

People v. April Renee Morrissette. 14PDJo26. April 8, 2014.

The Presiding Disciplinary Judge approved the parties' conditional admission of misconduct and suspended April Renee Morrissette (Attorney Registration Number 35247) for six months, with the requirement of reinstatement proceedings pursuant to C.R.C.P. 251.29(c). The suspension took effect April 8, 2014.

On August 14, 2013, in a separate disciplinary matter, Morrissette's law license was suspended for one year and one day, with six months served and the remainder stayed pending the completion of a two-year period of probation.

In January 2014, Morrissette was stopped for speeding on her way from Denver to Grand Junction. She told the De Beque town marshall who stopped her that she was an attorney and that she could not get another speeding ticket because she had too many points already against her driver's license. Nevertheless, the marshall wrote her a ticket. She was permitted to contest the ticket by appearing in De Beque Municipal Court on February 24, 2014.

Morrissette contacted a De Beque municipal court clerk and told her that she needed to change her court date because she was an attorney and had a conflicting hearing. She then repeated this misrepresentation to a second De Beque municipal court clerk.

Morrissette also contacted a paralegal for the De Beque town prosecutor, telling her that she was an attorney and had been traveling to a hearing in Mesa County Court when she was stopped for speeding. Morrissette made the same false statement to the town prosecutor himself, and she also told him that she had to appear in court on the Front Range on February 24, 2014. In addition, she wrote a letter to the De Beque Municipal Court requesting a continuance of her hearing because she was an attorney with a conflicting hearing date.

According to Morrissette, she believed at the time of these statements that she would be reinstated to the practice of law and that, after taking over certain cases from another attorney, she would be representing clients in court on February 24, 2014. By engaging in the conduct described above, Morrissette violated Colo. RPC 3.3(a)(1) (knowingly making a false statement of material fact to a tribunal) and 8.4(c) (conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation).