

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

**UNITED STATES,**

Plaintiff,

v.

**RYAN SWOOPE, et al.,**

Defendants.

Case No. 1:23-cr-20 (TNM)

**ORDER**

The United States charged Saul Llamas, among others, for his alleged actions at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021. Mr. Llamas has moved for the admission of attorney Hector Martinez, Jr., pro hac vice. Pro Hac Vice Mot., ECF No. 29. The Court denies that motion.

Mr. Martinez was convicted of Obstructing Official Business in 2013. Decl. of Hector G. Martinez, Jr. ¶ 5, ECF No. 29-1. That stemmed from his involvement in a “bribery scheme.” *Disciplinary Couns. v. Martinez*, 146 Ohio St. 3d 212, 2016-Ohio-2709, 54 N.E.3d 121, at ¶ 11. Years before, a woman had hired him after a man “sexually assaulted and stalked her.” *Id.* ¶ 5. The man eventually plead guilty. *Id.* ¶ 6. Before sentencing, that man’s attorney told Mr. Martinez that he wanted to settle “civil claims” with the woman. *Id.* ¶ 7. But in return, he expected that she write a letter to the sentencing judge recommending no jail time. *Id.* Mr. Martinez relayed that bribe to the woman, sought a contingent fee, and then abruptly withdrew as counsel when she told him that she thought the offer was illegal. *Id.* ¶¶ 8–10.

Mr. Martinez was also disciplined by the State Bar of Ohio his role in the scheme. Martinez Decl. ¶ 5. The State Bar found that he had violated ethics rules prohibiting lawyers from (1) breaking laws “that reflect adversely on the lawyer’s honesty or trustworthiness,” (2)

“engag[ing] in conduct involving dishonesty, *fraud*, deceit, or misrepresentation,” and (3) “engag[ing] in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice.” Ohio R. Prof. Cond. 8.4(b)–(d) (emphasis in original); *see id.* Mr. Martinez received a “conditionally stayed” suspension, complied with the requirements, and is now in good standing. Martinez Decl. ¶¶ 4–5.

This is a rare case where the Court will exercise its discretion to deny a *pro hac vice* motion outright. The particular facts of Mr. Martinez’s conviction and ethics violations are troubling. He took advantage of his own vulnerable client. And he nearly interfered with a criminal case. The Court thus has serious doubts about his ability to faithfully represent his client here without having undergone the normal admission process to this Court’s bar.

For these reasons, it is hereby

**ORDERED** the Motion for Leave to Appear Pro Hac Vice is DENIED.

**SO ORDERED.**

Dated: March 7, 2023

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TREVOR N. McFADDEN, U.S.D.J.