

[The letter below is a copy of correspondence that I sent to Brian Lepak of Trope and Trope (a Los Angeles law firm) concerning a bill that he owed me for an expert report. He never replied, and he did not speak to me on the phone (communicating only through his secretary), so I sent this letter to all of his colleagues in the law firm. I never received any response in writing from either Brian Lepak or his colleague, Michelle Fay. I consider his behavior to be highly unethical, at the very least.]

November 27, 2012

Brian Lepak
Trope and Trope
12121 Wilshire Boulevard Suite 801
Los Angeles, California 90025

Dear Mr. Lepak,

As you know, I submitted a declaration that you and your colleague, Michelle Fay, requested in the case, "In the Marriage of Eglash," which you subsequently submitted to the court. As stated in my declaration, I charged \$210.00 an hour for eleven hours of work, totaling \$2310.00. I have never received payment for this work, nor have I received a written statement from either of you about why you have not paid me. Ms. Fay refused to speak with me on the phone on November 19th, referring me back to you. I have faxes from her, however, about my declaration, so both of you have responsibility to meet the professional obligations in this case.

If I do not receive a written explanation from you within a few days of receiving this registered letter, or if your explanation regarding your apparent refusal to pay is not satisfactory, then I will take further action. These actions may include a mailing to your colleagues in your firm about the matter, and/or legal action. In well over a dozen cases in which I have offered declarations or expert opinions, I have never encountered such behavior from the attorneys with whom I worked.

Sincerely,

Stephen A. Kent (PhD)
Professor

cc: Michelle Fay