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**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MANANA ISLANDS**

**IN RE THE BAR MATTER OF:**

**Disciplinary Complaint No. 06-001**

**JOSEPH A. ARRIOLA**

**ORDER OF SUSPENSION**

Pursuant to the United States District Court's unsealed order of October 10,2006, Arriola's written consent to suspension, and in compliance with Rule 14 of the Commonwealth Disciplinary Rules, the Superior Court orders Joseph Aldan Arriola suspended from the practice of law in the Superior Court for a period of 180 days, commencing May 9,2007.

On October 10, 2006, the United States District Court suspended Joseph Aldan Arriola from practicing law in the District Court for a period of six (6) months, starting on September 29, 2006, for the following reasons:

1. Failure to appear at a show cause hearing regarding a bankruptcy proceeding;
2. Paying a filing fee with a check on two separate occasions that were subsequently returned for insufficient funds and for failing to appear at a meeting of the creditors;
3. Withdrawing as counsel on short notice before the trial of a civil action;
4. Appearing in court for trial without an interpreter; and
5. Failure to appear and argue in opposition to a motion for summary judgment.

1 Arriola consented to the allegations made in the United States District Court's Order to Show  
2 Cause dated September 29, 2006, which resulted in his suspension from the practice of law in  
3 the United States District Court.

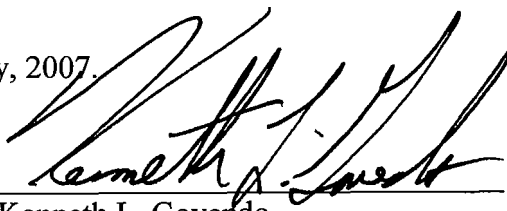
4 The above matter was referred to the Northern Mariana Island Bar Association (hereinafter  
5 "~~Bar~~ Association"), who is tasked with monitoring, investigating, and prosecuting professional  
6 misconduct by licensed attorneys in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. On  
7 February 23, 2007, the Bar Association filed a complaint alleging misconduct of Joseph Aldan  
8 Arriola and asking the Superior Court to reciprocate the District Court's six (6) month  
9 suspension from the practice of law.  
10

11 Though Arriola had consented to the disciplinary measures imposed by the United States  
12 District Court, he originally challenged the authority of the Superior Court to reciprocate the  
13 District Court's order and requested a hearing. However, on April 12, 2007, Arriola withdrew  
14 his previous request for a hearing on the disciplinary matters and submitted to the court his  
15 consent to be suspended from practicing law in the Superior Court for a period of six (6)  
16 months, as required by the Commonwealth Disciplinary Rules.  
17

18 Therefore, in compliance with the Commonwealth Reciprocal Discipline Rule 14 and in  
19 lieu of Arriola's written consent, the Superior Court hereby orders the suspension of Joseph  
20 Aldan Arriola from practicing law in the Commonwealth Superior Court for a period of six (6)  
21 month, which is to commence on May 9, 2007.

22 Furthermore, it is ordered that Steven P. Pixley is relieved as disciplinary counsel and that  
23 the matter is hereby unsealed.

24 **IT IS SO ORDERED** this 9<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2007.

25  
26   
27 Kenneth L. Govendo  
28 Associate Judge