

Harassment of Debtor Allegations Against Patenaude & Felix Revealed

On September 24, 2009, a client reported to me that she was receiving phone calls at work from a gentleman claiming to be an attorney with the San Diego law firm of [Patenaude & Felix, APC](#). She further reported to me that a coworker was receiving calls and messages from the same man made to a cell phone number obtained from their employer's website. After I called the law firm to confirm that I represented this client, I was assured that no further contact would occur.

Under the California [Rosenthal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act](#), creditors and their attorneys cannot legally contact consumer debtors that are represented by an attorney. The Federal [Fair Debt Collection Practices Act](#) similarly protects consumer debtors from collection agency harassment. I thought that the unwanted creditor contact with my client would end, but I was wrong.

On September 30, 2009, my client again reported contact from the law firm by a collection agent falsely claiming to be an attorney. The same collection agent called my office and spoke with a bankruptcy paralegal and the caller again identified himself as an attorney.

The law firm claims that there was simply a "misunderstanding" and that no violation of state or federal laws occurred. I happen to know this bankruptcy paralegal fairly well. Her name is [Lisa Starrett](#) and I married her in 1994. She has a paralegal certificate from the University of San Diego and has been working with me as a bankruptcy paralegal for over 3 years now. She knows the importance of precision when it comes to communication in our line of work. Her words carry a lot more weight that a collection agent trying to spin his way out of a lawsuit.

If you are in Southern California and have experienced unfair debt collection practices when dealing with Patenaude & Felix, please call me at (619) 448-2129. You may have grounds for legal action against the law firm and the creditors they represent.

About the Author: [Carl H. Starrett II](#) has been a licensed attorney since 1993 and is a member in good standing with the California State Bar, the San Diego County Bar Association and the [National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys](#). Mr. Starrett practices in the areas of [bankruptcy](#), [business litigation](#), [construction](#), [corporate planning](#) and [debt collection](#).