

**REINSTATEMENT**

**JOHN WILLIAMS COATES** [#04425001], of Austin, filed a petition in the 250th Judicial District Court in Travis County for reinstatement as a member of the State Bar of Texas.

**DISBARMENTS**

On October 30, 2023, **YSIDRO DELUNA ARISMENDEZ III** [#24008750], of Beeville, was disbarred. An evidentiary panel of the District 11 Grievance Committee found that Arismendez neglected client matters, failed to keep clients reasonably informed, failed to hold client funds in a trust account, asserted a frivolous claim, engaged in conduct involving dishonesty and misrepresentation, and failed to respond to grievances in a timely manner.

Arismendez violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.03(b), 1.14(a), 3.01, 8.04(a)(3), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$6,785.90 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On December 14, 2023, **LUIS I. CUELLAR** [#24049937], of Victoria, was disbarred by an evidentiary panel of the District 9 Grievance Committee after the presentation of nine disciplinary cases arising from complaints filed against him by former clients. The panel found that in all but one case, Cuellar took an advanced fee from his client and failed to place or maintain the fee in his trust account until earned.

In two of the nine cases, Cuellar performed no legal services for his client after accepting the advanced fee. In one case, Cuellar failed to file an answer on his client's behalf and a default judgment was entered in favor of the opposing party. In another case, Cuellar failed to submit his client's answers to the opposing party's discovery requests, which prevented his client from presenting any evidence at trial.

In representing two criminal defendants, Cuellar failed to appear for multiple hearings which resulted in his client either having to represent themselves or having to hire new counsel. In all cases, Cuellar's clients attempted multiple times to contact Cuellar via text, telephone, email, and/or in person to ascertain the status of their legal matter and/or determine

why he had failed to appear for a hearing. Cuellar wholly failed to respond to their inquiries.

On September 1, 2022, while representing two of his criminal defendant clients, Cuellar was administratively suspended from the practice of law but failed to notify his clients and/or the court. In one case, after acknowledging receipt of his client's complaint to the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel, Cuellar failed to file a response as required. He also failed to respond to his clients' requests for an accounting of the advanced fees they paid him and to return unearned fees to eight of his clients.

Cuellar violated Rules 1.01(a)(1), 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.14(a), 1.14(b), 1.15(d), 8.04(a)(8), and 8.04(a)(10). He was ordered to pay \$14,605.95 in restitution and \$12,573.31 in attorneys' fees and expenses.

On November 22, 2023, **KEVIN P.**

**KEATING** [#00787813], of Houston, was disbarred by default judgment. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that Keating, in representing his client, failed to frequently carry out the obligations owed to his client and failed to keep his client reasonably informed about the status of his case and promptly comply with reasonable requests for information. Further, Keating failed to withdraw from representing his client when his physical, mental, or psychological condition materially impaired Keating's fitness to represent his client. Lastly, Keating failed to respond to the grievance filed against him.

Keating violated Rules 1.01(b)(2), 1.03(a), 1.15(a)(2), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$2,635 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

**RESIGNATION**

On December 12, 2023, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the

**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

**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**

resignation in lieu of discipline of **CLARICE ATTAWAY PAT ALLEN** [#01025680], of Texarkana, Arkansas. At the time of Allen's resignation, there was one pending matter against her alleging professional misconduct. The complainant hired Allen to work on an easement issue. In representing the complainant, Allen neglected the legal matter entrusted to her. Allen frequently failed to carry out completely the obligations she owed to the complainant. Allen also failed to hold funds belonging to the complainant that were in her possession in connection with the representation separate from her own property. Upon request by the complainant, Allen failed to promptly render a full accounting regarding such funds. Allen engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation.

Allen allegedly violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.01(b)(2), 1.14(a), 1.14(b), and 8.04(a)(3).

**SUSPENSIONS**

On November 21, 2023, **ZENAIDA SANCHEZ** [#17573800], of Alice, accepted a one-year fully probated suspension effective December 1, 2023. An investigatory panel of the District 11 Grievance Committee found that Sanchez failed to promptly comply with her client's request for information.

Sanchez violated Rule 1.03(a). She agreed to pay \$800 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On November 22, 2023, **SUFI NASIM AHMAD** [#24014186], of Spring, received a default judgment of a two-year partially probated suspension effective November 16, 2023, with the first year actively served and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that Ahmad neglected his client's legal matter, failed to keep his client informed about the status of her case and failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for

information. Additionally, Ahmad failed upon termination of representation to take steps to the extent reasonably practicable to protect his client's interest.

Ahmad violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), and 1.15(d). He was ordered to pay \$2,950 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On November 2, 2023, **GERALD W. KUBENA** [#00794122], of San Antonio, accepted a two-year partially probated suspension effective November 18, 2023, with the first two months actively served and the remainder probated. The 225th Judicial District Court of Bexar County found that Kubena committed professional misconduct by failing to keep a client reasonably informed about the status of a matter and promptly comply with reasonable requests for information, failing to explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation, and entering into a contingent fee agreement prohibited by paragraph (e) or other law, and/or failing to enter into a written contingency fee agreement that states the method by which the fee is to be determined. Kubena failed to hold funds and other property belonging in whole or part to clients or third persons in a lawyer's possession separate from the lawyer's own property, and failed, upon receiving funds or other property in which a client or third person has an interest, to promptly notify the client or third person and render a full accounting upon request. Kubena failed, upon termination of representation, to reasonably protect a client's interests, give notice to the client to seek other counsel, or surrender papers and property which belongs to the client. Kubena violated these rules, knowingly assisting or inducing another to do so, or doing so through the acts of another, whether or not such violation occurred in the course of a client-lawyer relationship and failed to furnish a timely response to a district grievance committee with the timely assertion of a good faith privilege or other legal ground for failure to do so.

Kubena violated Rules 1.03(a), 1.03(b), 1.04(d), 1.14(a), 1.14(b),

1.15(d), 8.04(a)(1), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$1,800 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

**PRIVATE REPRIMANDS**

Listed here is a breakdown of Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct violations for 10 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)—In representing a client, a lawyer shall not neglect 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 (2).

1.03(a)—A lawyer shall 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 (2).

1.14(a)—A lawyer shall hold funds and other property belonging in whole or in part to clients or third persons that are in a lawyer's possession in connection with a representation separate from the lawyer's own property in a separate account designated as a "trust" or "escrow" account, and complete records of such account funds and other property shall be kept by the lawyer and shall be preserved for a period of five years after termination of the representation (1).

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 (3).

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 (4).

8.04(a)(3)—Engaging 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 (2). **TBJ**

**HUNT HUEY** ATTORNEYS COUNSELORS

Your Reputation Is Your Most Valuable Asset.  
Let Me Help You Protect It.

**Jeanne M. Huey**  
Hunt Huey PLLC

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](mailto:jhuey@hunthuey.com)  
<https://hunthuey.com>

# Manage everything from intake to invoice with Clio

Easy-to-use software that streamlines your:

- Billing and payments
- Client Intake
- Document Management
- Calendaring and more!



Learn why 150,000+ legal professionals trust Clio to run their practice. Plus claim your exclusive State Bar of Texas discount [clio.com/sbot/](https://clio.com/sbot/)

