

**BEFORE THE DISTRICT 6 GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE
EVIDENTIARY PANEL 6-3
STATE BAR OF TEXAS**

**COMMISSION FOR LAWYER
DISCIPLINE,
Petitioner**

V.

**STEVEN TODD HAYDEN,
Respondent**

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CASE NO. 201807242

JUDGMENT OF PUBLIC REPRIMAND

Parties and Appearance

On March 12, 2020, 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, **STEVEN TODD HAYDEN**, Texas Bar Number **24006245**, appeared in person and through his attorney of record and announced ready.

Jurisdiction and Venue

The Evidentiary Panel 6-3, having been duly appointed to hear this complaint by the chair of the Grievance Committee for State Bar of Texas District 6, 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(CC) 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 his principal place of practice in Dallas County, Texas.
3. Complainant Jason Kelly (Kelly) hired Respondent on March 22, 2018, for a criminal law matter. On or about September 28, 2018, the District Attorney offered Respondent a plea deal of five years' probation to resolve Kelly's case; Respondent did not promptly present this plea offer to Kelly.
4. Respondent finally disclosed the plea deal to Kelly on or about October 26, 2018 and Kelly accepted the plea deal of five years' probation on October 30, 2018.
5. Further, Respondent revealed confidential information to Kelly about another client of Respondent without that client's consent.
6. The Chief Disciplinary Counsel of the State Bar of Texas has incurred reasonable attorney's fees and direct expenses associated with this Disciplinary Proceeding in the amount of Two Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty-Five and 00/100 Dollars (\$2,735.00).

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: Rules 1.03(b) and 1.05(b)(1)(ii).

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 Two Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty-Five and 00/100 Dollars (\$2,735.00). The payment shall be due and payable on or before May 12, 2020, 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(FF) 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

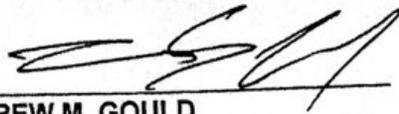
This reprimand shall be made a matter of record and appropriately published in accordance with the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

Other Relief

All requested relief not expressly granted herein is expressly DENIED.

SIGNED this 21st day of March, 2020.

**EVIDENTIARY PANEL 6-3
DISTRICT NO. 6
STATE BAR OF TEXAS**



**ANDREW M. GOULD
District 6, Panel 6-3 Presiding Member**