LAW OFFICES_

ELION, WAYNE, GRIECO, CARLUCCI, SHIPMAN & IRWIN, P.C.

570-326-2443

WILLIAM P. CARLUCCI
CHRISTINA L. DINGES
ROBERT B. ELION
ANTHONY J. GRIEGO II
DAVID K. IRWIN
DAVID C. SHIPMAN
KRISTINE L. WALTZ
ROBERT B. WAYNE
RYAN C. GARIJANSICA Engel

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FAX 570-326-1585

Lycoming Law Association 321 Pine Street, Suite 201 Williamsport PA 17701

RE: Attorney Fee Dispute Committee

Dear Jessica:

Since my elevation to the chair of the Lycoming County Fee Dispute Committee, I have handled three cases. One case involved a dispute over an amount that a client was charged in a domestic matter. The lawyer had entered judgment and the parties ultimately agreed to a modest monthly payment and the attorney would forego any execution on the judgment as long as there is no delinquency.

The second case involves a fee dispute over a contingency fee agreement. The original attorney was discharged and the discharged attorney submitted a claim on a quantum meruit basis. The case was resolved by the attorney waiving the fees ultimately resulting in a reduced amount from the client.

The third case involved the transfer of a liquor license, leases and other matters regarding a business. The client disputed the amount of the bill, thinking that the lawyer spent too much time for the result. The attorney was representing himself and the client had another Lycoming County lawyer. They agreed to submit the case to me for a binding arbitration. I essentially mediated the case and the parties agreed to a compromised figure.

In all I spent approximately ten hours of my time on these three cases and although the clients and lawyers did not leave my office in ecstasy, I believe all parties were satisfied with the resolutions.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Cordially,

Robert B. Elion, Esquire

RBE/rrh

