, y otros honorarios y cargas de los vendedores de la corte, testigos, servidores de proceso, reporteros de la corte, traductores, etc. y otras cargas de fotocopias de la corte, de transmisión de facsimil, de franqueo, de derechos del teléfono, de trabajo de arte, de etc., serán pagados por Cliente por adelantado. Las copias superiores a diez (10) páginas serán mandadas la cuenta en el coste de \$0.50 (cincuenta centavos) por la página. Si el abogado avanza estos honorarios, los añaden del cliente para reembolsar a abogado en el plazo de 15 días de ser mandado la cuenta para ellos.

A menos que esté firmado con iniciales aquí, añadir del abogado para entrar en contacto con a cliente antes de incurrir en costos superior a \$350.00 para cualquier _____ del costo.

case # 132656454

4. REVISIÓN DECLARACIÓN DE S. DEL ABOGADO. El cliente repasará inmediatamente cualquier declaración de la cuenta enviada a ellos por el Abogado y notificará al abogado de cualesquiera errores en o desacuerdos con ella/el. Si el cliente falla sin que notifique al abogado dentro de treinta (30) días después del recibo de la declaración, la declaración será juzgada correcta para cualquier manera y constituirá y considerará indicado en un tiempo.

5. PAGO DE LA CUENTA, DEL INTERÉS, Y DE LOS COSTOS DE OBLIGACIONES. El cliente acuerda pagar los honorarios y los costos mandados por el abogado dentro de quince (15) días del recibo de la cuenta del abogado. Cualquier cobro sin pagar restante después de quince (15) días se le agregará un interés no más del diez por ciento (el 10%) o del máximo permitido por la ley. Si es necesario enforzar los procesos jurídicos para la aplicación de este contrato, el partido que pierda será dado la obligación para pagar los costos y los honorarios del abogado razonablemente, aunque aparezcan en propia persona.

6. El cliente entiende que es la póliza de esta oficina que ninguna cuenta puede ser pagada menos de \$500.00 sin la aprobación previa del abogado.

Si no se hacen pagos en ninguna cuenta asociada a este acuerdo, el abogado puede retirarse y el cliente acuerda cooperar en el retiro.

7. EMBARGO A PODER DEL ABOGADO. El cliente por voluntad propia le at Law, la autorización de hacer una demanda o poner un embargo en cualquier propiedad si es que el cliente se rehúsa a cumplir los términos de este contrato y autoriza específicamente esta oficina para archivar y embargo preventivo de característica verdadera de los abogados' en toda la característica verdadera poseída por Cliente para asegurar nuestros honorarios y costos. El embargo preventivo no debe exceder el total de todas las sumas debidos a abogado en la conclusión de los servicios de los abogados según los términos de este acuerdo, el esforzar a el cliente a pagar la suma debida puede ser hecha por acuerdo mutuo or juicio, o de otra manera.

Yo, Contreras Melvin and Ana Mercedes Contreras autorizo a su agente, firmar mi nombre a cualesquier bosquejos del establecimiento, cheques o otros instrumentos incluyendo un embargo preventivo contra cualquier característica verdadera que pueda poseer y negociar iguales. o su agente, el poder y la autoridad de ejecutar cualesquiera y todas las defensas, las demandas, los contratos, las órdenes, y otros papeles que el cliente podría correctamente ser pagadero o entregable al cliente a causa de cualquier juicio recuperado o cualquier establecimiento convinieron encendido con respecto a las demandas antedichas del cliente.

Firma: Contreras Melvin
Responsable.

Fecha: 8/17/18

Contreras Ana Mercedes Contrado de Contreras
T. 

Case # 13.265984

DESCARGA DEL ABOGADO O ABANDONO DEL CASO. Si por cualquier razón el cliente debe descargar al abogado, o si el cliente abandona el caso en contra del consejo del abogado, darán derecho el abogado al detenedor pagado y ser pagado por Client en el precio por hora entonces actual por toda la hora pasada en el caso más cualesquiera costes avanzados por Abogado y sin pagar restante. Nunca darán derecho al abogado a recibir más que el honorario inicial más el honorario real por el tiempo pasado, más costes.

9. **FACTURACIÓN DE TIEMPO.** El abogado mandará la cuenta de sus horas para el trabajo fuera de su oficina en un "portal" la base porta de incluir tiempo del recorrido. Toda la hora, incluyendo tiempo en el teléfono será mandada la cuenta en incrementos de seis (6) minutos para cada un décimo (1./10) de una hora o de una porción de eso. La preparación de letras y de documentos será mandada la cuenta en un mínimo de .50 hora para cada lado de una página o de una porción de eso. Las llamadas telefónicas serán mandadas la cuenta en un mínimo de .20 hora.

10. **COOPERACIÓN DEL CLIENTE.** El cliente mantendrá al abogado aconsejado de su paradero siempre, aparecerá en aviso razonable en cualesquiera y todas las deposiciones y aspectos de la corte, y se conformará con todas las peticiones razonables del abogado con respecto a la preparación y a la presentación de demandas antedichas del cliente. El cliente dirá la verdad y hará el acceso completo de todos los hechos materiales al abogado.

11. **ASOCIACIÓN DE SOUNSEL.** El abogado puede, en su discreción única y en ningún costo adicional al cliente, asociar a otros abogados para trabajar en esta materia. Si se hace tal asociación, el cliente acuerda cooperar completamente con el abogado.

12. **NEGACIÓN DE LA GARANTÍA.** El abogado no ha hecho y no hace ninguna garantía o las garantías en cuanto a el resultado acertado, la cantidad de recuperación, la cantidad de costos, o la longitud del lazo requerida para terminar los procedimientos en esta materia y todas las expresiones hecha por el pariente del Abogado además son expresiones mientras la opinión y de su mejor conjetura educada.

13. **NINGUNAS SÚPLICAS SIN EL NUEVO ACUERDO.** No se tomará ningunas súplicas de ningún ensayo sin consentimiento de todos los partidos y la ejecución de un nuevo contrato entre el cliente y el abogado.

14. **RETIRO DEL ABOGADO.** El abogado puede retirarse de la representación del cliente con respecto a la materia antedicha en cualquier momento después de dar el aviso razonable, proporcionando la corte conviene y la posición del cliente no se perjudica.

15. **ARBITRAJE DE CONFLICTOS ENTRE EL CLIENTE Y EL ABOGADO.**

En el acontecimiento que cualquier conflicto se presenta entre el cliente y el abogado, cliente, a petición de abogado, que acuerde arbitrar el conflicto dicho con la asociación local de la barra y pagar el incidente generalmente de los costos, además.

Case # 132656984

16. CONFORMIDAD CON LOS CÓDIGOS 6147 DEL NEGOCIO Y DE LAS PROFESIONES:

El abogado mantiene errores y cobertura de seguro de la omisión.

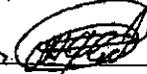
17. PRECEDENTE DE LA CONDICIÓN. Este acuerdo no tomará efecto, y el abogado no tendrá ninguna obligación de proporcionar servicios jurídicos, hasta que el cliente vuelva una copia firmada de este acuerdo y paga el detenedor completo según llamado en la sección 2 arriba.

18. JURISDICCIÓN. Este contrato será interpretado bajo leyes del estado de California. Cualquier acción traída conforme a este contrato estará en el condado de San Bernardino, estado de California.

DE LA AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD DE EL/ELLA CONCERNIENTE DENTRO A LA MATERIA A MENOS QUE MÁS ADELANTE MODIFICADO EN LA ESCRITURA, Y ÉSA ESTE ACUERDO FUE EJECUTADO E INSCRITO EN EL CONDADO DE SAN BERNARDINO, FONTANA CALIFORNIA EN EL DÍA 8-17 Y EL AÑO 2018 PRIMERO SOBRE ESCRITO Y UN COPIA DADO A EL/ELLA.

Print Name Contreras Melvin
Ana Mercedes Contreras
de Contreras

ANYIAM LAW FIRM
8456 SIERRA AVE SUITE 107
FONTANA CA 92335
(909)681-3566

Signature: 

Address: 2813 W. Camila st By _____

Santa Ana ca 92704

Phone 714-410-9470

Entrevistado por: [Signature]

Fecha: 8-17-18

Aceptado por: [Signature]

Fecha 8-16-21-18

RECEIPT 8476

Legal Options

8456 Sierra Ave. 228 W. C Street
 Fontana, CA 92335 Ontario, CA 91762
 (909) 357-9087 (909) 292-2115

Received from Coronado Contreras Ana M
 Address 2813 W. Camila St
 City/State/Zip Santa Ana, CA 92704
 Amount \$2,500 - Asylum
 Received By Ana M
 Next Payment 9-17-18 \$300

CREDIT/CASH

Int Due \$5,000
 Int Paid \$2,500
 ed Due \$2,500

Case # 182676984

**DECLARATION OF ANA
MERCEDES CORADO**

OFFICE OF CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL



DATE RECEIVED: August 19, 2019

COMPLETION DATE: September 25, 2019

RESPONDENT: Options, Immigrants Legal (upl: 704844) TIME SPENT:

CW: Contreras, Melvin Omar

INQUIRY/CASE #: 18-NA-18449

TRANSLATOR: Fredi Castillo

[Page 1]

DECLARATION OF ANA MERCEDES CORADO

I, Ana Mercedes Corado, hereby declare the following:

1. My name is Ana Mercedes Corado. I have personal knowledge of what I have written here and if I am called to testify I could do so competently.

2. I came to the United States from Guatemala and upon entering I was detained by immigration. I spent two months in an immigrant detention center in Arizona. I had to pay \$12,000.00 to exit the detention center. Upon exiting, I reunited with my husband, Melvin Omar Contreras, in Santa Ana, California.

3. I met Samaris Estrada in late August 2018 because I thought she would be my immigration attorney. My husband Melvin was who was in charge of finding an immigration attorney for me while I was detained in Arizona and it was he who found Samaris. Samaris initially told my husband that she would charge \$5,000.00 for my asylum case and I understand that he paid her half before my first appointment with her.

4. I went to Samaris' law office with my husband on two occasions to speak with her about my case. Upon arriving at the office, I noticed that she had a receptionist who welcomed us when we entered the office. The receptionist was a woman. I also noticed that there were two other women working in the back.

5. During the first visit with Samaris in August 2018, I remember that I gave her copies of all documents that immigration had given me before being released from the detention center so that this way she could begin to work on my case. I told Samaris that I had a hearing in immigration court scheduled for October 2018 and that I wanted to have representation as of the first hearing. Samaris said that she would work on my case and that she could represent me in court. I remember having signed a couple forms, but I did not know what they were and I did not receive a copy of them. However, I remember that it did not take me too long to sign the sheets which Samaris said needed my signature. It did not take more than a minute. I did not read any of what I signed nor did anyone read anything to me.

-1-

DECLARATION OF ANA MERCEDES CORADO

OFFICE OF CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL



[Page 2]

6. My husband submitted a complaint with the bank regarding the money paid to Samaris. The bank contacted Samaris and she provided the bank a copy of a contract in Spanish. However, it appears that the contract is with Anyiam Law Firm and I do not know who they are. I never met anyone named Anyiam. My name is wrong on the entire contract. I did not sign the contract. Neither my husband nor I recognize the contract.

7. During the second appointment with Samaris at her law firm, I reminded her that my hearing in immigration court was approaching. I thought that Samaris would then get to work on my case but all she did was tell her assistant to ask me biographical questions. What was striking to both my husband and me was that Samaris at that time informed us that if I wanted court representation, she would have to charge us \$7,000.00 more, for a total of \$12,000.00 for my case. We were shocked and we did not know what to do or say. When we left her office, I remember having told my husband that \$12,000.00 was excessive and that is why we decided that we would look for another attorney. I never saw Samaris again after we left her office that day.

8. My husband was who was trying to communicate with her after we decided to terminate the contract in order to ask her for a refund of the \$2,500.00 since she had not performed any work on my behalf. Samaris told my husband that she would refund him part of the money and that we could look for another attorney if we wanted to. However, to this day, Samaris has not refunded any money.

9. A few weeks before my hearing in immigration court I had to look for and hire someone who was really an immigration attorney to represent me. That new attorney charged us \$4,000. My case is very sensitive because I could be deported from the U.S. so it is necessary to have someone competent to represent me. After what happened with Samaris we were afraid to be victims of fraud again. This has caused me much anxiety and stress and I hope that Samaris does not continue harming and deceiving people.

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-2-

DECLARATION OF ANA MERCEDES CORADO

TRANSLATION

Page 2

OFFICE OF CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL



[Page 3]

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.
Executed this 12th day of September of 2019 in Anaheim, California.

/s/ Ana Mercedes Corado

Ana Mercedes Corado

Declarant

-3-

DECLARATION OF ANA MERCEDES CORADO

1 **DECLARACION DE ANA MERCEDES CORADO**

2 Yo, Ana Mercedes Corado, por este medio declare lo siguiente:

3 1. Mi nombre es Ana Mercedes Corado. Tengo conocimiento personal de lo que he
4 escrito aquí y si soy llamada a testificar podría hacerlo competentemente.

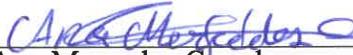
5 2. Vine a los Estados Unidos desde Guatemala y al ingresar fui detenida por inmigración.
6 Pasé dos meses en un centro de detención de inmigrantes en Arizona. Tuve que pagar \$12,000.00
7 para salir del centro de detención. Al salir, me reuní con mi esposo, Melvin Omar Contreras, en
8 Santa Ana, California.

9 3. Conocí a Samaris Estrada a fines de agosto del 2018 porque pensé que ella iba a ser
10 mi abogada de inmigración. Mi esposo Melvin fue quien estuvo a cargo de encontrar un abogado
11 de inmigración para mi mientras yo estaba detenida en Arizona y él fue quien encontró a
12 Samaris. Samaris inicialmente le dijo a mi esposo que ella cobraría \$5,000.00 para mi caso de
13 asilo y entiendo que él le pagó la mitad antes de mi primera cita con ella.

14 4. Fui a la oficina legal de Samaris con mi esposo en dos ocasiones para hablar con ella
15 sobre mi caso. Al llegar a la oficina, noté que tenía una recepcionista que nos recibió cuando
16 entramos en la oficina. La recepcionista era una mujer. También noté que había otras dos
17 mujeres trabajando en la parte de atrás.

18 5. Durante la primera visita con Samaris en agosto de 2018, recuerdo que le di copias de
19 todos los documentos que inmigración me había dado antes de ser liberada del centro de
20 detención para que de esa manera ella pudiera comenzar a trabajar en mi caso. Le dije a Samaris
21 que tenía una audiencia en la corte de inmigración programada para octubre del 2018 y que
22 quería tener representación desde la primera audiencia. Samaris dijo que trabajaría en mi caso y
23 que podría representarme en la corte. Recuerdo haber firmado un par de formularios, pero no
24 sabía qué eran y no recibí una copia de ellos. Sin embargo, recuerdo que no se me llevo mucho
25 tiempo firmar las hojas que Samaris dijo necesitaban mi firma. No se llevó más de un minuto.
26 No leí nada de lo que firmé ni nadie me leyó nada.

1 Declaro bajo pena de perjurio según las leyes del Estado de California que lo anterior es
2 verdadero y correcto. Ejecutado este 12 de septiembre del 2019 en Anaheim, California.

3
4 
5 _____
6 Ana Mercedes Corado
7 Declarante