

IN THE MATTER OF:	§	INVESTIGATORY PANEL 17-1
	§	
JAIME A. VILLALOBOS,	§	DISTRICT 17
BAR NO. 00785151	§	
	§	GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

AGREED JUDGMENT OF PROBATED SUSPENSION

Parties and Appearance

Chief Disciplinary Counsel and Respondent, JAIME A. VILLALOBOS, Texas Bar Number 00785151, announce that an agreement has been reached on all matters including the imposition of a Probated Suspension.

Jurisdiction and Venue

The Investigatory Panel 17-1, having conducted an Investigatory Hearing on November 17, 2020 on the Complaint filed by Samuel L. Hill, finds that it has jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter of this action, and that venue is proper.

Professional Misconduct

The Investigatory Panel, having considered the admissions, stipulations and agreements of the parties, finds Respondent has committed Professional Misconduct as defined by Rule 1.06(CC) of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

Findings of Fact

Petitioner and Respondent agree to the following findings of fact. Accordingly, the Investigatory Panel finds:

1. Respondent is an attorney licensed to practice law in Texas and is a member of the State Bar of Texas.
2. Respondent's Professional Misconduct occurred, in whole or in part, in El Paso, County, Texas.

3. During the course of Mr. Hill's family law matter. Respondent neglected the matter.
4. Respondent also failed to promptly respond to Mr. Hill's requests of status updates.
5. Respondent also failed to reasonably explain the family law matter to Mr. Hill so that Mr. Hill could make informed decisions regarding the representation.
6. Respondent misrepresented to Mr. Hill that he had filed a pleading in Mr. Hill's matter when he had not.
7. Respondent failed to properly safeguard Mr. Hill's prepaid funds for the representation in a trust account.
8. Respondent violated his prior disciplinary judgment of a fully probated suspension from matter 201701555 by committing professional misconduct when he was on probation.
9. 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 \$800.00.
10. Respondent owes restitution in the amount of \$1,000.00 payable to Samuel L. Hill.

Conclusions of Law

Based on the agreed foregoing findings of fact, the Investigatory Panel finds that the following Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct have been violated: 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.03(b), 8.04(a)(3), 1.14(a) and 8.04(a)(7).

Sanction

It is AGREED and ORDERED that the sanction of a Probated Suspension shall be imposed against Respondent and is in accordance with Part XV of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

Accordingly, it is ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED that Respondent be

suspended from the practice of law for a period of 2 years, with the suspension being fully probated pursuant to the terms stated below. The period of probated suspension shall begin on January 1, 2021 and shall end on December 31, 2022.

Terms of Probation

It is further ORDERED that during all periods of suspension, Respondent shall be under the following terms and conditions:

1. Respondent shall not violate any term of this judgment.
2. Respondent shall not engage in Professional Misconduct as defined by Rule 1.06(CC) of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.
3. Respondent shall not violate any state or federal criminal statutes.
4. Respondent shall keep State Bar of Texas membership department notified of current mailing, residence and business addresses, email addresses and telephone numbers.
5. Respondent shall comply with Minimum Continuing Legal Education requirements.
6. Respondent shall comply with Interest on Lawyers Trust Account (IOLTA) requirements.
7. Respondent shall promptly respond to any request for information from the Chief Disciplinary Counsel in connection with any investigation of any allegations of Professional Misconduct.
8. Respondent shall pay all reasonable and necessary attorney's fees and direct expenses, on or before the signing of this judgment, to the State Bar of Texas in the amount of \$800.00. The payment shall be by certified or cashier's check or money order, made payable to the State Bar of Texas and delivered to the State Bar of Texas, Chief Disciplinary Counsel's Office, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, TX 78711-2487 (1414 Colorado St., Austin, TX 78701).
9. Respondent shall pay restitution, on or before the signing of this

judgment, to Samuel L. Hill in the amount of \$1,000.00. Respondent shall pay the restitution by certified or cashier's check or money order, made payable to Samuel L. Hill and delivered to the State Bar of Texas, Chief Disciplinary Counsel's Office, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, TX 78711-2487 (1414 Colorado St., Austin, TX 78701).

10. In addition to complying with the Minimum Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) requirements of the State Bar of Texas, Respondent shall complete 3 additional hours of continuing legal education in the area of Trust Account Management. These additional hours of CLE are to be completed between February 1, 2021 and December 30, 2021. Within ten (10) days of the completion of these additional CLE hours, Respondent shall verify completion of the course to the State Bar of Texas, via USPS: Office of the CDC, State Bar of Texas, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, TX 78711-2487; or via Delivery: Office of the CDC, State Bar of Texas, 1414 Colorado St., Suite 200, Austin, TX 78701.
11. For six months, Respondent shall provide a monthly report to the State Bar of Texas for each trust account that he maintains as part of his law license. The first report shall be filed by April 5, 2021 and shall cover from January 1, 2021 to March 31, 2021. The last report shall be filed by July 5, 2021, and shall cover Respondent's account from April 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021. Each report shall include the records regarding Respondent's trust accounts for the applicable monthly period, including the checkbooks, canceled checks, check stubs, check registers, bank statements, vouchers, deposit slips, ledgers, journals, closing statements, accountings, and other statements of receipts and disbursements rendered to clients or other parties with regard to client trust funds, or other similar records clearly reflecting the date, amount, source, and explanation for all receipts, withdrawals, deliveries, and disbursements of the funds or other property of a client. The records regarding each trust account shall be grouped together.
12. All reports and verifications of compliance with the above shall be sent to the State Bar of Texas via USPS to: Compliance Monitor, Office of the CDC, State Bar of Texas, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, TX 78711-2487; or via Delivery: Office of the CDC, State Bar of Texas, 1414 Colorado St., Austin, TX 78701, or via FAX to: 512-427-4167.

13. Respondent shall make contact with the Texas Lawyers' Assistance Program (TLAP) at its hotline number, 800-343-8527, not later than seven (7) days after receipt of a copy of this judgment to inquire as to services and referrals offered by that program to aid in Respondent's rehabilitation. Respondent shall additionally send verification of contact with TLAP to the State Bar of Texas within fifteen (15) days such contact.
14. Respondent shall make contact with the Chief Disciplinary Counsel's Offices' Compliance Monitor at 877-953-5535, ext. 1334 and Special Programs Coordinator at 877-953-5535, ext. 1323, not later than seven (7) days after receipt of a copy of this judgment to coordinate Respondent's compliance.

Probation Revocation

Upon information that Respondent has violated a term of this judgment, the Chief Disciplinary Counsel may, in addition to all other remedies available, file a motion to revoke probation pursuant to Rule 2.22 of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure with the Board of Disciplinary Appeals ("BODA") and serve a copy of the motion on Respondent pursuant to Tex.R.Civ.P. 21a.

BODA shall conduct an evidentiary hearing. At the hearing, BODA shall determine by a preponderance of the evidence whether Respondent has violated any term of this Judgment. If BODA finds grounds for revocation, BODA shall enter an order revoking probation and placing Respondent on active suspension from the date of such revocation order. Respondent shall not be given credit for any term of probation served prior to revocation.

It is further ORDERED that any conduct on the part of Respondent which serves as the basis for a motion to revoke probation may also be brought as independent grounds for discipline as allowed under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct and Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

Restitution, Attorney's Fees and Expenses

It is further ORDERED Respondent shall pay restitution, on or before the signing of this judgment, to Samuel L. Hill in amount of \$1,000.00. Respondent shall pay the restitution by certified or cashier's check or money order, made payable to Samuel L. Hill and delivered to the State Bar of Texas, Chief Disciplinary Counsel's Office, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, TX 78711-2487 (1414 Colorado St., Austin, TX 78701).

It is further ORDERED Respondent shall pay all reasonable and necessary attorney's fees and direct expenses, on or before the signing of this judgment, to the State Bar of Texas in the amount of \$800.00. The payment shall be made by certified or cashier's check or money order, made payable to the State Bar of Texas and delivered to the State Bar of Texas, 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 suspension shall be made a matter of public 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.

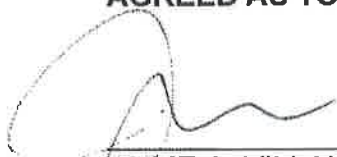
SIGNED this 21st day of December, 2020.

**INVESTIGATORY PANEL 17-1
DISTRICT 17**



**PAUL M. BRACKEN
PRESIDING MEMBER**

AGREED AS TO FORM AND SUBSTANCE:



**JAIME A. VILLALOBOS
State Bar No. 00785151
RESPONDENT**



**MARIE A. HASPIL
State Bar No. 24007329
ASSISTANT CHIEF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL**