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COMMISSION FOR LAWYER DISCIPLINE

REPORT

TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ON
ATTORNEY DISCIPLINE

APRIL 2016

**Disciplinary Sanctions
December 1, 2015 through February 29, 2016**

DISBARMENTS	DISTRICT	Number of Complaints Resolved
Lee, Clyde E.	1	2
Schulman, Cary William	1	1
Schulman, Cary William	1	1
Total	3	4

RESIGNATIONS IN LIEU of DISCIPLINE	DISTRICT	Number of Complaints Resolved
Baugh, Ronnie Van	2	1
Brown, Canonero Walter	4	4
Vega, Jose William	4	43
Total	3	48

SUSPENSIONS	DISTRICT	Number of Complaints Resolved
Almon, Jr., Johnnie Lee	7	2
Anassi, Josephine Nyaboke	4	2
Becerra, Jose Angel	12	1
Becerra, Jose Angel	12	2
Cole, Cynthia Rachelle Wil	6	1
Cruz, Angel Ottoniel	6	1
Easton, Steven L.	6	2
Guerrero, Humberto G.	6	1
Hayes, Robert James	10	1
Howard, Alan M.	6	3
Isassi, Alfred L.	11	1
Jones, Matthew Scott	9	1
Jones, Robert M.	6	1
Knight, III, Frank Anthony	4	2
Knight, III, Frank Anthony	4	3
McMaster, Douglas Matthew	12	2
Nelson, Laura Gayle	15	1
Norman, Marcus Donnell	1	2
Payton, Amanda Marie	6	1
Peppard, Benjamin Robert	7	1
Price, Harold Brandon	6	1
Rogers, Brian Wade	11	1
Roquemore, Kelvin Larnard	6	1
Rubin, Michael D.	6	1
Schulman, Cary William	1	1
Stovall, Kimberly A.	6	1

Strong, Staci Jennifer	6	1
Tafel, Roger Mathew	7	1
Thompson, John Rex	2	1
Thompson, John Rex	2	1
Thurman, Leon A.	14	1
Truhill, Robert J.	17	1
Udeh, Winston Ndubueze	6	1
Wasserstein, Brent Marshall	4	1

Board of Disciplinary Appeals:

Bobbitt, Rique Don	BODA	1
Fisch, Abraham M.	BODA	1
Garrett, Mpatanishi Tayari Syanololi	BODA	1
Martinez, Jr., Rodrigo	BODA	1
Maxwell, William Topp	BODA	1

Total	39	50
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PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	DISTRICT	Number of Complaints Resolved
Cash, Kelley Elise	6	1
Casey, Michael Andrew	7	1
Cohen, Robert D.	6	1
Denena, II, Frank A.	6	1
Gupta, Viney K.	9	1
Laurel, Sandra D.	10	1

Total	6	6
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PRIVATE REPRIMANDS

GRIEVANCE COMM.	NUMBER OF SANCTIONS	Number of Complaints Resolved
1	1	1
2	2	2
3	2	3
4	2	2
5	1	1
6	4	4
7	1	1
10	5	5
14	1	1

Total	19	20
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Grievance Referral Program	18	18
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GRAND TOTAL:	88	146
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DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS - CURRENT BAR YEAR

BAR YEARS		Total Sanctions		Total Complaints Resolved	
2015-2016*	DISBARMENTS	14		18	
	RESIGNATIONS	18		118	
	SUSPENSIONS	95		134	
	PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	20		21	
	PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	46		51	
	GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	36	229	36	378

*does not reflect year-end figures

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS - PREVIOUS BAR YEARS

BAR YEARS		Total Sanctions		Total Complaints Resolved	
2014-2015	DISBARMENTS	28		48	
	RESIGNATIONS	19		54	
	SUSPENSIONS	111		146	
	PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	32		34	
	PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	65		71	
	GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	63	318	63	416
2013-2014	DISBARMENTS	21		21	
	RESIGNATIONS	17		55	
	SUSPENSIONS	131		164	
	PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	31		34	
	PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	65		72	
	GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	57	322	57	403
2012-2013	DISBARMENTS	39		51	
	RESIGNATIONS	24		46	
	SUSPENSIONS	122		160	
	PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	37		40	
	PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	89		91	
	GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	56	367	56	444

2011-2012	DISBARMENTS	38		45	
	RESIGNATIONS	27		87	
	SUSPENSIONS	137		174	
	PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	40		41	
	PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	106		115	
	GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	54	402	54	516
2010-2011	DISBARMENTS	28		52	
	RESIGNATIONS	23		101	
	SUSPENSIONS	157		253	
	PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	40		50	
	PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	77		82	
	GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	46	371	46	584
2009-2010	DISBARMENTS	25		33	
	RESIGNATIONS	22		40	
	SUSPENSIONS	111		169	
	PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	37		47	
	PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	81		89	
	GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	39	315	39	417
2008-2009	DISBARMENTS	32		43	
	RESIGNATIONS	26		104	
	SUSPENSIONS	127		189	
	PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	46		54	
	PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	68		73	
	GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	36	335	36	499
2007-2008	DISBARMENTS	24		63	
	RESIGNATIONS	24		90	
	SUSPENSIONS	121		224	
	PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	28		35	
	PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	69		73	
	GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	33	299	33	518

2006-2007	DISBARMENTS	30	
	RESIGNATIONS	31	
	SUSPENSIONS	110	
	PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	62	
	PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	87	320

COMMISSION FOR LAWYER DISCIPLINE
REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
APRIL 2016

DISTRICT 01:

LEE, CLYDE E.: #12113300
09/09/2015-DISBARMENT

On September 9, 2015, **Clyde E. Lee** [#12113300], 61, of Texarkana, was disbarred. The District 1 Grievance Committee found that Lee in representing Complainant in his estate matter, neglected the legal matter entrusted to him by failing to perform any legal services; failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information from Complainant about his matter; and failed to appropriately safeguard documents given to him by Complainant. Upon termination of representation, Lee failed to surrender papers and property to which Complainant was entitled. Lee 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. Lee did not in good faith timely assert a privilege or other legal ground for failure to do so.

Lee violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.14(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$500.00 in restitution to Complainant and \$1,235.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

NORMAN, MARCUS D.: #24007759
01/20/2016-PARTIALLY PROBATED SUSPENSION
01/15/2016-04/14/2016: SUSPENSION
04/15/2016-01/14/2017: PROBATION

On January 20, 2016, **Marcus D. Norman** [#24007759], 45, of McKinney, received a one-year, partially probated suspension, effective January 15, 2016, with the first three months actively suspended and the remainder probated. The 417th Judicial District Court of Collin County, Texas found that Norman committed professional misconduct by violating Rule 1.03(a) [failed to keep Complainant reasonably informed about the status of the case and failed to promptly comply with Complainant's reasonable request for information].

Norman was ordered to pay \$1,500.00 in restitution to Complainant and \$1,000.00 in attorneys' fees and costs to the State Bar of Texas.

SCHULMAN, CARY WILLIAM: #00797390
11/20/2015-ACTIVE SUSPENSION
11/13/2015-04/12/2018

On November 20, 2015, **Cary William Schulman** [#00797390], 49, of Dallas, received a 29-month, active suspension, effective November 13, 2015. The District 1 Grievance Committee found that in representing Complainant, Schulman neglected Complainant's personal injury matter that was entrusted to Schulman. Schulman 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 and Schulman did not in good faith timely assert a privilege or other legal ground for failure to do so.

Schulman violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$1,731.58 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

201406342

SCHULMAN, CARY WILLIAM: #00797390
11/20/2015-DISBARMENT
Effective 11/17/2015

On November 20, 2015, **Cary William Schulman** [#00797390], 49, of Dallas, was disbarred, effective November 17, 2015. The District 1 Grievance Committee found that in representing Complainant, Schulman failed to explain the civil matter to Complainant to the extent reasonably necessary to permit her to make informed decisions regarding the representation. Upon termination of representation, Schulman failed to give reasonable notice to Complainant. Upon termination of representation, Schulman failed to refund advance payments of a fee that had not been earned. Schulman violated a disciplinary judgment. Schulman 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 and Schulman did not in good faith timely assert a privilege or other legal ground for failure to do so.

Schulman violated Rules 1.03(b), 1.15(d), 8.04(a)(7), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$10,650.00 in restitution to Complainant and \$2,566.08 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

201404707

SCHULMAN, CARY WILLIAM: #00797390
11/20/2015-DISBARMENT
Effective 11/17/2015

On November 20, 2015, **Cary William Schulman** [#00797390], 49, of Dallas, was disbarred, effective November 17, 2015. The District 1 Grievance Committee found that in representing Complainant, Schulman neglected Complainant's personal injury matter and contract claim that were entrusted to Schulman. Schulman failed to keep Complainant reasonably informed about the status of his personal injury matters and contract claim. Schulman failed to promptly comply with reasonably requests for information from Complainant about his personal injury matters and contract claim. Schulman failed to promptly deliver to Complainant funds that he was entitled to receive. Schulman failed to promptly render a full accounting despite Complainant's request. Schulman failed to withdraw from representing Complainant when the representation would result in violation of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Misconduct. Schulman violated a disciplinary judgment. Schulman 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 and Schulman did not in good faith timely assert a privilege or other legal ground for failure to do so.

Schulman violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.14(b), 1.15(a)(1), 8.04(a)(7), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$43,335.00 in restitution to Complainant and \$2,320.58 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

201404312

DALLAS ATTORNEY
08/27/2015-PRIVATE REPRIMAND

RULE 1.01(b)(1)
for neglecting a legal matter entrusted to the lawyer

DISTRICT 02:

**TYLER ATTORNEY
01/25/2016-PRIVATE REPRIMAND**

RULE 1.14(b)

for failing, 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

**BAUGH, RONNIE VAN: #01923525
12/15/2015-RESIGNATION**

On December 15, 2015, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation, in lieu of discipline, of **Ronnie Van Baugh** [#01923525], 71, of Whitehouse. Baugh had been hired by a client to serve as legal counsel on two civil matters. The first matter involved the creation of a new will and trust, for which Baugh was paid \$10,000.00 at time of hire to serve as legal counsel. The second matter involved the filing of a civil lawsuit, for which Baugh was paid \$1,500.00 at time of hire to represent the client as legal counsel. The client as to both matters died after Baugh was hired. Baugh had not filed the civil lawsuit nor obtained the client's signature on a new will or trust prior to the client's death. Baugh failed to return unearned fees to the client's estate or the client's family. Baugh also failed to provide documents evidencing any work completed or billed as to the legal matters.

Baugh violated Rule 1.15(d) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

**TYLER ATTORNEY
01/13/2016-PRIVATE REPRIMAND**

RULE 1.03(a)

for failing to keep a client reasonably informed about the status of a matter and promptly comply with reasonable requests for information

RULE 1.15(d)

for failing, 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

**THOMPSON, JOHN REX: #19956150
12/08/2015-PARTIALLY PROBATED SUSPENSION
06/01/2015-06/30/2015: SUSPENSION
11/02/2015-05/01/2017: PROBATION**

On December 8, 2015, **John Rex Thompson** [#19956150], 50, of Tyler, received an 18-month, partially probated suspension, one month active (June 1, 2015 through June 30, 2015), seventeen months probated (November 2, 2015 through May 1, 2017). An evidentiary panel of the District 2 Grievance Committee found that while in representing Complainant in several criminal matters, Thompson neglected the legal matter he entrusted to him. In addition, Thompson failed to keep Complainant reasonably informed and promptly comply with his reasonable requests for information. Furthermore, Thompson failed to furnish to the Chief Disciplinary Counsel's office a response as required by the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

Thompson violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$1,375.70 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses and \$2,400.00 in restitution.

201403357

THOMPSON, JOHN REX: #19956150
12/08/2015-PARTIALLY PROBATED SUSPENSION
06/01/2015-06/30/2015: SUSPENSION
11/02/2015-05/01/2017: PROBATION

On December 8, 2015, **John Rex Thompson** [#19956150], 50, of Tyler, received an 18-month, partially probated suspension, one month active (June 1, 2015 through June 30, 2015), seventeen months probated (November 2, 2015 through May 1, 2017). An evidentiary panel of the District 2 Grievance Committee found that while in representing Complainant in several criminal matters, Thompson neglected the legal matter he entrusted to him. In addition, Thompson failed to keep Complainant reasonably informed and promptly comply with his reasonable requests for information. Furthermore, Thompson failed to furnish to the Chief Disciplinary Counsel's office a response as required by the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

Thompson violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$1,375.70 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses and \$4,000.00 in restitution.

201402358

DISTRICT 03:

HOUSTON ATTORNEY
07/06/2015-PRIVATE REPRIMAND

RULE 1.03(a)

for failing to keep a client reasonably informed about the status of a matter and promptly comply with reasonable requests for information

RULE 1.15(d)

for failing, 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

HOUSTON ATTORNEY
02/24/2016-PRIVATE REPRIMAND

RULE 1.01(b)(1)

for neglecting a legal matter entrusted to the lawyer

RULE 1.03(a)

for failing to keep a client reasonably informed about the status of a matter and promptly comply with reasonable requests for information

DISTRICT 04:

ANASSI, JOSEPHINE NYABOKE: #24001651
12/10/2015-PARTIALLY PROBATED SUSPENSION
01/01/2016-12/31/2016: SUSPENSION
01/01/2017-12/31/2018: PROBATION

On December 10, 2015, **Josephine Nyaboke Anassi** [#24001651], 47, of Houston, agreed to a three-year, partially probated suspension, effective January 1, 2016, with the first year actively suspended and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that Anassi neglected the legal matter her clients entrusted her to complete, failed to keep her clients reasonably informed about the status of their cases, failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information, and engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, and deceit.

Anassi violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), and 8.04(a)(3). She also agreed to pay restitution in the amount of \$4,550.00 in attorneys' fees and costs in the amount of \$1,470.55.

BROWN, CANONERO WALTER ALEX: #24036270
12/15/2015-RESIGNATION

On December 15, 2015, the Supreme Court of Texas, accepted the resignation, in lieu of discipline, of **Canonero Walter Alex Brown** [#24036270], 44, of Houston. At the time of Brown's resignation, Brown had four grievances pending against him alleging that he failed to keep a client reasonably informed about the status of her legal matter and failed to comply with reasonable requests for information, and failed to explain a legal matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit another client to make informed decisions regarding the representation. Brown also failed to provide a client, upon conclusion of a legal matter, with a written statement describing the outcome of the matter, failed to promptly deliver to clients funds that they were entitled to receive, and failed to hold client funds in a trust account. Brown also engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation.

Brown violated Rules 1.03(a), 1.03(b), 1.04(d), 1.14(a), 1.14(b), and 8.04(a)(3).

HOUSTON ATTORNEY
12/18/2015-PRIVATE REPRIMAND

RULE 1.15(d)

for failing, 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

KNIGHT, III, FRANK ANTHONY: #11598500
11/24/2015-PARTIALLY PROBATED SUSPENSION
01/01/2016-06/30/2016: SUSPENSION
07/01/2016-06/30/2018: PROBATION

On November 24, 2015, **Frank Anthony Knight, III** [#11598500], 63, of Baytown, received a 30-month, partially probated suspension, effective January 1, 2016, with the first six months actively suspended and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that in two matters, Knight neglected the legal matters entrusted to him and failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information from the clients about their legal matters. In one of the matters, Knight failed to refund advance payment of fees that had not been earned and engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation. In the other matter, Knight 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. In a third matter, Knight again 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.

Knight violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), 8.04(a)(3), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$3,500.00 in restitution and \$1,535.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

201405715, 201407246, & 201407446

KNIGHT, III, FRANK ANTHONY: #11598500
11/24/2015-PARTIALLY PROBATED SUSPENSION
01/01/2016-06/30/2016: SUSPENSION
07/01/2016-06/30/2018: PROBATION

On November 24, 2015, **Frank Anthony Knight, III** [#11598500], 63, of Baytown, received a 30-month, partially probated suspension, effective January 1, 2016, with the first six months actively suspended and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that in two matters, Knight neglected the legal matters entrusted to him, failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information from the clients about their legal matters, failed to refund advance payments of fees that had not been earned, and failed to timely furnish to the Chief Disciplinary Counsel's office responses or other information as required by the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

Knight violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$5,000.00 in restitution and \$1,085.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

201500318, & 201500743

HOUSTON ATTORNEY
12/07/2015-PRIVATE REPRIMAND

RULE 1.03(b)

for failing to explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation

VEGA, JOSE WILLIAM: #24034826
02/16/2016-RESIGNATION

On February 16, 2016, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation, in lieu of discipline, of **Jose William Vega** [#24034826], 50, of Houston. At the time of Vega's resignation, there were thirty-eight disciplinary proceedings pending, which among them alleged that Vega neglected legal matters entrusted to him, failed to carry out completely the obligations owed to his clients, failed to communicate and failed to keep clients reasonably informed about their legal matters, failed to timely return unearned fees, failed to respond to grievances filed against him, and failed to properly supervise nonlawyer staff.

Vega violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.01(b)(2), 1.03(a), 1.03(b), 1.15(d), 8.04(a)(8), 5.03(a) and 5.03(b). He was ordered to pay \$11,357.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses and \$27,133.00 in restitution.

WASSERSTEIN, BRENT M.: #24039234
01/20/2016-FULLY PROBATED SUSPENSION
02/01/2016-01/31/2018

On January 20, 2016, **Brent M. Wasserstein** [#24039234], 40, of Houston, accepted a two-year, fully probated suspension, effective February 1, 2016. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that Wasserstein neglected his client's case, failed to keep his client reasonably informed about the status of the case, and failed to promptly comply with his client's reasonable requests for information. Throughout the representation, Wasserstein engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation. Wasserstein further failed to timely respond to the grievance.

Wasserstein violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 8.04(a)(3), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$1,000.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

DISTRICT 05:

HOUSTON ATTORNEY
01/14/2016-PRIVATE REPRIMAND

RULE 1.01(b)(1)
for neglecting a legal matter entrusted to the lawyer

RULE 1.03(a)
for failing to keep a client reasonably informed about the status of a matter and promptly comply with reasonable requests for information

DISTRICT 06:

CASH, KELLEY ELISE: #24001852
02/08/2016-PUBLIC REPRIMAND

On February 8, 2016, **Kelley Elise Cash** [#24001852], 43, of Dallas, received a public reprimand. An evidentiary panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that Cash engaged in the practice of law when her right to practice had been administratively suspended for failure to timely pay required fees or assessments.

Cash violated Rule 8.04(a)(11). She was ordered to pay \$750.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

COHEN, ROBERT D.: #04508700
12/18/2015-PUBLIC REPRIMAND

On December 18, 2015, **Robert D. Cohen** [#04508700], 64, of Dallas, received an agreed judgment of public reprimand. An evidentiary panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that on July 25, 2011, Complainant hired Cohen to represent him in a personal injury matter. Cohen neglected the legal matter. Cohen failed to communicate with Complainant. Upon receiving funds in which Complainant had an interest, Cohen failed to promptly notify Complainant, and failed to promptly deliver funds Complainant was entitled to receive

Cohen violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), and 1.14(b). He was ordered to pay \$1,100.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses and \$17,933.36 in restitution.

COLE, CYNTHIA RACHELLE WIL: #24035579
01/26/2016-FULLY PROBATED SUSPENSION
02/01/2016-01/31/2017

On January 26, 2016, **Cynthia Rachelle Wil Cole** [#24035579], 42, of Rockwall, agreed to a one-year, fully probated suspension, effective February 1, 2016. The District 6 Grievance Committee found that on or about June 1, 2012, Cole filed a civil lawsuit that was barred by the doctrine of res judicata. By filing such suit, Cole brought a proceeding, or asserted an issue therein, that Cole did not reasonably believe had a basis for doing so that was not frivolous. Furthermore, Cole, in the same civil action, failed to comply with orders of the court. Cole's noncompliance unreasonably increased the costs and burdens of the action and unreasonably delayed resolution of the matter.

Cole violated Rules 3.01, and 3.02. She was ordered to pay \$1,750.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

DALLAS ATTORNEY
02/29/2016-PRIVATE REPRIMAND

RULE 1.14(a)
for failing 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;

RULE 1.14(b)
for failing, 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

RULE 1.14(c)
for failing to keep funds or other property in which both the lawyer and another person claim interests separate until there is an accounting and severance of their interests

RULE 8.04(a)(3)
for engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation

CRUZ, ANGEL OTTONIEL: #24048412
12/21/2015-PARTIALLY PROBATED SUSPENSION
01/01/2016-03/31/2016: SUSPENSION
04/01/2016-12/31/2016: PROBATION

On December 21, 2015, **Angel Ottoniel Cruz** [#24048412], 40, of Irving, received a 12-month, partially probated suspension, effective January 1, 2016, with the first three months actively served and the remainder probated.

An evidentiary panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that in representing Complainant in an immigration matter, Cruz neglected the legal matter entrusted to him by failing to comply with requests for more information for the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. Cruz failed to keep Complainant reasonably informed and failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information from Complainant about the status of his immigration matter. Upon termination of representation, Cruz failed to refund advance payments of fee that had not been earned. Cruz 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. Cruz did not in good faith timely assert a privilege or other legal ground for failure to do so.

Cruz violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$600.00 and \$1,151.50 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

**DALLAS ATTORNEY
12/21/2015-PRIVATE REPRIMAND**

RULE 1.01(b)(1)
for neglecting a legal matter entrusted to the lawyer

RULE 1.03(a)
for failing to keep a client reasonably informed about the status of a matter and promptly comply with reasonable requests for information

RULE 1.04(d)
for 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

RULE 1.15(d)
for failing, 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

**DENENA, II, FRANK A.: #00785815
12/17/2015-PUBLIC REPRIMAND**

On December 17, 2015, **Frank A. Denena, II** [#00785815], 57, of Franklin, received an agreed judgment of public reprimand. An evidentiary panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that in representing the Complainant, Denena neglected the legal matter entrusted to him. In addition, Denena failed to keep the Complainant reasonably informed about the status of his matter and promptly comply with his reasonable requests for information.

Denena violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), and 1.03(a). He was ordered to pay \$1,000.00 in attorneys' fees and costs.

**EASON, STEVEN L.: #06360990
11/03/2015-FULLY PROBATED SUSPENSION
11/01/2015-04/30/2018**

On November 3, 2015, **Steven L. Eason** [#06360990], 55, of Dallas, received a 30-month, fully probated suspension, beginning November 1, 2015, and ending April 30, 2018. The 298th Judicial District Court of Dallas County, Texas found that Eason committed professional misconduct by violating Rule 1.01(b)(1) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Misconduct [prohibiting a lawyer from neglecting a legal matter entrusted to the lawyer].

Eason was ordered to pay \$600.00 in reimbursement costs and \$1,250.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

**GUERRERO, JR., HUMBERTO G.: #00784186
11/24/2015-PARTIALLY PROBATED SUSPENSION
12/01/2015-11/30/2016: SUSPENSION
12/01/2016-11/30/2017: PROBATION**

On November 24, 2015, **Humberto G. Guerrero** [#00784186], 48, of Dallas, received a 24-month, partially probated suspension, effective December 1, 2015, with the first 12 months actively suspended and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that in representing Complainant in a personal injury matter, Guerrero neglected the legal matter entrusted to him. Guerrero failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information from Complainant about his personal injury matter. Guerrero failed to reduce to writing the contingent fee agreement entered into with Complainant.

Guerrero violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), and 1.04(d). He was ordered to pay \$618.75 in attorneys' fees.

HOWARD, ALAN M.: #10060000
10/22/2015-PARTIALLY PROBATED SUSPENSION
11/01/2015-01/31/2016: SUSPENSION
02/01/2016-01/31/2017: PROBATION

On October 22, 2015, **Alan M. Howard** [#10060000], 73, of Dallas, received a 15-month, partially probated suspension, effective November 1, 2015, with the first three months actively suspended and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that in the first matter, on November 17, 2013, Complainant hired Howard in a civil matter. Howard failed to provide legal services and failed to communicate with the client. In the second matter, in March 2014, Complainant hired Howard in a probate matter. Howard failed to provide legal services and failed to communicate with the client. Upon termination of representation, Howard failed to refund advance payment of a fee that had not been earned. In the third matter, on March 23, 2011, Complainant hired Howard in a family law matter. In representing Complainant, Howard failed to provide legal services, and failed to communicate with the client.

Howard violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), and 1.15(d). He was ordered to pay \$2,000.00 in restitution and \$2,499.19 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

DALLAS ATTORNEY
02/09/2016-PRIVATE REPRIMAND

RULE 1.02(a)
for failing to abide by a client's decisions concerning the objectives and general methods of representation

JONES, ROBERT M.: #10951000
02/21/2016-ACTIVE SUSPENSION
03/01/2016-02/28/2018

On February 21, 2016, **Robert M. Jones** [#10951000], 71, of Duncanville, received a two-year, active suspension, effective March 1, 2016. The 68th District Court of Dallas County found that Jones violated Rule 1.01(b)(1) [prohibiting a lawyer from neglecting a legal matter entrusted to the lawyer], and Rule 1.03(a) [requiring a lawyer to keep a client reasonably informed about the status of a matter and promptly comply with reasonable requests for information].

Jones was ordered to pay \$2,494.50 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

DALLAS ATTORNEY
12/07/2015-PRIVATE REPRIMAND

RULE 1.15(d)
for failing, 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

RULE 8.04(a)(8)
for failing to timely furnish a district grievance committee a response or other information as required unless he/she timely asserts a privilege or other legal ground for failure to do so

PAYTON, AMANDA MARIE: #24079117
02/05/2016-PARTIALLY PROBATED SUSPENSION
02/15/2016-03/14/2016: SUSPENSION
03/15/2016-02/14/2018: PROBATION

On February 5, 2016, **Amanda Marie Payton** [#24079117], 28, of Dallas, received a 24-month, partially probated suspension, with one month active (February 15, 2016, through March 14, 2016) and 23 months probated (March 15, 2016, through February 14, 2018). An evidentiary panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that Payton engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, and misrepresentation.

Payton violated Rule 8.04(a)(3). She was ordered to pay \$1,800.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

PRICE, HAROLD BRANDON: #24049263
01/22/2016-FULLY PROBATED SUSPENSION
03/01/2016-08/31/2016

On January 22, 2016, **Harold Brandon Price** [#24049263], 44, of Dallas, was sanctioned to a fully probated suspension for a period of six-month, beginning March 1, 2016. An evidentiary panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that Price neglected a legal matter entrusted to him by his client and further failed to keep the client reasonably informed about the status of her legal matter and to promptly comply with the client's reasonable requests for information regarding the case.

Price violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), and 1.03(a). Price is ordered to pay attorneys' fees in the amount of \$3,109.50 and direct expenses in the amount of \$890.50.

ROQUEMORE, KEVIN L.: #24002867
01/22/2016-PARTIALLY PROBATED SUSPENSION
02/01/2016-07/31/2016: SUSPENSION
08/01/2016-01/31/2018: PROBATION

On January 22, 2016, **Kelvin L. Roquemore** [#24002867], 48, of Dallas, received a 24-month, partially probated suspension, effective February 1, 2016, with the first six months actively suspended and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that on or about February 3, 2012, Complainant hired Roquemore for representation in a civil matter. Roquemore failed to hold funds belonging to Complainant that were in Roquemore's possession in connection with the representation separate from Roquemore's own property. Roquemore failed to keep funds that belonged to Complainant in a separate trust account. Upon receiving funds in which Complainant had an interest, Roquemore failed to promptly notify Complainant. Roquemore failed to promptly deliver to Complainant funds that Complainant was entitled to receive.

Roquemore violated Rules 1.14(a), 1.14(b), and 1.14(c). He was ordered to pay \$2,287.00 in restitution, \$3,000.00 in attorneys' fees, and \$483.50 in direct expenses.

RUBIN, MICHAEL D.: #00794566
12/16/2015-FULLY PROBATED SUSPENSION
01/01/2016-12/31/2016

On December 16, 2015, **Michael D. Rubin** [#00794566], 46, of Dallas, received a one-year, fully probated suspension, effective January 1, 2016. The 193rd District Court of Dallas County found that Rubin violated Rules 1.01(b)(1) [prohibiting a lawyer from neglecting a legal matter entrusted to the lawyer], Rule 1.03(a) [requiring a lawyer to keep a client reasonably informed about the status of a matter and promptly comply with reasonable requests for information], and Rule 1.15(d) [upon termination of representation, a lawyer shall take steps to the extent reasonably practicable to protect a client's interests].

Rubin was ordered to pay attorneys' fees in the sum of \$2,426.18.

STOVALL, KIMBERLY A.: #19337000
12/29/2015-PARTIALLY PROBATED SUSPENSION
12/20/2015-03/19/2016: SUSPENSION
03/20/2016-12/19/2016: PROBATION

On December 29, 2015, **Kimberly A. Stovall** [#19337000], 53, of Dallas, received a 12-month, partially probated suspension, effective December 20, 2015. An evidentiary panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that Stovall failed to hold funds belonging in whole or in part to clients or third persons that were in Stovall's possession in connection with the representation separate from Stovall's own property. Stovall had direct supervisory authority over Hames and failed to make reasonable efforts to ensure that Hames conduct was compatible with the professional obligations of Stovall.

Stovall violated Rules 1.14(a) and 5.03. She was ordered to pay \$6,448.50 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

STRONG, STACI J.: #24037564
02/10/2016-FULLY PROBATED SUSPENSION
03/01/2016-08/31/2018

On February 10, 2016, **Staci J. Strong** [#24037564], 43, of Dallas, agreed to a 30-month, fully probated suspension, effective March 1, 2016. The District 6 Grievance Committee found that Strong failed to hold funds belonging in whole or in part to a client of her law firm that were in Strong's possession in connection with the representation separate from Strong's own property. Upon receiving funds in which Stewart Strong Dugger Dean Kulwicki Johnson & Slater, PLLC, had an interest, Strong failed to promptly notify Stewart Strong Dugger Dean Kulwicki Johnson & Slater, PLLC. Strong failed to promptly deliver to Stewart Strong Dugger Dean Kulwicki Johnson & Slater, PLLC, funds that the firm was entitled to receive. Strong engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation.

Strong violated Rules 1.14(a), 1.14(b), and 8.04(a)(3). She was ordered to pay \$2,000.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses and \$25,359.67 in restitution.

UDEH, WINSTON N.: #20369640
01/06/2016-FULLY PROBATED SUSPENSION
01/15/2016-04/14/2016

On January 6, 2016, **Winston N. Udeh** [#20369640], 54, of Dallas, agreed to a three-month, fully probated suspension, effective January 15, 2016. The District 6 Grievance Committee found that in representing Complainant in a traffic ticket matter, Udeh neglected the legal matter entrusted to him. In representing Complainant, Udeh failed to keep Complainant reasonably informed about the status of a matter and failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information made by Complainant. Upon termination of representation, Udeh failed to refund payment to Complainant that had not been earned by Udeh. Udeh 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 and Udeh did not in good faith timely assert a privilege or other legal ground for failure to do so.

Udeh violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$100.00 in restitution and \$450.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

DISTRICT 07:

ALMON, JR., JOHNNIE LEE: #24043533
01/11/2016-FULLY PROBATED SUSPENSION
02/01/2016-01/31/2018

On January 11, 2016, **Johnnie Lee Almon, Jr.** [#24043533], 48, of Fort Worth, received a two-year, fully probated suspension, effective February 1, 2016. In November 2009, Complainants hired Almon in a personal injury matter. Almon neglected the legal matter entrusted to him. Almon failed to keep Complainants informed of the status of their case. Further, Almon engaged in conduct involving misrepresentation.

Almon violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(b), and 8.04(a)(3). He was ordered to pay \$950.00 in restitution and \$1,232.00 in attorneys' fees and costs.

DALLAS ATTORNEY
11/09/2015-PRIVATE REPRIMAND

RULE 1.01(b)(1)
for neglecting a legal matter entrusted to the lawyer

RULE 1.03(a)
for failing to keep a client reasonably informed about the status of a matter and promptly comply with reasonable requests for information

CASEY, MICHAEL A.: #03958700
02/10/2016-PUBLIC REPRIMAND

On February 10, 2016, **Michael A. Casey** [#03958700], 60, of Arlington, received an agreed judgment of public reprimand. An evidentiary panel of the District 7 Grievance Committee found that Casey failed to keep Complainant reasonably informed about the status of his civil matter.

Casey violate Rule 1.03(a). He was ordered to pay \$713.25 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

PEPPARD, BENJAMIN ROBERT: #24083647
01/12/2016-FULLY PROBATED SUSPENSION
01/06/2016-07/05/2017

On January 12, 2016, **Benjamin Robert Peppard** [#24083647], 31, of Las Angeles, California, received an 18-month, fully probated suspension, effective January 6, 2016. The District 7 Grievance Committee found that in representing Complainant in a contract dispute, Peppard neglected the legal matter entrusted to him by failing to perform any legal services. Peppard failed to keep Complainant reasonably informed about the status of the contract dispute and failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information from Complainant about the contract dispute. Upon termination of representation, Peppard failed to surrender papers and property to which Complainant was entitled.

Peppard violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), and 1.15(d). He was ordered to pay \$1,000.00 in restitution, \$2,525.00 in attorneys' fees and \$699.50 in direct expenses.

TAFEL, ROGER MATHEW: #19607775
12/16/2015-ACTIVE SUSPENSION
12/02/2015-12/01/2020

On December 16, 2015, **Roger Mathew Tafel** [#19607775], 53, of Eules, received a five-year, active suspension, effective December 2, 2015. An evidentiary panel of the District 7 Grievance Committee found that Complainant hired Tafel for representation in a personal injury matter. Tafel later represented Complainant in a credit matter. Tafel failed to communicate with the Complainant, and failed to file a response to the grievance.

Tafel violated Rules 1.03(a), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$1,488.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

DISTRICT 09:

GUPTA, VINEY K.: #00790085
02/08/2016-PUBLIC REPRIMAND

On February 8, 2016, **Viney K. Gupta** [#00790085], 67, of Orange, California, accepted a public reprimand. The District 9 evidentiary panel found that while representing a client in an immigration case, Gupta failed to properly calendar a final hearing, failed to contact the court for additional information, and failed to attend the final hearing.

Gupta violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), and 8.04(a)(1) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct, Article X, Section 9, State Bar Rules. Gupta paid \$6,103.10 in attorneys' fees and costs.

JONES, MATTHEW SCOTT: #24002374
01/21/2016-FULLY PROBATED SUSPENSION
01/01/2016-12/31/2016

On January 21, 2016, **Matthew Scott Jones** [#24002374], 43, of Austin, accepted a one-year, fully probated suspension, effective January 1, 2016. The District 9 Evidentiary Panel found that Complainant hired Jones in April of 2014 to convert a California corporation into a Texas Corporation. Complainant paid Jones \$4,600, which included the necessary filing fees. Jones completed the required documents but failed to file them with the Texas Secretary of State or with the appropriate California entity. After July of 2014, Complainant was unable to contact Jones to ascertain the status of the matter. Jones failed to complete the work for which Complainant had hired him. Jones has not returned either unearned fees or the filing fees of \$671.88 that Complainant paid.

Jones violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.14(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(1). He was ordered to pay \$284.17 in attorneys' fees and expenses and \$2,600.00 in restitution.

DISTRICT 10:

**SAN ANTONIO ATTORNEY
12/18/2015-PRIVATE REPRIMAND**

RULE 1.06(b)(1)

for representing a person where the representation of that person involves a substantially related matter in which that person's interests are materially and directly adverse to the interests of another client

RULE 1.15(a)(1)

for failing to decline or withdraw from representation of a client if the representation will result in a violation of Rule 3.08, other applicable rules of professional conduct, or other law

**HAYES, ROBERT JAMES: #24057610
01/06/2016-FULLY PROBATED SUSPENSION
03/01/2016-05/31/2016**

On January 6, 2016, **Robert James Hayes** [#24057610], 43, of San Antonio, accepted a three-month, fully probated suspension, effective March 1, 2016. The District 10 Grievance Committee found that Hayes neglected a client's matter, failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information and failed to refund unearned fees.

Hayes violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), and 1.15(d), was ordered to pay \$800.00 in attorneys' fees and \$1,500.00 in restitution.

**LAUREL, SANDRA D.: #11996800
12/15/2015-PUBLIC REPRIMAND**

On December 15, 2015, **Sandra D. Laurel** [#11996800], 51, of San Antonio, accepted a judgment of public reprimand. The District 10 Grievance Committee found that Laurel, failed to promptly deliver funds to parties entitled to receive funds, and failed to hold client's funds separate from her personal property.

Laurel violated Rules 1.14(a)(b), and was ordered to pay \$3,675.00 in restitution and \$800.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

**SAN ANTONIO ATTORNEY
12/04/2015-PRIVATE REPRIMAND**

RULE 1.07(a)(1)

A lawyer shall not act as intermediary between clients unless the lawyer consults with each client concerning the implications of the common representation, including the advantages and risks involved, and the effect on the attorney-client privileges, and obtains each client's written consent to the common representation.

**SAN ANTONIO ATTORNEY
01/28/2016-PRIVATE REPRIMAND**

RULE 1.01(b)(1)
for neglecting a legal matter entrusted to the lawyer

**SAN ANTONIO ATTORNEY
12/11/2015-PRIVATE REPRIMAND**

RULE 1.03(a)
for failing to keep a client reasonably informed about the status of a matter and promptly comply with reasonable requests for information

**SAN ANTONIO ATTORNEY
12/03/2015-PRIVATE REPRIMAND**

RULE 1.14(b)
for failing, 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

DISTRICT 11:

**ISASSI, ALFRED L.: #24010124
01/14/2016-FULLY PROBATED SUSPENSION
02/01/2016-05/31/2016**

On January 14, 2016, **Alfred L. Isassi** [#24010124], 43, of Kingsville, accepted a four-month, fully probated suspension, effective February 1, 2016. The District 11 Grievance Committee found that Isassi communicated about the subject matter of the representation with someone represented by counsel.

Isassi violated Rule 4.02(a) and was ordered to pay \$800.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

**ROGERS, BRIAN WADE: #24041811
12/10/2015-PARTIALLY PROBATED SUSPENSION
12/09/2015-01/08/2016: SUSPENSION
01/09/2016-12/08/2016: PROBATION**

On December 10, 2015, **Brian Wade Rogers** [#24041811], 40, of Victoria, received a one-year, partially probated suspension, effective December 9, 2015, with the first month actively served and the remainder probated. The District 11 Grievance Committee found that Rogers neglected a client's matter, failed to keep a client reasonably informed, failed to promptly render full accounting, failed to return unearned fees, and failed to return the client's file.

Rogers violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a)(b), 1.14(b), and 1.15(d), was ordered to pay \$4,000.00 in restitution and \$2,132.10 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

DISTRICT 12:

BECERRA, JOSE ANGEL: #24026790

11/03/2015-MODIFIED PARTIALLY PROBATED SUSPENSION

11/02/2015-11/17/2015: SUSPENSION

08/24/2015-11/01/2015: PROBATION

11/18/2015-08/23/2017: REMAINING PROBATION

On August 26, 2015, **Jose Angel Becerra** [#24026790], 41, of Laredo, received a 2-year partially probated suspension effective August 24, 2015, with 15-days actively served and the remainder probated. The District 12 Grievance Committee found that Becerra neglected client representations, failed to abide by his client's decision on whether to accept a settlement, failed to keep clients reasonably informed, failed to return client files and failed to respond to the grievance.

Becerra violated Rules 1.01(b)(2), 1.02(a), 1.03(a)&(b), 1.15(d), 8.01(b), and 8.04(a)(8) and was ordered to pay \$3,307.51 attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

BECERRA, JOSE ANGEL: #24026790

11/13/2015-PARTIALLY PROBATED SUSPENSION

11/18/2015-12/02/2015: SUSPENSION

08/23/2017-08/22/2018: PROBATION

On November 13, 2015, **Jose Angel Becerra** [#24026790], 41, of Laredo, received a one-year and 15-day, partially probated suspension, effective November 18, 2015, with the first 15-days actively served and the remainder probated (August 23, 2017-August 22, 2018). The District 12 Grievance Committee found that Becerra failed to hold client's funds separate from his own property, failed to promptly deliver an accounting to his client, failed to return an unearned fee, and failed to respond to the grievance.

Becerra violated Rules 1.14(a) & (b), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8) and was ordered to pay \$39,922.50.00 in restitution and \$12,412.00 attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

MCMASTER, DOUGLAS MATTHEW: #13786020

02/24/2016-FULLY PROBATED SUSPENSION

03/01/2016-06/01/2018

On February 24, 2016, **Douglas Matthew McMaster** [#13786020], 53, of Brownsville, accepted a 24-month, fully probated suspension, effective March 1, 2016. The District 12 Grievance Committee found that McMaster neglected client's legal matters, failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information, and failed to respond to one grievance.

McMaster violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), and 8.04(a)(8), was ordered to pay \$1,000.00 in attorneys' fees and \$600.00 in restitution.

DISTRICT 14:

**DALLAS ATTORNEY
02/12/2016-PRIVATE REPRIMAND**

RULE 1.03(a)
for failing to keep a client reasonably informed about the status of a matter and promptly comply with reasonable requests for information

RULE 1.15(d)
for failing, 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

**THURMAN, LEON A.: #20006000
11/09/2015-FULLY PROBATED SUSPENSION
11/05/2015-05/04/2016**

On November 9, 2014, **Leon A. Thurman** [#20006000], 69, of Anson, received a six-month, fully probated suspension, effective November 5, 2015. The District 14 Grievance Committee found that Thurman failed to keep Complainant reasonably informed about the status of the Complainant's child custody matter. Thurman failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information from Complainant about the matter. Thurman failed to explain the child custody matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit Complainant to make informed decisions regarding the representation. Thurman failed to withdraw from representing Complainant when the representation would result in violation of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Misconduct. Thurman engaged in the practice of law when his right to practice had been administratively suspended for failure to comply with Minimum Continuing Legal Education requirements.

Thurman violated Rules 1.03(a), 1.03(b), 1.15(a)(1), and 8.04(a)(11). He was ordered to pay \$3,667.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

DISTRICT 15:

**NELSON, LAURA GAYLE: #14903550
02/09/2016-FULLY PROBATED SUSPENSION
02/22/2016-02/21/2017**

On February 9, 2016, **Laura Gayle Nelson** [#14903550], 56, of Seguin, accepted a one-year, fully probated suspension, effective February 22, 2016. The District 15 Grievance Committee found that Nelson failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information, failed to hold client's funds separate from her own property and engaged in the practice of law while her law license was administratively suspended.

Nelson violated Rules 1.03(a), 1.14(a), and 8.04(a)(11), was ordered to pay \$2,537.85 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

DISTRICT 17:

TRUHILL, ROBERT J.: #20254500
01/11/2016-FULLY PROBATED SUSPENSION
04/15/2016-04/14/2017

On January 11, 2016, **Robert J. Truhill** [#20254500], 70, of El Paso, accepted a 12-month, fully probated suspension, effective April 15, 2016. The District 17 Grievance Committee found that Truhill neglected a client's matter, failed to keep client reasonably informed, upon termination failed to return unearned fees, engaged in conduct involving misrepresentation, failed to comply with a prior disciplinary judgment, and failed to respond to the grievance timely.

Truhill violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a)&(b), 1.15(d), 8.01(b), 8.04(a)(3), 8.04(a)(7), and 8.04(a)(8) and was ordered to pay \$1,000.00 in restitution and \$1,350.00 attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

BOARD OF DISCIPLINARY APPEAL

BOBBITT, RIQUE DON: #02534000
01/07/2016-INDEFINITE DISABILITY SUSPENSION
01/07/2016-UNTIL FURTHER ORDER12/31/2016

On January 7, 2016, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals entered an Agreed Order of Indefinite Disability Suspension against **Rique Don Bobbitt** [#02534000], 69, of Cameron, Texas, in accordance with Part XII of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure and Section 8 of the Internal Procedural Rules of the Board of Disciplinary Appeals.

FISCH, ABRAHAM M.: #07039900
01/12/2016-INTERLOCUTORY SUSPENSION
01/12/2016-UNTIL FURTHER ORDER

On January 12, 2016, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed an agreed interlocutory order of suspension against Houston attorney **Abraham M. Fisch**, 56, State Bar of Texas Card No. 07039900. On or about November 25, 2015, by amended judgment Mr. Fisch was convicted in *United States of America v. Abraham Moses Fisch, aka Anthony Fisch*, Case No. 4:11CR722-001, United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas holding session in Houston of found guilty of one count of Conspiracy to Commit Obstruction of Justice, four counts of Obstruction of Justice, Aiding and Abetting, one count of Conspiracy to Commit Money Laundering, seven counts of Money Laundering, Aiding and Abetting, and five counts of Failure to File Tax Return, Intentional Crimes as defined in the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, and sentenced to 180 months of incarceration. Upon release from imprisonment, he will be on supervised release for five years. Fisch has appealed his criminal conviction. The Board retains jurisdiction to enter a final judgment when the criminal appeal is final.

GARRETT, MPATANISHI "TAYARI" SYANALOLI: #24073090
02/02/2016-ACTIVE SUSPENSION
02/08/2016-06/07/2016

On February 2, 2016, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed a judgment of suspension of Dallas, Texas attorney, **Mpatanishi Syanaloli Tayari Garrett**, 40, State Bar of Texas Card No. 24073090. Ms. Garrett was indefinitely suspended from the practice of law and ineligible to apply for reinstatement for 120 days after the effective date of the order of suspension in a matter styled, *In re Petition for Disciplinary Action against Mpatanishi Syanaloli Tayari-Garrett, A Minnesota Attorney, Registration No. 342075, 866 N.W. 513* for willfully disobeying a court mandate, making a false or misleading statement to a tribunal, and being convicted of willfully disobeying a court

mandate. Ms. Garrett is suspended from the practice of law in Texas for 120 days, from February 8, 2016 until June 7, 2016.

MARTINEZ, JR., RODRIGO: #13144200
01/29/2016-INTERLOCUTORY SUSPENSION
01/29/2016-UNTIL FURTHER ORDERED

On January 29, 2016, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed an agreed interlocutory order of suspension against Edinburg attorney **Rodrigo Martinez Jr.**, 59, State Bar of Texas Card No. 13144200. On or about June 16, 2015, Mr. Martinez was convicted in *The State of Texas v. Rodrigo Martinez, Jr. Defendant*, Cause No.CR-2152-12-G in the 370th District Court of Hidalgo County, Texas, of theft of the value of \$200,000 or more, a First Degree Felony, and sentenced to seven years imprisonment and ordered to pay court costs of \$228.00 and restitution in the amount of \$410,000.00. Martinez has appealed his criminal conviction. The Board retains jurisdiction to enter a final judgment when the criminal appeal is final.

MAXWELL, WILLIAM TOPP: #24028775
02/02/2016-INTERLOCUTORY SUSPENSION
02/02/2016-UNTIL FURTHER ORDERED

On February 2, 2016, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed an interlocutory order of suspension against Houston attorney **William Topp Maxwell**, 56, State Bar of Texas Card No. 24028775. On or about August 11, 2015, by amended judgment Mr. Maxwell was convicted in *United States of America v. William Maxwell, Defendant*, Case No.1:11-CR-00740, United States District Court for the District of New Jersey of Racketeering - conspiracy, conspiracy to commit Securities Fraud, conspiracy to commit Wire Fraud, Wire Fraud, Money Laundering - conspiracy, conspiracy to Obstruct Justice, conspiracy to sell or transfer Firearms and Ammunition to a Prohibited Person, Intentional Crimes as defined in the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, and sentenced to 240 months of incarceration. Upon release from imprisonment, he will be on supervised release for three years. Maxwell has appealed his criminal conviction. The Board retains jurisdiction to enter a final judgment when the criminal appeal is final.