

**VIRGIN ISLANDS BAR ASSOCIATION  
ETHICS AND GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE**

In Re: Michael A. Joseph, Esq. )  
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S. Ct. BA No. 5/2004-STX

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC REPRIMAND OF MICHAEL A. JOSEPH AND  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC REPRIMAND MEETING**

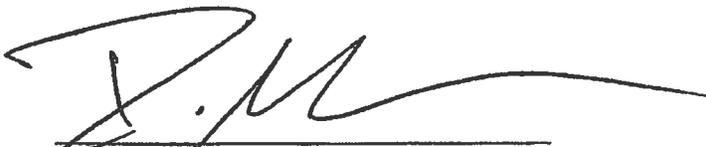
The Virgin Islands Bar Association Ethics and Grievance Committee hereby issues a Notice of Public Reprimand of Michael A. Joseph of P.O. Box 936, Christiansted, V.I. 00820 dated October 24, 2011. This matter is also set for a **PUBLIC REPRIMAND MEETING** at 3:00 p.m. December 2, 2011 at the Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands, No.18 Strand Street, Frederiksted, V.I. 00841 and in St. Thomas via videoconference at the Supreme Court, 161B Crown Bay, Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, V.I. 00802, at which time the Ethics and Grievance Committee shall **ORALLY REPRIMAND** Michael A. Joseph.

**UNDERLYING FACTS:** In 1997 Michael A. Joseph was retained to represent Grievant Johnny Martinez concerning an appeal of a criminal conviction. Attorney Michael A. Joseph was paid Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars to file an appeal on behalf of Grievant. Attorney Michael A. Joseph failed to file an appeal on behalf of Grievant. Despite numerous requests by Grievant and Grievant's family members, Attorney Michael A. Joseph failed to return the funds and failed to provide an accounting of money paid. Moreover, Attorney Michael A. Joseph failed to present any evidence in opposition to the grievance and failed to appear at the hearing of this matter.

**RULES VIOLATED:** **MICHAEL A. JOSEPH** is hereby **PUBLICLY REPRIMANDED** for violating the following Model Rules of Professional Conduct applicable to members of the Virgin Islands Bar Association pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 203(e):

1. Failure to competently represent Mr. Johnny Martinez, in violation of Rule 1.1;
2. Failure to adequately communicate with Mr. Johnny Martinez in violation of Rule 1.4;
3. Failure to properly handle or account for fees paid in connection with a legal matter in violation of Rule 1.5; and
4. Failure to cooperate with a duly designated Panel appointed to investigate grievances in violation of Rule 8.1.

Dated: this 24 day of October 2011

  
 Diane M. Russell, Esq.  
 St. Croix Subcommittee Chair  
 Ethics and Grievance Committee  
 Virgin Islands Bar Association

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Notice of Public Reprimand Meeting  
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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I **HEREBY** certify that on this 24 day of October a correct and exact copy of this *Notice of Public Reprimand of Michael A. Joseph and Notice of Public Reprimand Meeting* was sent via mail to:

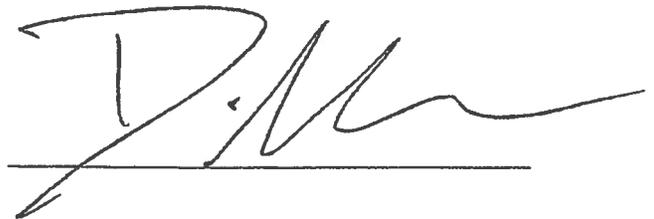
Clerk of the Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands  
P.O. Box 336  
Frederiksted, VI 00841

Johnny Martinez  
Golden Grove Correctional Facility  
Rural Route #1  
Box 9955 Kingshill 00851

Elsie-Mae King  
Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands  
P.O. Box 590  
St. Thomas, VI 00804-0590

Delphine Farr Janey, Esq. Disciplinary Counsel  
Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands  
P.O. Box 590  
St. Thomas, VI 00804

Michael A. Joseph, Esq.  
P.O. Box 936  
Christiansted, VI 00820

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M.A. Joseph', written over a horizontal line.