

CITY COURT OF BUFFALO  
COUNTY OF ERIE: STATE OF NEW YORK

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PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

v.

**Felony Complaint**

ANDREW SCHNORR,

Defendant.

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DETECTIVE SCOTT BARNES, of the New York State Office of the Attorney General,  
Shield Number 2403, being duly sworn, deposes and says that: On or about and between July 8,  
2019 and August 21, 2019, 2021, at [REDACTED], located at [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED], Erie County, Buffalo, and elsewhere in New York State,

THE DEFENDANT COMMITTED THE OFFENSES OF:

Penal Law § 155.35(1)	Grand Larceny in the Third Degree (D felony) (1 count)
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Judiciary Law § 485-a	Practicing or Appearing as Attorney-At-Law Without Being Admitted and Registered (E felony) (1 count)
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IN THAT THE DEFENDANT:

Stole property and the value of the property exceeded three thousand dollars (\$3,000);  
violated the provisions of sections four hundred seventy-eight (478) and four hundred eighty-four  
(484) of the Judiciary Law by: (1) falsely holding himself out as a person licensed to practice law in  
this state, a person otherwise permitted to practice law in this state, or a person who can provide  
services that only attorneys are authorized to provide, and (2) causing another person to suffer  
monetary loss or damages exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or other material damage  
resulting from impairment of a legal right to which he or she is entitled; with intent to defraud,

including an intent to commit another crime and to aid and conceal the commission thereof, made and caused to be made a false entry in the business records of an enterprise.

THE GROUNDS FOR THE DEPONENT'S BELIEF ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. Deponent states that he has examined the certified business records of the New York State Unified Court System, Office of Court Administration, Attorney Registration Unit. These records indicate that there is no record of the defendant Andrew Schnorr listed as admitted to practice law in New York State since 1920.

2. Deponent states that he is informed by [REDACTED], Esq. that in March 2019, she was the managing attorney of [REDACTED] regional office, located at [REDACTED], in Erie County, Buffalo, New York ("[REDACTED]"). On or about March 6, 2019, [REDACTED] received a resume in the name of defendant Andrew Schnorr in response to a posting for an open associate attorney position at [REDACTED]. In the resume, the defendant describes himself as a "[h]ighly dedicated professional with JD-MBA." The resume further indicates that the defendant purportedly graduated *Summa Cum Laude* from the New York University School of Law and lists his prior professional experience, which includes working in two claimed prior attorney positions. During his interview with [REDACTED], Schnorr reaffirmed that he graduated from New York University School of Law and was a practicing attorney with three to four years' experience. I am further informed by [REDACTED] that relying on the defendant's representations that that he was an attorney duly licensed to practice law in New York State, she hired him for the open associate attorney position at [REDACTED]. Schnorr commenced employment at [REDACTED] on July 8, 2019.

3. Deponent states that he is further informed by [REDACTED], Esq., founding partner of [REDACTED], that, during the month of July 2019, the defendant performed legal work for [REDACTED] on twenty-eight (28) different matters for four (4) clients, billing a total of 90.87 hours at \$250.00/hour for a total of \$22,717.50. As a result of the defendant's billing, [REDACTED] in turn billed, and was paid by, [REDACTED] clients for the purported legal work performed by the defendant.

4. Additionally, based on a review of [REDACTED] business records, [REDACTED] stated that the defendant appeared in court representing her firm on multiple occasions, and prepared, signed, and filed reply papers and discovery responses including in the following matters:

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED].

5. I am informed by [REDACTED], Esq., Partner at the Erie County, Buffalo-based law firm of [REDACTED], that during August 2019, she represented defendants [REDACTED] [REDACTED] in a civil lawsuit pending in Erie County Supreme Court captioned [REDACTED]. I am informed by [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] represented a codefendant in that lawsuit, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

6. I am further informed by [REDACTED] that on the morning of August 6, 2019, she received an email at her work email from [REDACTED]. This contained a signature in the name of “Andrew G. Schnorr, Esq.” and indicated that Schnorr was “now the attorney from [REDACTED] handling this case on behalf of [REDACTED]” and he would be present for the deposition of the plaintiff scheduled for later that same afternoon. I reviewed this email communication as well.

7. I am further informed by [REDACTED] that at approximately 12:09 P.M. on August 6, 2019, she attended an Examination Before Trial (“EBT”) of plaintiff [REDACTED] at the law offices of [REDACTED], Erie County, Buffalo. At the EBT, the defendant who appeared on behalf of [REDACTED]

8. I have obtained a copy of the official EBT transcript for the above-described matter involving [REDACTED] and reviewed said transcript. During the EBT, and on the record, the defendant asked the plaintiff several questions and began by stating, “[j]ust to repeat for the record, we introduced ourselves off the record, refresher, I’m Andrew Schnorr. I represent [REDACTED].” I am informed by [REDACTED] that she billed [REDACTED] 5.10 hours for Schnorr’s appearance at the EBT, and billed [REDACTED] a total of \$2,750.00 for 11.00 total hours of purported legal work Schnorr performed on the file.

9. I am further informed by [REDACTED] that in addition to the [REDACTED] case referenced above, the defendant performed additional purported legal work on fourteen (14) different matters for five (5) clients during August 2019. I am further informed by [REDACTED] that one of the files that the defendant performed legal work on during August 2019 was [REDACTED]

\_\_\_\_\_, a civil lawsuit pending in Erie County Supreme Court.

10. I am informed by [REDACTED], [REDACTED], that at 11:00 A.M. on August 21, 2019, she conducted a settlement conference at 92 Franklin St., Erie County, Buffalo in the case of [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] indicates that five attorneys appeared at the conference on behalf of their respective clients, including the defendant. I am further informed by [REDACTED] that the defendant informed her that he was the attorney for [REDACTED] and was appearing on behalf of [REDACTED].

11. I am informed by [REDACTED] that on August 21, 2019, she became aware that the defendant was not an attorney admitted to practice law in New York State and terminated him from his employment. Upon terminating the defendant, [REDACTED] reimbursed the clients that she had billed for the purported legal work performed by the defendant during July 2019 in the amount of \$22,717.50. Over the course of his employment with [REDACTED], the defendant was paid \$6,193.

12. I am informed by [REDACTED] that the defendant did not have permission or authority to falsify the business records of [REDACTED] by, among other things, preparing documents indicating that he was an attorney. I am further informed by [REDACTED] that had she known that the defendant was not licensed to practice law, she would not have hired him as an associate attorney, assigned him any matters to perform legal work, and not paid him any money as described above.

False statements made herein are punishable as a Class A misdemeanor pursuant to Penal Law Section 210.45

Detective Scott Barnes (date)  
Shield 2403  
New York State Office of the Attorney General