

BEFORE THE EVIDENTIARY PANEL 3-2 OF THE
STATE BAR DISTRICT NO. 4 GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

FILED

DEC 07 2018

STATE BAR OF TEXAS
HOUSTON CDC

COMMISSION FOR LAWYER	§	
DISCIPLINE,	§	
Petitioner	§	201703777 [Coquoz]
	§	
V.	§	
	§	
RACHEL JUNE WILLIAMS,	§	MONTGOMERY COUNTY, TEXAS
Respondent	§	

JUDGMENT OF PUBLIC REPRIMAND

Parties and Appearance

On November 16, 2018, came to be heard the above styled and numbered cause. Petitioner, Commission for Lawyer Discipline, appeared by and through its attorney of record and announced ready. Respondent, Rachel June Williams, Texas Bar Number 24042166, appeared in person and announced ready.

Jurisdiction and Venue

The Evidentiary Panel 3-2 having been duly appointed to hear this complaint by the chair of the Grievance Committee for State Bar of Texas District 3, finds that it has jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter of this action and that venue is proper.

Professional Misconduct

The Evidentiary Panel, having considered all of the pleadings, evidence, stipulations, and argument, finds Respondent has committed Professional Misconduct as defined by Rule 1.06(W) of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

Findings of Fact

The Evidentiary Panel, having considered the pleadings, evidence and argument of counsel, makes the following findings of fact and conclusions of law:

1. Respondent is an attorney licensed to practice law in Texas and is a member of the State Bar of Texas.
2. Respondent resides in and maintains her principal place of practice in Montgomery County, Texas.
3. In representing Patti S. Coquoz ("Coquoz"), Respondent neglected the legal matter entrusted to her.
4. Respondent failed to keep Coquoz reasonably informed about the status of her matter.
5. Upon termination of representation, Respondent failed to refund advance payments of fee that had not been earned.
6. Respondent failed to timely furnish to the Chief Disciplinary Counsel's Office a response or other information as required by the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.
7. The Chief Disciplinary Counsel of the State Bar of Texas has incurred reasonable attorneys' fees and direct expenses associated with this Disciplinary Proceeding in the amount of \$737.06.

Conclusions of Law

The Evidentiary Panel concludes that, based on foregoing findings of fact, the following Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct have been violated: 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8).

Sanction

The Evidentiary Panel, having found Respondent has committed Professional Misconduct, heard and considered additional evidence regarding the appropriate sanction to be imposed against Respondent. After hearing all evidence and argument and after

having considered the factors in Rule 2.18 of the Texas Rule of Disciplinary Procedure, the Evidentiary Panel finds that the proper discipline of the Respondent for each act of Professional Misconduct is a Public Reprimand.

Accordingly, it is ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED that a Public Reprimand be imposed against Respondent in accordance with the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure. The Evidentiary Panel finds that the sanction imposed against Respondent is the appropriate sanction for each of the violations set forth in this judgment.

Attorney's Fees and Expenses

It is further ORDERED Respondent shall pay all reasonable and necessary attorney's fees and direct expenses to the State Bar of Texas in the amount of \$737.06. The payment shall be due and payable on or before **March 18, 2019**, and shall be made by certified or cashier's check or money order. Respondent shall forward the funds, made payable to the State Bar of Texas, to the Chief Disciplinary Counsel's Office, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, TX 78711-2487 (1414 Colorado St., Austin, TX 78701).

It is further ORDERED that all amounts ordered herein are due to the misconduct of Respondent, are assessed as a part of the sanction in accordance with Rule 1.06(Z) of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure. Any amount not paid shall accrue interest at the maximum legal rate per annum until paid and the State Bar of Texas shall have all writs and other post-judgment remedies against Respondent in order to collect all unpaid amounts.

Publication

This reprimand shall be made a matter of record and appropriately published in accordance with the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

Other Relief

All requested relief not expressly granted herein is expressly DENIED.

SIGNED this 4 day of December, 2018.

**EVIDENTIARY PANEL
DISTRICT NO. 3
STATE BAR OF TEXAS**



**PATRICK R. SCOTT
District 3-2 Presiding Member**