

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Contact the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel at 877-953-5535, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals at 512-427-1578 or txboda.org, or the State Commission on Judicial Conduct at 512-463-5533. Some attorneys might share the same or similar names. To identify an attorney, please verify using that attorney's bar card number. Go to texasbar.com and use the "Find a Lawyer" tool to search for an attorney.

BODA

On July 30, 2024, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals entered a judgment of probated suspension in the reciprocal discipline case against Washington, D.C., attorney **MARY CHRISTINE DOBBIE** [#24046473]. On December 7, 2023, an opinion order was issued by the District of Columbia Court of Appeals in a matter styled *In re Mary Chris Dobbie, A Member of the Bar of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals (Bar Registration No. 975939)*, No. 21-BG-0024, in which Dobbie was suspended for six months with the suspension stayed pending a one-year probation. The court found that Dobbie violated District of Columbia Rules of Professional Conduct 3.8(e) (failure to disclose exculpatory evidence to defense), 8.4(c) (dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation), and 8.4(d) (interference with the administration of justice). She is suspended for one year with the suspension fully probated beginning July 30, 2024, and extending through July 29, 2025. BODA Case No. 69469.

On July 30, 2024, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals entered a judgment of suspension in the reciprocal discipline case against Jupiter, Florida, attorney **MARYLIN JENKINS MILNER** [#24025837]. On July 27, 2023, an order was issued by the District of Columbia Court of Appeals in a matter styled *In re Marilyn Jenkins*, No. 23-BG-0545, in which Jenkins was suspended for 30 days. Jenkins agreed that she violated District of Columbia Rule of Professional Conduct 8.4(c) (dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation). She was suspended for 30 days beginning July 30, 2024, and extending through August 29, 2024. BODA Case No. 68333.

RESIGNATION

On April 30, 2024, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation, in lieu of discipline, of **EILEEN MCKENZIE**

FOWLER [#07318700], of LaPorte. At the time of her resignation, there were 29 pending disciplinary actions alleging that Fowler accepted or continued employment in legal matters which she knew or should have known were beyond her competence; neglected her clients' cases; failed to keep her clients reasonably informed about the status of their cases and failed to promptly comply with her clients' reasonable requests for information; failed to explain matters to the extent reasonably necessary to permit her clients to make informed decisions; failed to surrender papers and property to her clients; failed to refund advance payments of fees not earned to her clients; and engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation.

Fowler allegedly violated Rules 1.01(a), 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.03(b), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(3).

SUSPENSIONS

On July 8, 2024, **HAMILTON O. BARKSDALE** [#01751800], of North Richland Hills, received a default judgment of active suspension for a period of 12 months beginning July 1, 2024, and ending on June 30, 2025. An evidentiary panel of the District 7 Grievance Committee found that on or about April 15, 2020, the complainant hired Barksdale to represent her in a probation violation case. Thereafter, Barksdale neglected the legal matter entrusted to him. Barksdale also failed to file a response to the grievance.

Barksdale violated Rules 1.01(b)(1) and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$600 in restitution and \$2,490 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On August 19, 2024, **LUIS ROBERTO CAMPOS** [#00792394], of Dallas, agreed to a 24-month partially probated suspension beginning November 1, 2024, and ending on October 31, 2026, with the active suspension beginning on November 1, 2024, and ending on

January 31, 2025, and the probated suspension to begin on February 1, 2025, and ending on October 31, 2026. An investigatory panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that Campos was retained to represent the complainant in a criminal appeal. During the representation, Campos failed to keep the complainant reasonably informed about the status of his appeal and failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information from the complainant. Upon request by the complainant, Campos failed to promptly render a full accounting of funds paid by the complainant's family for the representation to Campos.

Campos violated Rules 1.03(a) and 1.14(b). He was ordered to pay \$750 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On June 4, 2024, **CHRISTINE MARIE DISK QUALLS** [#24037310], of Allen,

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agreed to a judgment of probated suspension for a period of six months beginning July 1, 2024, and ending on December 31, 2024. An investigatory panel of the District 1 Grievance Committee found that in the first matter, the complainant hired Qualls to assist her in a guardianship matter. Qualls failed to hold funds belonging to the complainant that were in Qualls' possession in connection with the representation separate from Qualls' own property. Upon termination of representation, Qualls failed to refund advance payments of fees that had not been earned. Qualls engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation.

In the second matter, the complainant hired Qualls to assist her in a family matter. Qualls failed to hold funds belonging to the complainant that were in Qualls' possession in connection with the representation separate from Qualls' own property. Upon request

by the complainant, Qualls failed to promptly render a full accounting regarding such funds.

Qualls violated Rules 1.14(a), 1.14(b), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(3). She was ordered to pay \$750 in attorneys' fees.

On July 31, 2024, **KEVIN W. BOYD** [#02774020], of Austin, accepted a five-year fully probated suspension beginning on August 1, 2024. An investigatory panel of the District 9 Grievance Committee found that Boyd was paid \$4,000 in June 2016 to complete a petition for alien relative, an application for provisional unlawful presence waiver, and the immigrant visa electronic application on behalf of his clients.

Thereafter, Boyd failed to complete the necessary documentation, specifically the DS-260 application, with the U.S. Department of State. Additionally, Boyd informed his clients that the

documentation had been submitted and they were waiting for an interview to be scheduled in Juarez, Mexico. Ultimately, it came to light that a member of Boyd's law firm had created a fake U.S. Department of State document to cover up the fact that the DS-260 had never been submitted on behalf of the clients. Boyd had knowledge that this particular employee had performed a similar act in the past and failed to properly supervise this individual. When Boyd subsequently ceased communicating with the clients, the clients sent a demand letter to Boyd asking for a refund of their \$4,000. However, Boyd failed to timely return the money.

Boyd violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.03(b), 1.15(d), and 5.03. He agreed to pay \$750 in attorneys' fees.

On June 21, 2024, **BRETTON CRAIG GERARD** [#07813050], of Dallas, received an 18-month fully probated suspension beginning July 1, 2024, and ending on December 31, 2025. An investigatory panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that the complainant hired Gerard to represent her in two separate business matters. In both matters, Gerard failed to hold funds belonging to the complainant that were in Gerard's possession in connection with the representations separate from Gerard's own property.

Gerard violated Rule 1.14(a). He was ordered to pay \$750 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On August 2, 2024, **DEATRIA MECHELE NORFLEET** [#15078100], of Fort Worth, agreed to a three-year probated suspension effective August 1, 2024, and ending on July 31, 2027. The District 7 Grievance Committee found that in or around March 2018, the complainant hired Norfleet for representation in a civil forfeiture matter. Norfleet failed to keep the complainant reasonably informed about the status of the matter. Norfleet associated outside counsel to assist in the representation

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without informing the complainant and without receiving his consent. Norfleet also failed to safeguard funds that belonged to the complainant. Upon receiving the funds that belonged to the complainant, Norfleet failed to promptly notify him and failed to promptly deliver the funds he was entitled to receive. Norfleet engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation.

Norfleet violated Rules 1.03(a), 1.04(f), 1.14(a), 1.14(b), and 8.04(a)(3). She was ordered to pay \$500 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On August 9, 2024, **GLEN L. WORK** [#24070881], of Tucson, Arizona, received a two-year probated suspension beginning August 7, 2024. An evidentiary panel of the District 9 Grievance Committee found that a client hired Work to file Chapter 13 bankruptcy in the spring of 2019. The last time the client heard from Work was on June 16, 2022, when Work filed a motion for entry of discharge on the client's behalf. On June 17, 2022, both the client and Work received a notice from the Bankruptcy Court that the motion for entry of discharge was defective. Work never filed a corrected motion for entry of discharge. The client made multiple attempts to contact Work via telephone and email to ascertain the status of the bankruptcy discharge, but Work did not respond. On August 18, 2022, the client went to Work's office and learned that he had relocated to Arizona without notice to the client. Work also failed to furnish a written response to the complaint filed by the client.

Work violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), and 8.04(a)(8). Work was ordered to pay \$1,100 in restitution and \$2,952.84 in attorneys' fees and expenses.

PUBLIC REPRIMANDS

On June 27, 2024, **JOSE SALVADOR TELLEZ** [#19764760], of Laredo,

accepted a public reprimand. An investigatory panel of the District 12 Grievance Committee found that Tellez failed to promptly comply with his client's request for information, failed to properly safeguard client funds, and failed to respond to the grievance in a timely manner.

Tellez violated Rules 1.03(a), 1.14(a), and 8.04(a)(8). He agreed to pay \$800 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On July 24, 2024, **KIRBY DELOACH HOPKINS** [#24034488], of The Woodlands, accepted a public reprimand. An investigatory panel of the District 3 Grievance Committee found that Hopkins failed to keep his client reasonably informed about the status of his case and failed to promptly comply with his client's reasonable requests for information. Upon the termination of the representation, Hopkins failed to

surrender papers and property to which his client was entitled. Furthermore, Hopkins failed to respond to the grievance.

Hopkins violated Rules 1.03(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8). He agreed to pay \$3,683.75 in restitution and \$1,500 in attorneys' fees and costs.

On August 1, 2024, **FABIAN GUERRERO** [#00795397], of McAllen, accepted a public reprimand. An investigatory panel of the District 12 Grievance Committee found that Guerrero neglected client matters, failed to keep his client reasonably informed and promptly comply with reasonable requests for information, failed to explain a matter to permit the client to make informed decisions, failed upon termination of representation to return unearned fees to the client, and assisted a person that constitutes unauthorized practice of law.

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Guerrero violated Rules 1.01(b) (1), 1.03(a), 1.03(b), 1.15(d), and 5.05(b). He agreed to pay \$1,402.50 in restitution and \$1,000 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)—In representing a client, a lawyer shall not neglect a legal matter entrusted to the lawyer (4).

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 (1).

1.03(a)—Failing to keep a client reasonably informed about the status of a matter and promptly comply with reasonable requests for information (6).

1.04(f)—A division or arrangement for division of a fee between lawyers who are not in the same firm may be made only if:

- (1) the division is:
 - (i) in proportion to the professional services performed by each lawyer; or
 - (ii) made between lawyers who assume joint responsibility for the representation; and
- (2) the client consents in writing to the terms of the arrangement prior to the time of the association or referral proposed, including
 - (i) the identity of all lawyers or law firms who will participate in the fee-sharing arrangement, and
 - (ii) whether fees will be divided based on the proportion of services performed or by lawyers agreeing to assume joint responsibility for the representation, and

(iii) the share of the fee that each lawyer or law firm will receive or, if the division is based on the proportion of services performed, the basis on which the division will be made; and

(3) the aggregate fee does not violate paragraph (a) (1).

1.15(d)—Upon termination of representation, failure to refund advance payments of fees that had not been earned (2).

3.04(d)—A lawyer shall not knowingly disobey, or advise the client to disobey, an obligation under the standing rules of or a ruling by a tribunal except for an open refusal based either on an assertion that no valid obligation exists or on the client's willingness to accept any sanctions arising from such disobedience (1). **TBJ**

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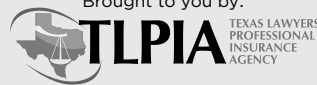
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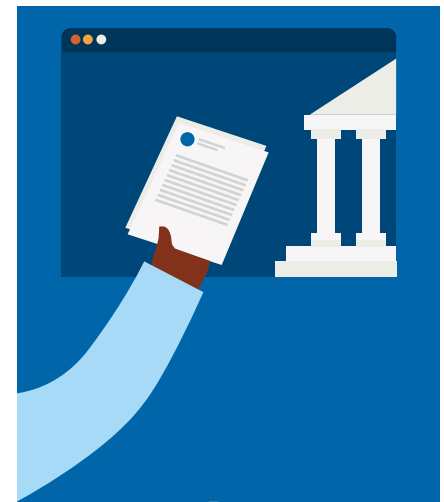


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