

ADMONITION NO. 21-17

CLASSIFICATION:

Unauthorized Practice of Law [Mass. R. Prof. C. 5.5a]

SUMMARY:

The respondent is licensed to practice law in Massachusetts. He is a California resident, but has never been admitted to practice law in California. The respondent primarily works in the entertainment industry.

In or around 2014, the respondent befriended an elderly man. This friend owned several valuable pieces of real estate in the San Francisco area. The respondent assisted his friend in managing his properties, including removing debris from the properties and collecting rents from tenants. An abandoned lot abutted one of the properties. The respondent's friend allegedly agreed to provide the respondent with an interest in the property if the respondent could get the property re-titled in his and the friend's names. The respondent filed in a California Superior Court a Complaint to Quiet Title as a co-plaintiff with his friend. The respondent filed three motions with the California court seeking permission to serve the defendants by publication and to remove sanctions for a missed hearing. The summons was never served and the case was abandoned.

By filing a complaint and several motions on behalf of himself and his friend in a jurisdiction in which he was not licensed to practice law, the respondent violated Mass. R. Prof. C. 5.5(a).

The respondent was admitted to the bar in 1997. He has no previous discipline. The respondent received an admonition for this misconduct.