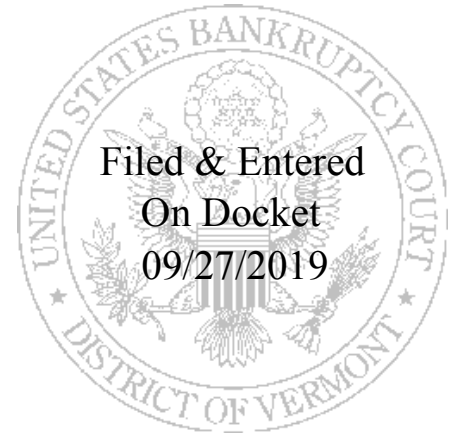


**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
DISTRICT OF VERMONT**



In re:

**Matthew C. Abel,
Debtor.**

**Chapter 13
Case # 19-10010**

In re:

**William K. Harrington, U.S. Trustee,
Plaintiff,
vs.
Synergy Law, LLC, Synergy Attorney
Services, LLC, Sheldon M. Katz, Esq.,
Scott Marinelli, Dave Maresca,
Monica Chapman, Stephanie Turk,
Georgia Myers, and Terrylle Blackstone,
Defendants.**

**Adversary Proceeding
19-01003**

*Attorney appearances: Amy Ginsberg, Esq.
Office of the U.S. Trustee
Albany, New York
For the Plaintiff*

*Sheldon M. Katz, Esq.
South Burlington, Vermont
For Defendant Katz, pro se*

ORDER

GRANTING JUDGMENT AND IMPOSING SANCTIONS AGAINST DEFENDANT SHELDON M. KATZ

For the reasons set forth in the memorandum of decision of even date, the Court grants judgment against Attorney Sheldon M. Katz, and in favor of the U.S. Trustee, in the complaint filed in this adversary proceeding, and imposes sanctions on Attorney Katz commensurate with the unique facts and circumstances of this case.

Based on the undisputed facts and record in this proceeding, THE COURT FINDS

- i. Attorney Katz did not act in bad faith or intentionally violate Bankruptcy Rule 9011,
- ii. Attorney Katz's conduct failed to meet the standard established by Bankruptcy Rule 9011, and
- iii. sanctions are warranted under both Rule 9011 and § 707(b)(4) of the Bankruptcy Code.

THE COURT FURTHER FINDS Attorney Katz's remorse is sincere, he did not intend to cause harm, the record does not establish his conduct caused any actual harm, there are several mitigating factors and no aggravating factors applicable to the computation of a proper sanction, and a monetary sanctions are not necessary in order to deter Attorney Katz, or others, from engaging in this type of misconduct in the future.

Based on these findings, the applicable statutes, and case law, and the rationale set forth in the accompanying memorandum of decision, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that

1. judgment is granted in favor of the Plaintiff, against Defendant Sheldon Katz, Esq.; and
2. as a sanction for his misconduct in this case, Defendant Katz shall
 - (a) perform ten (10) hours of *pro bono* legal service, through Legal Services Vermont,
 - (b) attend eight (8) hours of continuing legal education focused on legal ethics, and
 - (c) file a certificate affirming he has completed both aspects of the sanction by December 31, 2020.

SO ORDERED.

September 27, 2019
Burlington, Vermont



Colleen A. Brown
United States Bankruptcy Judge