

Disbarred Lawyer Gets 30 Days for Theft of Blind Client's \$400k Inheritance

A California lawyer charged with stealing \$400,000 from a client –and later suing his client after she complained to state bar authorities – has been sentenced to 30 days in jail after pleading no contest to two felony theft charges, reports *The Contra Costa Times*.

“On Oct. 27, 2008, Janet Stites’ mother died and left her an inheritance of more than \$400,000,” according to **the report**. “Stites, who is blind, hired an attorney, but on the advice of her friend Richard Stickney, she fired that attorney and hired 56-year-old Concord lawyer Timothy Darden to set up two trusts for her. Within a year, Darden had allegedly swindled \$438,000 from Stites and \$33,500 from Stickney, and days after they complained to the State Bar of California, he turned around and sued them for fraud.”

Read the article.