



Attorney Disciplinary Board

OF THE SUPREME COURT OF IOWA

Judicial Branch Building • 1111 East Court Avenue • Des Moines, IA 50319
515-348-4680 • Fax: 515-348-4699 • www.iowacourts.gov

November 14, 2023

Alexandra Sondra Wilson
4733 Toronto Street, #112
Ames, IA 50014

Re: Our File No.: 2023-149
Complainant: Alexandra Sondra Wilson
Respondent: Gordon E. Allen

Dear Ms. Wilson:

The above complaint filed by you against attorney Gordon E. Allen has been investigated and considered by the Attorney Disciplinary Board in accordance with its case processing and review policies. You alleged that Mr. Allen entered guilty pleas without your knowledge or consent and intentionally misgendered you in Court filings. As to your allegation of misgendering, the Board noted that when these cases were processed 17 years ago, the two criminal matters were charged under the name on your Iowa identification, Alexander Wilson. Therefore, Mr. Allen's filings reflected the name that matched the charging documents and court case numbers. While the Board is cognizant of the potential harm associated with dead-naming a person, in a legal context (and certainly in a legal context over a decade and a half ago), this is not a violation.

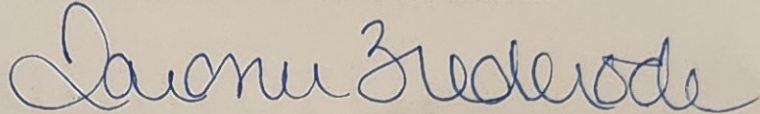
The Board considered Iowa R. Prof'l Conduct 32:1.2(a), which states:

Subject to paragraphs (c) and (d), a lawyer shall abide by a client's decisions concerning the objectives of representation and, as required by rule 32:1.4, shall consult with the client as to the means by which they are to be pursued. A lawyer may take such action on behalf of the client as is impliedly authorized to carry out the representation. A lawyer shall abide by a client's decision whether to settle a matter. In a criminal case, the lawyer shall abide by the client's decision, after consultation with the lawyer, as to the plea to be entered, whether to waive jury trial, and whether the client will testify.

Respondent asserted that he received verbal consent from you to change your pleas in your two criminal matters. You, 17 years later, dispute that you would have agreed to changing the pleas; however, you were admittedly happy with the resulting apology letter and \$1500 check you received from the city. The Board noted that respondent's best

practice would have been to have your signature on the document filed in court or some sort of written documentation of the conversation and consent in the file. However, since this case was so long ago, memories fade or change, and respondent has not retained the file, there is no independent way to verify what conversation you had about resolving both matters. Because it cannot meet its burden of proving ethical misconduct in this situation, the Board has dismissed the complaint. Thank you for bringing your concerns to our attention, and for your patience as the matter was investigated.

FOR THE IOWA SUPREME COURT
ATTORNEY DISCIPLINARY BOARD

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Tara M. van Brederode". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tara" being the most prominent.

Tara M. van Brederode
Director of Attorney Discipline

TMvB/tmvp
cc: Gordon Allen