



By the order of the court, Judge David A Wiseman

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FOR PUBLICATION



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CNMI SUPERIOR COURT
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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ROMA P. KING, MARY CHRISTINE P.)
KING, and ANGELICA ISABEL P.)
KING, and STEPHANIE P. KING,)
Minor Children, by and through their)
Next Friend MARLEEN P. KING,)

Plaintiffs,

v.

JESSE S. PALACIOS, RAMON K.)
QUICHOCHO, DIEGO LEBANTE, and)
JOHN DOES 1-10, namely the Agents)
and assigns of Defendants Palacios,)
Quichocho, and Lebante,)

Defendants.

CIVIL CASE NO. 05-0219

ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFFS'
MOTION TO DISQUALIFY ANTONIO M.
ATALIG

THIS MATTER came to the Court's attention on April 24, 2014, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 223A upon Plaintiffs' representation that a number of matters remain pending before this Court.¹ Plaintiffs Roma P. King and others were represented by Attorney Mark B. Hanson ("Hanson"). Defendant Ramon K. Quichoco ("Quichocho") appeared pro se. The pending motions are: (1) Defendants' Motion to Reconsider the Court's July 13, 2006 Order; (2) Plaintiffs' Motion to Disqualify Antonio M. Atalig; (3) Defendants' Motion to Dismiss the First Amended Complaint; (4) Plaintiffs' Motion for Summary Judgment; (5)

¹ A review of the court records shows that the matter was assigned to the undersigned judge in May of 2006. The matter was then once assigned to the Honorable Judge Govendo on Defendants' motion to disqualify the undersigned judge. *King v. Palacios*, Civ. Case No. 05-0219 (NMI Super. Ct. Dec. 20, 2006) (Order Denying Defendant's Motion to Disqualify Judge David Wiseman). The case was re-assigned to the undersigned judge and set for status conference on December of 2006. (Order Setting Status Conference). The Court takes judicial notice that during some of the time between 2006 and the present day, Defendants' attorneys were subject to disciplinary proceedings. Both of Defendants' attorneys have since been disbarred from the practice of law before the courts of the Commonwealth. On September 13, 2013, Quichocho filed a motion for failure to prosecute. The Court denied Quichocho's motion on April 24, 2014. There, the Court identified a number of factors that contributed to the delay in the disposition of some of the issues in the case. One was the untimely death of a grantor in 2007. Another was the conduct of Defendants' attorneys prior to their disbarment. Third, there were some uncertainties relating to withdrawal of the Plaintiffs' initial attorney. (Order Denying Defendant's Motion to Dismiss at 4).

1 Defendants' Cross-Motion for Summary Judgment.

2 In this order, the Court addresses Plaintiffs' motion to disqualify Antonio M. Atalig. The Court takes
3 judicial notice that Atalig was disbarred from the practice of law before the courts of the Commonwealth.
4 *In re Disciplinary Proceedings of Yana and Atalig*, 2014 MP 1 ¶ 50. Therefore, any opposition to the motion
5 is moot. The Court **GRANTS** Plaintiffs's motion to disqualify Antonio M. Atalig.

6
7 **SO ORDERED** this 13th day of May, 2015.

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9 /s
10 David A. Wiseman, Associate Judge