

JUDICIAL ACTIONS

To read the entire public sanctions, go to sjc.texas.gov.

On August 12, 2021, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct issued a public admonition and order of additional education to **JAMES ZANDER**, justice of the peace, Precinct 2, Clifton, Bosque County.

On August 16, 2021, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct issued a public warning and order of additional education to **PATRICIA BACA BENNETT**, judge, 360th District Court, Fort Worth, Tarrant County.

On August 19, 2021, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct issued a public warning to **GEORGE GALLAGHER**, judge, 396th District Court, Fort Worth, Tarrant County.

On August 19, 2021, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct issued a public admonishment to **ROBERT D. BURNS III**, chief justice, 5th Court of Appeals, Dallas, Dallas County. Burns has filed a notice of appeal to the Texas Supreme Court.

On September 20, 2021, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct issued an order of suspension to **ROEL "ROLE" VALADEZ**, justice of the peace, Precinct 4, Rio Grande City, Starr County.

DISBARMENTS

On July 14, 2021, **CHRISTINA E. PAGANO** [#07154500], of Austin, received a judgment of disbarment effective July 8, 2021. An evidentiary panel of the District 9 Grievance Committee found that Pagano contacted law enforcement on May 3, 2018, and filed charges against her roommate, alleging he had taken her

vehicle without her consent. On or about May 7, 2018, the complainant, who is a licensed Texas attorney, was appointed to represent Pagano's roommate on a charge of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. The following day, Pagano visited her roommate in the Travis County Correctional Complex and represented she was his attorney, without the consent of the complainant. The roommate was granted a personal bond on May 10, 2018, which listed Pagano as the attorney of record. Pagano took these actions even though she was the victim in the criminal proceedings against her roommate and he was represented by the complainant at the time.

Pagano violated Rules 1.03(a), 1.15(a)(3), and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct, Article X, Section 9, State Bar Rules. Pagano was ordered to pay \$1,638.25 in attorneys' fees and expenses.

On October 30, 2020, **BRANDI K. STOKES** [#24044940], of Austin, received a judgment of disbarment. The 419th District Court of Travis County found that Stokes violated Rule 3.01 [a lawyer shall not bring or defend a proceeding, or assert or controvert an issue therein, unless the lawyer reasonably believes that there is a basis for doing so that is not frivolous]; Rule 3.02 [a lawyer shall not take a position that unreasonably increases the costs or other burdens of the case or that unreasonably delays resolution of the matter]; Rule 4.04(a) [in representing a client, a lawyer shall not use means that have no substantial purpose other than to embarrass, delay, or burden a third person, or use methods of obtaining evidence that violate the legal rights of such a person]; and Rule 4.04(a)(1) [a lawyer shall not present, participate in presenting, or threaten to present: criminal or disciplinary charges solely to gain an advantage in a civil matter].

Stokes was ordered to pay \$47,331.49 in attorneys' fees and costs.

RESIGNATIONS

On August 27, 2021, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation, in lieu of discipline, of **ROEL ALANIS**

ATTORNEY GRIEVANCES

DON'T REPRESENT YOURSELF!

How often do you advise clients to represent themselves when accused of wrongdoing?
Why give yourself different advice?

**CONSULTATION
OR REPRESENTATION**

STEVEN L. LEE

OVER 40 YEARS EXPERIENCE

11 years experience with the State Bar of Texas as Assistant and Deputy General Counsel as well as Acting General Counsel

**LAW OFFICE OF
STEVEN L. LEE, P.C.**
1411 WEST AVENUE, SUITE 100
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701
(512) 215-2355

Representing Lawyers & Law Students Since 1991

STATEWIDE REPRESENTATION

**DON'T GET
RAILROADED**

WE FIGHT FOR YOU

- Grievance Defense
- Disciplinary Trials and Appeals
- Ethics Consultations
- Legal Malpractice

HASLEY SCARANO, L.L.P.
ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS

JENNIFER A. HASLEY

713-667-6900
jennifer@hasleyscarano.com
www.hasleyscarano.com

28 Years' Trial Experience
Former Assistant Disciplinary Counsel
State Bar of Texas

BOARD CERTIFIED
Texas Board of Legal Specialization
CIVIL TRIAL & LAW

Texas Bar College
Professionalism Through Education

5252 Westchester, Suite 125
Houston, TX 77005

[#24097287], of Weslaco. At the time of his resignation, Alanis had three grievances pending alleging that Alanis had neglected a client's matter, failed to communicate with a client, made a misrepresentation, failed to properly safeguard funds belonging to a third party, and failed to properly deliver funds that belonged to a third party. Alanis had also committed the crimes of bribing immigration officials and conspiracy to bribe as alleged in *USA v. Alanis*, 1:19 - CR-00673, in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas.

Alanis violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.03(b), 1.14(a), 1.14(b), 8.04(a)(2), and 8.04(a)(3).

On August 27, 2021, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation, in lieu of discipline, of **AMELIA CHRISTINA JONES** [#24086652], of Lake Dallas. At the time of Jones' resignation, there were 15 pending matters against her alleging professional misconduct. The 15 pending matters alleged misconduct including, but not limited to: neglecting legal matters, failing to communicate with clients, failing to refund unearned fees, failing to respond to the grievance, and making misrepresentations to the investigatory hearing panel.

Alleged Rules Violated: 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.14(b), 1.15(d), 8.04(a)(3), and 8.04(a)(8).

SUSPENSIONS

On August 27, 2021, **JOHN VICTOR MASTRIANI** [#13184375], of Houston, accepted a 36-month partially probated suspension effective August 26, 2021, with the first 12 months actively suspended. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that Mastriani neglected a legal matter, failed to keep his client reasonably informed about the status of the case, and further failed to refund advance payments of fees that had not been earned. Additionally, Mastriani failed to timely respond to the grievance.

Mastriani violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$1,500 in restitution and \$766 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On August 29, 2021, **JOHN VICTOR MASTRIANI** [#13184375], of Houston,

accepted a 36-month partially probated suspension effective August 26, 2021, with the first 12 months actively suspended. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that Mastriani failed to carry out completely the obligations owed to his client, failed to keep his client reasonably informed about the status of the case, and further failed to refund advance payments of fees that had not been earned. Additionally, Mastriani failed to timely respond to the grievance.

Mastriani violated Rules 1.01(b)(2), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$2,000 in restitution and \$600 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On August 29, 2021, **JOHN VICTOR MASTRIANI** [#13184375], of Houston, accepted a 36-month partially probated suspension effective August 26, 2021, with the first 12 months actively suspended. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found

that Mastriani failed to carry out completely the obligations owed to his client, failed to keep his client reasonably informed about the status of the case, and further failed to refund advance payments of fees that had not been earned. Additionally, Mastriani failed to timely respond to the grievance.

Mastriani violated Rules 1.01(b)(2), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$1,000 in restitution and \$966 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On August 30, 2021, **MAX FRANKLIN STOVALL** [#00789657], of Houston, received a two-year partially probated suspension effective September 1, 2021. The evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that Stovall neglected the legal matter entrusted to him. Stovall further failed to keep his clients reasonably informed about the status of their case and failed to promptly comply with his clients' reasonable requests for information. Stovall also

STATE BAR GRIEVANCE DEFENSE

LEGAL MALPRACTICE

*Over 30 Years
Experience*

WAYNE H. PARIS
Two Riverway, Suite 1080
Houston, Texas 77056
(713) 951-9100

Statewide Representation

*Will you REPRESENT YOURSELF?
Socrates did and how did that
turn out for him?*



**GRIEVANCE
& LEGAL
MALPRACTICE
DEFENSE**

BRUCE A. CAMPBELL

OVER 25 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN
DISCIPLINARY MATTERS AND
LEGAL MALPRACTICE DEFENSE

STATEWIDE PRACTICE

CAMPBELL & ASSOCIATES LAW FIRM, PC
4201 SPRING VALLEY RD.
SUITE 1250
DALLAS, TX 75244

972-277-8585(O)
972-277-8586(F)
INFO@CLLEGAL.COM
CLLEGAL.COM

failed to provide closing statements and failed to distribute all funds from the settlement amounts received. Stovall also failed to direct and supervise a nonlawyer in the distribution of the funds.

Stovall violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.04(d), 1.14(b), 5.03(a), 5.03(b)(1), 5.03(b)(2), and 8.04(a)(3). He was ordered to pay \$11,193 in restitution and \$2,000 in attorneys' fees.

On September 27, 2021, **GLEN MICHAEL CROCKER** [#24001445], of Beaumont, agreed to a 15-month fully probated suspension effective October 4, 2021. The 58th District Court of Jefferson County found that Crocker neglected a legal matter entrusted to him and upon termination of representation, Crocker failed to refund any advance payments of fees that had not been earned. Furthermore, Crocker engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, and misrepresentation. Lastly, Crocker failed to timely respond to the

grievance without asserting a privilege or other legal ground for his failure to do so.

Crocker violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.15(d), 8.04(a)(3), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$2,616.50 in restitution and \$1,500 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On September 21, 2021, **CHRISTIAN KEIDRIC JOHNSON** [#24078742], of Dallas, received a one-year fully probated suspension effective September 15, 2021. An evidentiary panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that on or about June 2016, the client hired Johnson to represent her in a civil matter. Johnson was paid \$2,000 for the legal representation. In representing the client, Johnson neglected the legal matter entrusted to him. Johnson also failed to keep the client reasonably informed about the status of the civil matter and failed to comply with the client's reasonable requests for case information.

Johnson violated Rules 1.01(b)(1) and 1.03(a). He was ordered to pay \$2,000 in restitution and \$900 in attorneys' fees.

On September 1, 2021, **JOHN VICTOR MASTRIANI** [#13184375], of Houston, accepted a 36-month partially probated suspension effective August 26, 2021, with the first 12 months actively suspended. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that Mastriani failed to carry out completely the obligations owed to his client and failed to keep his client reasonably informed about the status of the case. Additionally, Mastriani failed to timely respond to the grievance.

Mastriani violated Rules 1.01(b)(2), 1.03(a), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$1,300 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On September 1, 2021, **JOHN VICTOR MASTRIANI** [#13184375], of Houston, accepted a 36-month partially probated suspension effective August 26, 2021, with the first 12 months actively suspended. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that Mastriani failed to carry out completely the obligations owed to his client and failed to refund advance payments of fees that had not been earned. Additionally, Mastriani failed to timely respond to the grievance.

Mastriani violated Rules 1.01(b)(2), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$11,750 in restitution and \$1,050 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On September 7, 2021, **JOE STEVEN SHARP** [#24028929], of Amarillo, received a six-month active suspension effective October 1, 2021. The District 13 Grievance Committee found that on or about May 17, 2019, Sharp was retained by a client for representation in a criminal matter regarding the client's alleged assault of the client's wife. Thereafter, Sharp communicated with the wife, offered her legal advice, and consulted with the wife about joint representation between the client and his wife, forming an attorney-client relationship with the client's wife. Sharp's representation of the client's wife reasonably appeared to be adversely limited by Sharp's responsibilities to his client. Sharp acted as an intermediary between the client and his wife but failed to explain the implications and effects of this relationship to the wife, and Sharp failed to obtain the wife's written consent to the relationship. Sharp represented the client at a

Representing Attorneys
Gaines West
 State-wide Practice
 State Bar of Texas
 Grievance Oversight Committee
 Appointed by the Texas Supreme Court
 Chair, 2006-2010
 Member, 2004-2010
 Texas Board of
 Disciplinary Appeals
 Appointed by the Texas Supreme Court
 Chairman, 2001-2003
 Vice Chairman, 1994-1996, 1998-2000
 Member, 1992-1996, 1997-2003
 State Bar of Texas
 Disciplinary Rules of Professional
 Conduct Committee
 Member, 1993-1996
 Disciplinary
 Review Committee
 Member, 1991-1992
 Texas Bar Foundation, Fellow
 State Bar of Texas, Member
 Brazos County Bar Association, Member
 Austin Bar Association, Member
**WEST • WEBB
 ALBRITTON
 & GENTRY**
 Principal Office – 979.694.7000
 1515 Emerald Plaza • College Station, TX 77845
 Austin – 512.501.3617
 1012 Rio Grande St. • Austin, TX 78701
westwebb.law

*Grievance Defense and
 Ethics Consultations*
LAURA POPPS
 Headed the Austin Region and
 directed CDC's Statewide Programs
 Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel
 2009—2018
 Laura's work at CDC provides
 unparalleled experience and
 firsthand knowledge of the
 attorney grievance system.
**PUT THAT EXPERIENCE
 TO WORK FOR YOU**
Popps | LAW & CONSULTING
 POPPSLAW.COM
 LAURA@POPPLAW.COM
 (512) 865-5185
 Austin, Texas 78750
**BOARD
 CERTIFIED**
 Texas Board of Legal Specialization
 CRIMINAL LAW

hearing on the wife's application for a civil protective order.

Sharp violated Rules 1.06(b)(2), 1.07(a)(1), 1.07(a)(2), 1.07(a)(3), 1.09(a)(2), 1.09(a)(3), and 3.04(d). He was ordered to pay \$1,000 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On September 14, 2021, **DAVID SIBLEY** [#18337600], of Gregory, accepted a six-month fully probated suspension effective November 1, 2021. An investigatory panel of the District 11 Grievance Committee found that Sibley's statements made about a judge were made with reckless disregard as to their truth or falsity.

Sibley violated Rule 8.02(a). He agreed to pay \$800 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

PUBLIC REPRIMANDS

On August 31, 2021, **SHARION L. FISHER** [#07061100], of Dallas, agreed to a public reprimand. An investigatory panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that on or about October 15, 2019, the complainant retained Fisher for a guardianship and probate matter related to the complainant's elderly mother. In representing the complainant, Fisher neglected the legal matter entrusted to her and failed to communicate with the complainant. Fisher failed to identify the complainant's other property and appropriately safeguard the property. Upon termination of representation, Fisher failed to surrender papers and property to which the complaint was entitled and failed to refund an unearned fee. Fisher failed to respond to the grievance.

Fisher violated Rules 1.01 (b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.14(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8). She was ordered to pay \$250 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On September 15, 2021, **CATHERINE MARY IVERS NIELSEN** [#24032791], of Carthage, received an agreed judgment of public reprimand. An investigatory panel of the District 1 Grievance Committee found that in September 2019, Nielsen, while serving as first assistant district attorney in the Panola County District Attorney's Office, was lead prosecutor in the *State of Texas v. Dean Paul Asbury*, Cause No. 2018-C-094, wherein Asbury was charged with an enhanced first-degree aggravated sexual assault. In connection

with the above case, Nielsen made a false statement of material fact or law to a tribunal when Nielsen stated to the court that she had discussed witnesses' criminal histories with said witnesses. Nielsen subsequently corrected her false statement and stated that the witnesses' recollection of their prior conversations would be more accurate than her own. Nielsen also disobeyed an obligation under the standing rules of, or a ruling by, a tribunal by failing to disclose two witnesses' criminal histories to defense counsel. The criminal histories did not contain information that could be used to impeach the witnesses at trial.

Nielsen violated Rules 3.03(a)(1) and 3.04(d). She was ordered to pay \$675 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

PRIVATE REPRIMANDS

Listed here is a breakdown of Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct violations for 11 attorneys, with the number in parentheses indicating the frequency of the violation. Please note that an attorney may be reprimanded for

more than one rule violation.

1.01(b)(1)—for neglecting a legal matter entrusted to the lawyer (2).

1.01(b)(2)—In representing a client, a lawyer shall not frequently fail to carry out completely the obligations that the lawyer owes to a client or clients (1).

1.02(a)(1)—A lawyer shall abide by a client's decisions concerning the objectives and general methods of representation (1).

1.03(a)—for failing to keep a client reasonably informed about the status of a matter and promptly comply with reasonable requests for information (5).

1.03(b)—A lawyer shall explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation (1).

1.04(a)—A lawyer shall not enter into an arrangement for, charge, or collect an illegal fee or unconscionable fee. A fee is unconscionable if a competent lawyer could not form a reasonable belief that the fee is reasonable (1).

NED BARNETT



CRIMINAL DEFENSE

Defending Texans Since 1994



Former Assistant United States Attorney
Former Assistant District Attorney
Founding Member of the National College of DUI Defense
of Counsel Williams Kherkher Hart Boundas, LLP

Law Offices of Ned Barnett
8441 Gulf Freeway, Suite 600 • Houston, Texas 77017
713-222-6767
www.nedbarnettlaw.com

Board Certified in Criminal Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization

1.14(b)—Upon receiving funds or other property in which a client or third person has an interest, a lawyer shall promptly notify the client or third person. Except as stated in this rule or otherwise permitted by law or by agreement with the client, a lawyer shall promptly deliver to the client or third person any funds or other property that the client or third person is entitled to receive and, upon request by the client or third person, shall promptly render a full

accounting regarding such property (1).

1.15(d)—Upon termination of representation, a lawyer shall take steps to the extent reasonably practicable to protect a client’s interests, such as giving reasonable notice to the client, allowing time for employment of other counsel, surrendering papers and property to which the client is entitled, and refunding any advance payments of fees that have not been earned. The lawyer may retain papers relating to the client to

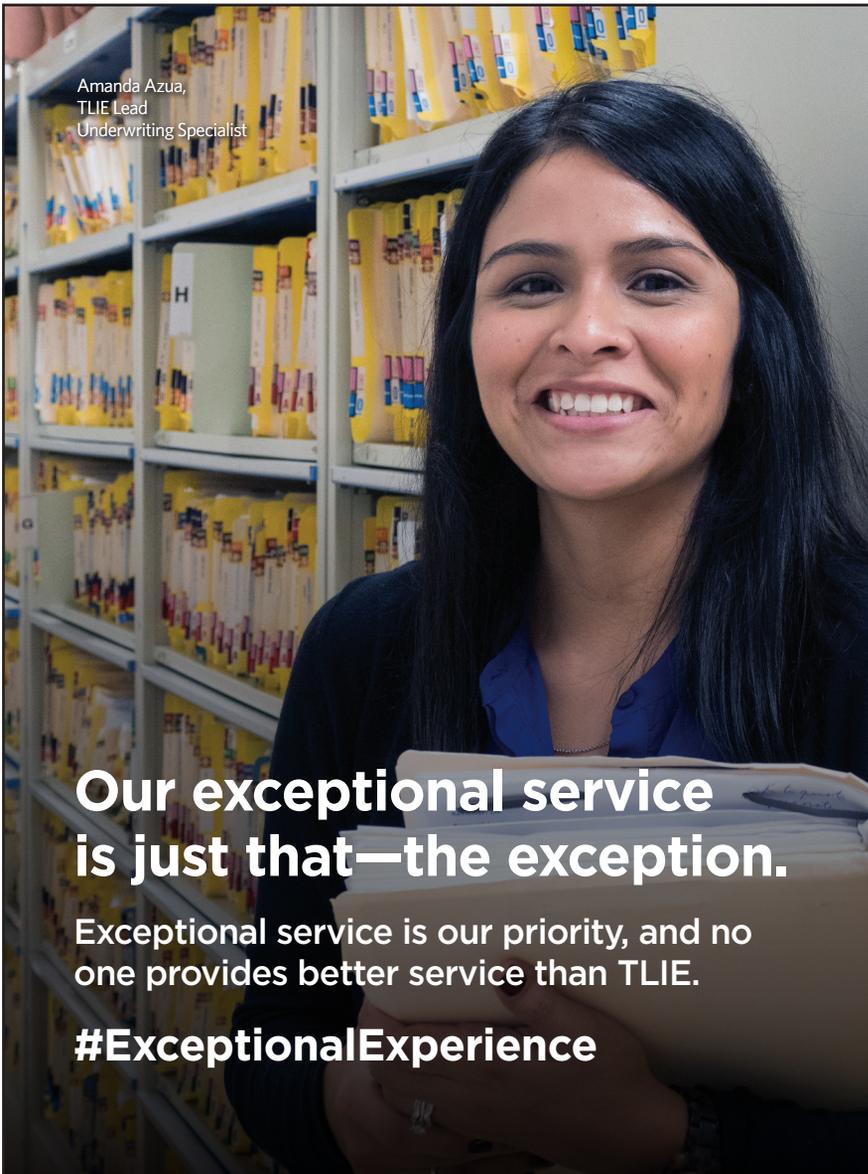
the extent permitted by other law only if such retention will not prejudice the client in the subject matter of the representation (2).

5.03(a)—A lawyer having direct supervisory authority over the nonlawyer shall make reasonable efforts to ensure that the person’s conduct is compatible with the professional obligations of the lawyer (1).

8.04(a)(3)—A lawyer shall not engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation (1).

8.04(a)(8)—A lawyer shall not fail to timely furnish to the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel or a district grievance committee a response or other information as required by the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, unless he or she in good faith timely asserts a privilege or other legal ground for failure to do so (3).

8.04(a)(10)—A lawyer shall not fail to comply with section 13.01 of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure relating to notification of an attorney’s cessation of practice (1). **TBJ**



Amanda Azua,
TLIE Lead
Underwriting Specialist

Our exceptional service is just that—the exception.

Exceptional service is our priority, and no one provides better service than TLIE.

#ExceptionalExperience

FIND OUT MORE:
TLIE.ORG or
(512) 480-9074



HUNT HUEY ATTORNEYS COUNSELORS

Your Reputation is Your Most Valuable Asset.

Let me help you protect it.



As a former Panel Chair and District 6 Grievance Committee Chair I have the experience to help you defend your reputation and livelihood.

Call me at 214-336-7364 or email me at jhuey@hunthuey.com

Jeanne M. Huey
Hunt Huey PLLC

3333 Lee Parkway Suite 600
Dallas, Texas 75219

www.hunthuey.com
www.legalethicstoday.com