

COMMISSION FOR LAWYER DISCIPLINE

REPORT

TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ON
ATTORNEY DISCIPLINE

JUNE 2018

**Disciplinary Sanctions
3/1/2018 - 5/31/2018**

DISBARMENTS	District	# of Complaints Resolved
Ahart, Traci Lohmann	9	6
Gaines, Shanita Danielle	14	1
Skocpol-Saleh, D. Kristine	8	1

Board of Disciplinary Appeals:

Kleinsmith, Philip M.	BODA	1
Martinez, Rodrigo Jr.	BODA	1
Total:	5	10

RESIGNATIONS IN LIEU OF DISCIPLINE	District	# of Complaints Resolved
Rowe, Burrel	3	2
Uresti, Carlos Ismael	10	1

Board of Disciplinary Appeals:

Mehl, Lawrence R.	BODA	1
Total:	3	4

SUSPENSIONS	District	# of Complaints Resolved
Almaraz, Rosendo Jr.	12	1
Ballew, Jimmy Wayne Jr.	4	1
Blomster, Jeanne Louise	10	1
Brown, Daniel Lucius	10	1
Canady, Jeremiah David	4	1
Chavira-Brown, Maria Damisela	10	1
Davis, William P.	6	1
Dunbar, Keith Best	1	1
Eaton, Michael W.	6	1
Fiegel, Beaugard Driller	10	1
Ganesh, Rayan D	6	1
Jackson, Rayshun	6	1

Johnson, Thomas Henry	1	1
Lamrouex, Floyd L.	10	2
McMaster, Douglas Matthew	12	2
Morsi, Tamer Farouk	10	1
Morsi, Tamer Farouk	10	1
Nolan, Pattie Jo	3	1
Oliphint, Stuart R.	7	1
Ramos, J. Esequiel Jr.	11	1
Robertson, Robert S.	12	1
Rodriguez, Ross A.	10	4
Sanders, Sylvia Griffith	9	1
Schaffer, Tony L.	9	1
Tiller, Daniella Nicole	5	1
Truhill, Robert J.	17	1
Villalobos, Jaime A.	17	1

Board of Disciplinary Appeals:

Young, John S.	BODA	1
Total:		33

PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	District	# of Complaints Resolved
Allen, Scottie	6	1
Ochsner, Victoria V.	4	1
Pearson, Melynda G.	1	1
Ratliff, Tami Elizabeth	14	3
Solomon, Vernard	1	1
Wilson, Sharon Lynn	14	1

Board of Disciplinary Appeals:

Gordon, Robin Jeffrey	BODA	1
Total:		9

PRIVATE REPRIMANDS

Grievance Comm.	# of Sanctions	# of Complaints Resolved
3	1	1
4	1	1
6	3	3
8	1	1
9	2	2
10	1	1
12	1	1
15	1	1
17	1	1
Total:		12
Grievance Referral Program		24
Grand Total:		79

Disciplinary Actions - Current Bar Year

BAR YEARS	Total Sanctions	Total Complaints Resolved
2017-2018		
DISBARMENTS	21	45
RESIGNATIONS IN LIEU OF DISCIPLINE	23	102
SUSPENSIONS	116	163
PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	25	29
PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	70	74
GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	77	77
Total:	332	490

Disciplinary Actions - Previous Bar Year

BAR YEARS	Total Sanctions	Total Complaints Resolved
2016-2017		
DISBARMENTS	20	59
RESIGNATIONS IN LIEU OF DISCIPLINE	28	122
SUSPENSIONS	126	182
PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	30	37
PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	89	97
GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	50	50
Total:	343	547

BAR YEARS	Total Sanctions	Total Complaints Resolved
2015-2016		
DISBARMENTS	22	61
RESIGNATIONS IN LIEU OF DISCIPLINE	27	146
SUSPENSIONS	132	205
PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	30	33
PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	67	72
GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	47	47
Total:	325	564

BAR YEARS 2014-2015	Total Sanctions	Total Complaints Resolved
DISBARMENTS	27	55
RESIGNATIONS IN LIEU OF DISCIPLINE	19	56
SUSPENSIONS	113	147
PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	32	36
PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	66	72
GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	64	72
Total:	321	438

BAR YEARS 2013-2014	Total Sanctions	Total Complaints Resolved
DISBARMENTS	22	41
RESIGNATIONS IN LIEU OF DISCIPLINE	17	58
SUSPENSIONS	130	169
PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	31	35
PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	63	70
GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	57	57
Total:	320	430

BAR YEARS 2012-2013	Total Sanctions	Total Complaints Resolved
DISBARMENTS	39	51
RESIGNATIONS	24	46
SUSPENSIONS	122	160
PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	37	40
PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	89	91
GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	56	56
Total:	367	444

BAR YEARS 2011-2012	Total Sanctions	Total Complaints Resolved
DISBARMENTS	38	45
RESIGNATIONS	27	87
SUSPENSIONS	137	174
PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	40	41
PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	106	115
GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	54	54
Total:	402	516

BAR YEARS 2010-2011	Total Sanctions	Total Complaints Resolved
DISBARMENTS	28	52
RESIGNATIONS	23	101
SUSPENSIONS	157	254
PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	40	50
PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	77	82
GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	46	46
Total:	371	584

BAR YEARS 2009-2010	Total Sanctions	Total Complaints Resolved
DISBARMENTS	25	33
RESIGNATIONS	22	40
SUSPENSIONS	111	169
PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	37	47
PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	81	89
GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	39	39
Total:	315	417

BAR YEARS 2008-2009	Total Sanctions	Total Complaints Resolved
DISBARMENTS	32	43
RESIGNATIONS	26	104
SUSPENSIONS	127	189
PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	46	54
PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	68	73
GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	36	36
Total:	335	499

BAR YEARS 2007-2008	Total Sanctions	Total Complaints Resolved
DISBARMENTS	24	63
RESIGNATIONS	24	90
SUSPENSIONS	121	224
PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	28	35
PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	69	73
GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	33	33
Total:	299	518

BAR YEARS 2006-2007	Total Sanctions
DISBARMENTS	30
RESIGNATIONS	31
SUSPENSIONS	110
PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	62
PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	87
Total:	320

DISTRICT 1:

Dunbar, Keith Best: #24010802
04/25/2018-Fully Probated Suspension
05/01/2018-04/30/2019: PROBATED

On April 25, 2018, **Keith Best Dunbar** [#24010802], 53, of Texarkana, received a 12-month, fully probated suspension, effective May 1, 2018. The District 1 Grievance Committee found that Dunbar failed to hold funds belonging to a third party, which were in Dunbar's possession in connection with the representation, separate from Dunbar's own property. Dunbar failed to promptly render a full accounting regarding such funds. Dunbar violated Rules 1.14(a) and 1.14(b). He was ordered to pay \$3,079.84 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Johnson, Thomas Henry: #00796069
04/12/2018-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension
04/15/2018-04/14/2019: PROBATED

On April 12, 2018, **Thomas Henry Johnson** [#00796069], 51, of Frisco, received a 12-month, fully probated suspension, effective April 15, 2018. An evidentiary panel of the District 1 Grievance Committee found that on August 21, 2013, the complainant hired Johnson to defend him in two civil matters. In representing the complainant, Johnson neglected the legal matters entrusted to him, failed to notify the complainant of possible settlement so that the complainant could decide whether to accept an offer of settlement; failed to inform the complainant of the judgments against him; failed to keep the complainant reasonably informed about the status of his matters, and failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information. Johnson violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.02(a)(2) and 1.03(a). He was ordered to pay \$1,671.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Pearson, Melynda G.: #00787534
03/19/2018-Public Reprimand

On March 19, 2018, **Melynda G. Pearson** [#00787534], 49, of Texarkana, received a judgment of public reprimand. An evidentiary panel of the District 1 Grievance Committee found that Pearson failed to timely furnish to the Chief Disciplinary Counsel's Office a response, and she failed to timely assert a privilege or other legal ground for failure to do so. Pearson violated Rule 8.04(a)(8). She was ordered to pay \$1,410.00 in attorneys' fees and \$632.00 in direct expenses.

Solomon, Vernard: #18835000
05/24/2018-Agreed Public Reprimand

On May 24, 2018, **Vernard Solomon**, [#18835000], 74, of Marshall, received an agreed judgment of public reprimand. An evidentiary panel of the District 1 Grievance Committee found that Solomon failed to keep his client reasonably informed about the status of the client's legal matter and failed to promptly comply with the client's reasonable requests for information about the case. Solomon also failed to explain the legal matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation, and failed to furnish a timely response to the grievance. Solomon violated

Rules 1.03(a), 1.03(b) and 8.04(a)(8) and was ordered to pay attorneys' fees and direct expenses in the amount of \$900.00.

DISTRICT 3:

Nolan, Pattie Jo: #24046615
02/14/2018-Fully Probated Suspension
03/01/2018-02/29/2020: PROBATED

On February 14, 2018, **Pattie Jo Nolan** [#24046615], 48, of Conroe, received a 24-month, fully probated suspension, effective March 1, 2018. An evidentiary panel of the District 3 Grievance Committee found that Nolan engaged in the practice of law when her right to practice had been administratively suspended for nonpayment of dues and taxes, and failed to timely furnish to the Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel a response or other information as required by the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure. Nolan violated Rules 8.04(a)(8) and 8.04(a)(11). She was ordered to pay \$1,500.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Rowe, Burrel: #17332000
03/27/2018-Resignation in lieu of Discipline

On March 27, 2018, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation, in lieu of discipline, of **Burrel Rowe** [#17332000], 81, of Livingston. At the time of Rowe's resignation, two pending grievances alleged that he neglected the legal matter entrusted to him, failed to refund unearned fees, failed to withdraw from representation due to a physical impairment, failed to properly ensure that the conduct of the nonlawyer under his authority was compatible with the professional obligations of a lawyer which also subjected Rowe to discipline for permitting the conduct. Rowe violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.15(d), 1.15(a)(2), 5.03(a), and 5.03(b)(1).

DISTRICT 4:

Ballew, Jimmy Wayne Jr.: #24050251
03/15/2018-Agreed Active Suspension
03/15/2018-03/14/2021: SUSPENSION

On March 15, 2018, **Jimmy Wayne Ballew, Jr.** [#24050251], 37, of Houston, agreed to a 36-month, active suspension, effective March 15, 2018. The District 4 Grievance Committee found that Ballew settled a matter without client's consent, failed to keep a client reasonably informed, failed to explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit a client to make informed decisions and engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, deceit or misrepresentation. Ballew violated Rules 1.02(a)(2), 1.03(a)&(b), 8.04(a)(3) and was ordered to pay \$2,500.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Canady, Jeremiah David: #24055254
03/27/2018-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension
04/01/2018-12/31/2018: PROBATED

On March 27, 2018, **Jeremiah David Canady** [#24055254], 38, of Pearland, accepted a nine-month, fully probated suspension, effective April 1, 2018. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that in representing a client, Canady neglected a legal matter entrusted to him; failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information; and failed to refund advance payments of fee that had not been earned. Canady violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), and 1.15(d). He was ordered to pay \$500.00 in restitution and \$500.00 attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Ochsner, Victoria V.: #24051129
03/20/2018-Public Reprimand

On March 20, 2018, **Victoria V. Ochsner** [# 24051129], 45, of Houston, received a judgment of public reprimand. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that Ochsner neglected her client's matter. Ochsner was ordered to pay attorneys' fees and costs in the amount of \$1,292.37. Ochsner has filed a notice of appeal. Rule Violated: 1.01(b)(1).

Houston Attorney
04/02/2018-Agreed Private Reprimand

Rule 1.01(b)(1)

In representing a client, a lawyer shall not neglect a legal matter entrusted to the lawyer.

Rule 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.

Rule 8.04(a)(8)

A lawyer shall not fail to timely furnish to the Chief Disciplinary Counsel's Office 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.

DISTRICT 5:

Tiller, Daniella Nicole: #24073601
03/28/2018-Partially Probated Suspension
04/02/2018-09/29/2018: SUSPENSION
09/30/2018-04/02/2020: PROBATED

On March 28, 2018, **Daniella Nicole Tiller** [#24073601], 36, of Rosenberg, received a 24-month, partially probated suspension, effective April 2, 2018, with the first 180 days actively served and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that Tiller neglected the legal matter entrusted to her, failed to keep her client reasonably informed, failed to timely furnish a response to the Chief Disciplinary Counsel's office as required by the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, and engaged in the practice of law while she was administratively suspended. Tiller was ordered to pay attorneys' fees and costs in the amount of \$1,325.00. Rules Violated: 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 8.04(a)(8), and 8.04(a)(11).

DISTRICT 6:

Allen, Scottie: #01058020
03/13/2018-Agreed Public Reprimand

On March 13, 2018, **Scottie Allen** [#01058020], 58, of Dallas, received an agreed judgment of public reprimand. An evidentiary panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that Allen failed to timely furnish to the Chief Disciplinary Counsel's Office a response and did not in good faith timely assert a privilege or other legal ground for failure to do so. Allen violated Rule 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$1,061.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Davis, William P.: #05564000
03/8/2018-Agreed Partially Probated Suspension
03/15/2018-07/14/2018: SUSPENSION
07/15/2018-03/14/2020: PROBATED

On March 8, 2018, **William P. Davis** [#05564000], 79, of Dallas, agreed to a 24-month, partially probated suspension, effective March 15, 2018, with the first four months actively served and the remainder probated. The District 6 Grievance Committee found that on or about September 9, 2015, Davis created a trust for Complainant and Complainant transferred funds for the trust to Davis. Davis failed to hold funds belonging to Complainant, which were in Davis' possession in connection with the representation, separate from Davis' own property. Upon request by Complainant, Davis failed to promptly render a full accounting regarding such funds. Davis violated Rules 1.14(a) and 1.14(b). He was ordered to pay \$1,200.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Eaton, Michael W.: #06383800
03/15/2018-Agreed Active Suspension
04/15/2018-04/14/2020: SUSPENSION

On March 15, 2018, **Michael W. Eaton** [#06383800], 59, of Grapevine, agreed to 24-month, active suspension, effective April 15, 2018. The District 6 Grievance Committee found that on January 1, 2017, Eaton was actively suspended from the practice of law. Prior to Eaton's active suspension, Complainant hired Eaton to represent him in a tax matter. Eaton continued to represent Complainant in the matter after Eaton was actively suspended from the practice of law. Eaton, in violation of a disciplinary judgment and while actively suspended from the practice of law, held himself out as an attorney, continued to use his legal email address, continued to represent Complainant and failed to inform Complainant that he was actively suspended from the practice of law. Eaton violated Rules 8.04(a)(7) and 8.04(a)(11). He was ordered to pay \$1,500.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Ganesh, Rayan D: #24068728
03/8/2018-Fully Probated Suspension
03/01/2018-02/28/2019: PROBATED

On March 8, 2018, **Rayan D. Ganesh** [#24068728], 34, of Coppell, received a 12-month, fully probated suspension, effective March 1, 2018. An evidentiary panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that on June 3, 2016, Ganesh engaged in conduct that constitutes barratry and prohibited solicitation when he approached the complainant, who did not seek Ganesh's advice regarding employment offering to represent the complainant for a fee in the two misdemeanor cases in which she was waiting to appear in court for that day. Thereafter, Ganesh failed to keep the complainant reasonably informed about the status of her cases and failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information from the complainant about her legal matter. Ganesh violated Rules 1.03(a), 7.03(a), and 8.04(a)(9). He was ordered to pay \$600.00 in restitution and \$3,241.50 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Jackson, Rayshun: #00797754
03/15/2018-Fully Probated Suspension
04/02/2018-04/01/2021: PROBATED

On March 15, 2018, **Rayshun Jackson** [#00797754], 48, of Dallas, received a 36-month, fully probated suspension, effective April 2, 2018. The District 6 Grievance Committee found that on November 15, 2016, Jackson was actively suspended from the practice of law for six months. On November 22, 2016, Jackson appeared telephonically at a hearing before a federal magistrate thereby engaging in the practice of law while he was suspended. Jackson violated a disciplinary judgment by appearing as counsel in a proceeding in Federal court; failing to notify the judge of his suspension; failing to notify opposing counsel, Complainant, in writing of his suspension; and by holding himself out as an attorney. Jackson violated Rules 8.04(a)(7) and 8.04(a)(11). He was ordered to pay \$2,925.00 in attorneys' fees and \$200.00 in direct expenses.

Dallas Attorney
05/8/2018-Agreed Private Reprimand

Rule 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.

Dallas Attorney
02/14/2018-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 3.03(a)(1)

for making a false statement of material fact or law to a tribunal

Dallas Attorney
12/22/2017-Private Reprimand

RULE 8.04(a)(2)

A lawyer shall not commit a serious crime or commit any other criminal act that reflects adversely on the lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a lawyer in other respects.

RULE 8.04(a)(3)

A lawyer shall not engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation.

DISTRICT 7:

Oliphint, Stuart R.: #00789526
02/14/2018-Fully Probated Suspension
02/15/2018-11/14/2018: PROBATED

On February 14, 2018, **Stuart R. Oliphint** [#00789526], 58, of Fort Worth, received a nine-month, fully probated suspension, effective February 15, 2018. An evidentiary panel of the District 7 Grievance Committee found that Oliphint neglected the legal matter entrusted to him, failed to return any of the unearned fees, failed to return the client's file and failed to respond to the grievance. Oliphint, violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.15(d) and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$350.00 in restitution and \$1,000.00 in attorneys' fees and costs.

DISTRICT 8:

**Austin Attorney
03/7/2018-Agreed 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

**Skocpol-Saleh, D. Kristine: #24066713
04/10/2018-Default Disbarment**

On April 10, 2018, **D. Kristine Skocpol-Saleh** [#24066713], 43, of Hamilton, was disbarred. An evidentiary panel of the District 8 Grievance Committee found that on or about January 6, 2015, Skocpol-Saleh was paid \$500.00 to represent Complainant to draft and file an affidavit with the Texas Tomorrow Fund so Complainant could obtain money from the account. Skocpol-Saleh failed to prepare or file the affidavit. Complainant made repeated attempts to contact Skocpol-Saleh by text, email and telephone but Skocpol-Saleh failed to respond. Complainant terminated the representation and requested a refund of unearned fees but Skocpol-Saleh refused to return any fees. Skocpol-Saleh further failed to furnish a written response to the complaint as directed. Skocpol-Saleh violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct, Article X, Section 9, State Bar Rules. Skocpol-Saleh was ordered to pay \$500.00 in restitution and \$2,569.96 in attorneys' fees and expenses.

DISTRICT 9:

**Ahart, Traci Lohmann: #24000161
02/22/2018-Disbarment**

On February 22, 2018, **Ahart, Traci Lohmann** [#24000161], 44, of Cedar Park, was disbarred. An evidentiary panel of the District 9 Grievance Committee found that Ahart committed misconduct in three cases. In the first matter, Ahart failed to file a written response to the Complaint as required. In a second matter, Complainant hired Ahart to file a Motion to Vacate Arbitration Award. Complainant paid Ahart an advanced fee of \$2,500.00 for the representation. Ahart failed to file the motion. Complainant sent Ahart an email terminating the representation, and requesting the return of the advanced fees and her file. In a reply email Ahart agreed to refund the advanced fees and return Complainant's file. Ahart never refunded any advanced fee and never returned Complainant's file. Ahart failed to furnish a written response to the complaint as directed. In a third matter, Complainant hired Ahart to represent her in divorce proceedings. Ahart attended two court hearings on Complainant's behalf regarding restraining orders. After the first hearing, Ahart failed to respond to multiple requests for information from Complainant. Additionally, after the final agreed decree was prepared by opposing counsel, Ahart redrafted the decree to change some of the provisions but did not provide a copy to Complainant. Eventually, the ad litem obtained a copy of the revised decree and sent it to Complainant. The opposing party appeared in court to prove up the revised decree.

Ahart failed to furnish a written response to the complaint as directed. Ahart violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), 8.04(a)(1), and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct, Article X, Section 9, State Bar Rules. Ahart was ordered to pay \$2,500.00 in restitution and \$6,320.38 in attorneys' fees and expenses.

Austin Attorney
03/8/2018-Agreed Private Reprimand

Rule 1.01(b)(2)
for failing to carry out completely the obligations owed to a client

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

Austin Attorney
05/04/2018-Agreed 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

Sanders, Sylvia Griffith: #17608510
04/30/2018-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension
06/01/2018-05/31/2021: PROBATED

On April 30, 2018, **Sylvia Griffith Sanders** [#17608510], 81, of Leander, accepted a three-year, fully probated suspension, effective June 1, 2018. An evidentiary panel of the District 9 Grievance Committee found that Sanders was appointed to represent a defendant in two misdemeanor cases. Defendant was incarcerated and Sanders was to resolve the misdemeanor cases by plea in absentia. Sanders attempted to present the plea in Travis County Court at Law No. 7, however, court staff discovered the Defendant had not signed two required documents. The presiding judge refused to accept the plea without Defendant's signature. Sanders obtained the necessary forms, signed Defendant's name on the affidavit and certification, and presented the documents to a different court, Travis County Court at Law No. 9. Sanders violated Rules 3.03(a)(1) and 8.04(a)(3). She was ordered to pay \$1,809.10 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Schaffer, Tony L.: #17720880
04/30/2018-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension
05/01/2018-07/31/2018: PROBATED

On April 30, 2018, **Tony L. Schaffer** [#17720880], 56, of Austin, accepted a three-month, fully probated suspension, effective May 1, 2018. An evidentiary panel of the District 9 Grievance Committee found that Complainant hired Schaffer to represent her in a contested probate matter. A lawsuit was filed against Complainant with a notice of lis pendens against Complainant's homestead. An agreement was reached that released the lis pendens on the condition that Complainant place \$15,000.00 in Schaffer's IOLTA account until the probate dispute was resolved. \$15,000.00 was wired to Schaffer's IOLTA account on behalf of Complainant and later the parties signed a settlement agreement authorizing Schaffer to release the escrowed \$15,000.00. Because Schaffer maintained that Complainant had agreed to allow him to put the \$15,000.00 towards his outstanding attorneys' fees, Schaffer wired only \$3,965.00 to Complainant. Complainant denies that she ever agreed to allow Schaffer to use any of the \$15,000.00. Complainant made numerous requests for Schaffer to deliver the remaining escrow funds to her. Schaffer failed to respond to requests and did not deliver the remainder of the escrowed funds, in the amount of \$11,035.00, to Complainant. Schaffer violated Rule 1.03(a) and 1.14(b). Schaffer was ordered to pay \$11,000.00 in restitution and \$1,809.10 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

DISTRICT 10:

Blomster, Jeanne Louise: #02501850
05/29/2018-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension
07/01/2018-06/30/2019: PROBATED

On May 29, 2018, **Jeanne Louise Blomster** [#02501850], 53, of San Antonio, accepted a one-year, fully probated suspension, effective July 1, 2018. The District 10 Grievance Committee found that Blomster failed to keep client's funds in a trust account. Blomster violated Rules 1.14(a)&(b), and agreed to pay \$800.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Brown, Daniel Lucius: #03108300
03/21/2018-Interim Suspension

On March 21, 2018, **Daniel Lucius Brown** [#03108300], 64, of San Antonio, agreed to an interim suspension of his law license, effective March 21, 2018. The 408th Judicial District Court of Bexar County, Texas order Brown suspended from the practice of law pending the final disposition of a disciplinary proceeding.

Chavira-Brown, Maria Damisela: #24045190
03/28/2018-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension
04/01/2018-09/30/2019: PROBATED

On March 28, 2018, **Maria Damisela Chavira-Brown** [#24045190], 53, of San Antonio, accepted an 18-month, fully probated suspension, effective April 1, 2018. The District 10 Grievance Committee found that Chavira-Brown neglected a client's matter. Chavira-Brown violated Rule 1.01(b)(1), and agreed to pay \$800.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Fiegel, Beauregard D.: #24086782
01/19/2018-Default Partially Probated Suspension
01/17/2018-04/16/2018: SUSPENSION
04/17/2018-01/16/2023: PROBATED

On January 19, 2018, **Beauregard D. Fiegel** [#24086782], 32, of San Antonio, received a five-year, partially probated suspension, effective January 17, 2018, with the first three-months actively served and the remainder probated. The District 10 Grievance Committee Panel found that Fiegel neglected a client's matter, failed to keep a client reasonably informed and failed to respond to the grievance. Fiegel violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a) and 8.04(a)(8), was ordered to pay \$3,000.00 in restitution and \$1,632.50 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Lamrouex, Floyd L.: #11854900
05/02/2018-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension
06/15/2018-02/14/2019: PROBATED

On May 2, 2018, **Floyd L. Lamrouex**, [#11854900], 56, of San Antonio, agreed to an eight-month, fully probated suspension, effective June 15, 2018. The District 10 Grievance Committee found that Lamrouex failed to keep a client reasonably informed and failed to respond to two grievances. Lamrouex violated Rules 1.03(a) and 8.04(a)(8), was ordered to pay \$800.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Morsi, Tamer Farouk: #24041530
05/10/2018-Agreed Partially Probated Suspension
11/30/2018-02/28/2019: SUSPENSION
02/28/2019-08/30/2022: PROBATED

On May 10, 2018, **Tamer Farouk Morsi** [#24041530], 45, of San Antonio, agreed to a four-year, partially probated suspension, effective August 31, 2018, with three-months actively served beginning November 30, 2018 and the remainder probated. The District 10 Grievance Committee found Morsi failed to provide a full accounting of funds to his client timely and failed to refund the unearned portion of fee.

Morsi violated Rules 1.14(b) and 1.15(d), was ordered to pay \$2,750.00 in restitution and \$400.00 attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Morsi, Tamer Farouk: #24041530
05/10/2018-Agreed Partially Probated Suspension
08/31/2018-11/30/2018: SUSPENSION
11/30/2018-08/31/2020: PROBATED

On May 10, 2018, **Tamer Farouk Morsi** [#24041530], 45, of San Antonio, agreed to a two-year, partially probated suspension, effective August 31, 2018, with the first three-months actively served and the remainder probated. The District 10 Grievance Committee found that Morsi neglected a client's matter, failed to keep a client reasonably informed, failed to refund the unearned portion of a fee and failed to respond to the grievance. Morsi violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(d) and 8.4(a)(8), was ordered to pay \$2,500.00 in restitution and \$400.00 attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

San Antonio Attorney
03/14/2018-Agreed Private Reprimand

Rule 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.

Rodriguez, Ross A.: #24025756
03/22/2018-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension
04/01/2019-03/31/2023: PROBATED

On March 22, 2018, **Ross A. Rodriguez** [#24025756], 53, of San Antonio, accepted a four-year, fully probated suspension, effective April 1, 2019. The District 10 Grievance Committee found that Rodriguez failed to keep clients reasonably informed, failed to maintain client's funds in a trust or escrow account and upon termination, failed to refund unearned fees. Rodriguez violated Rules 1.03(a)&(b), 1.14(a) and 1.15(d), and agreed to pay \$3,500.00 in restitution, and \$2,043.55 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Uresti, Carlos Ismael: #00785132
04/10/2018-Resignation in lieu of Discipline

On April 10, 2018, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation, in lieu of discipline, of **Carlos Ismael Uresti** [#00785132], 54, of San Antonio. On February 22, 2018, Uresti was found guilty on five counts of wire fraud, one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, one count of conspiracy to launder monetary instruments, one count of engaging in monetary transactions in property derived from specified unlawful activity, two counts of securities fraud and one count of acting as an unregistered securities broker in Case Number 5:17-cr-00381-DAE-1, in the U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas. Uresti violated Rules 8.04(a)(2)&(3)

DISTRICT 11:

Ramos, J. Esequiel Jr.: #16508030
04/02/2018-Agreed Active Suspension
05/14/2018-05/13/2020: SUSPENSION

On April 2, 2018, **J. Esequiel Ramos, Jr.** [#16508030], 58, of Corpus Christi, accepted a two-year, active suspension, effective May 14, 2018. The 28th District Court of Nueces County found that Ramos violated Rules 5.04(a) [sharing or promising to share legal fees with a non-lawyer], 8.04(a)(8) [failing to respond to a grievance timely], and 8.01 (b) [failing to respond to a lawful demand for information from a disciplinary authority]. Ramos violated Rules 5.04(a), 8.04(a)(8), and 8.01(b), was ordered to pay \$1,400.00 in restitution and \$6,000.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses

DISTRICT 12:

Almaraz, Rosendo Jr.: #24010645
05/15/2018-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension
05/15/2018-05/14/2019: PROBATED

On May 15, 2018, **Rosendo Almaraz, Jr.** [#24010645], 44, of McAllen, agreed to a one-year, fully probated suspension, effective May 15, 2018. The 206th District Court of Hidalgo County found that Almaraz violated Rule 5.03(a) [A lawyer having direct supervisory authority over the nonlawyer shall make reasonable efforts to ensure that the persons conduct is compatible with the professional obligations of the lawyer]. Almaraz violated Rule 5.03(a) and was ordered to pay \$2,500.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

San Antonio Attorney
03/22/2018-Agreed Private Reprimand

Rule 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.

McMaster, Douglas Matthew: #13786020
04/19/2018-Agreed Partially Probated Suspension
07/31/2018-09/30/2018: SUSPENSION
09/30/2018-07/30/2021: PROBATED

On April 19, 2018, **Douglas Matthew McMaster**, [#13786020], 55, of Brownsville, agreed to a three-year, partially probated suspension, effective July 31, 2018, with the first two-months actively served and the remainder probated. The District 12 Grievance Committee found that McMaster failed to return the unearned portion of a fee to two clients. McMaster violated Rules 1.15(d) and was ordered to pay \$5,150.00 in restitution and \$800.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Robertson, Robert S.: #17071500
02/09/2018-Default Partially Probated Suspension
01/18/2018-01/17/2023: SUSPENSION
01/18/2023-01/18/2028: PROBATED

On February 9, 2018, **Robert S. Robertson** [#17071500], 60, of Monterey, Mexico, received a ten-year, partially probated suspension, effective January 18, 2018, with the first five-years actively served and the remainder probated. The District 12 Grievance Committee Panel found that Robertson neglected a client's matter, failed to keep a client reasonably informed, failed to return the unearned portion of a fee and failed to respond to the grievance. Robertson violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(d) and 8.04(a)(8), was ordered to pay \$5,000.00 in restitution and \$1,791.32 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

DISTRICT 14:

Gaines, Shanita Danielle: #24045906
02/05/2018-Disbarment

On February 5, 2018, **Shanita Danielle Gaines** [#24045906], 41, of Oklahoma City, OK, received a judgment of disbarment. An evidentiary panel of the District 14 Grievance Committee found that, in the course of handling a personal injury matter, Gaines failed to keep her client reasonably informed and promptly comply with her reasonable requests for information, deposit settlement finds in a separate trust account, failed to provide her client with a written statement describing the outcome of the matter and showing the method of its determination and failed to notify her client's medical provider about her receipt of settlement funds. In addition, Gaines failed to surrender to her client the property and papers she was entitled to receive, failed to supervise a non-lawyer employee over whom she had direct supervisory authority and engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation. Gaines violated Rules 1.03(a), 1.04(d), 1.14(a), 1.14(b), 1.15(d), 5.03(a), and 8.04(a)(3).

Ratliff, Tami Elizabeth: #24013376
02/09/2018-Public Reprimand

On February 9, 2017, **Tami Elizabeth Ratliff** [#24013376], 43, of Abilene, received a public reprimand. An evidentiary panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that Ratliff neglected the legal matter entrusted to her by failing to complete legal work on behalf of Complainants. Ratliff failed to keep Complainants reasonably informed about the status of their divorce cases, and failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information from Complainants about the matters. Ratliff failed to hold funds belonging to Complainants that were in Ratliff's possession in connection with the representations separate from Ratliff's own property. Further, Ratliff failed to respond to the grievance in one matter. Further, Ratliff was retained for representation in a personal injury matter. Ratliff failed to promptly deliver funds to a third party and Ratliff engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation. Ratliff violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.14(a), 1.14(b), 8.04(a)(3) and 8.04(a)(8). She was ordered to pay \$2,901.33 in restitution.

Wilson, Sharon Lynn: #24070862
03/29/2018-Public Reprimand

On March 29, 2018, **Sharon Lynn Wilson** [#24070862], 39, of Denton, received a judgment of public reprimand. An evidentiary panel of the District 14 Grievance Committee found that in representing client, Wilson neglected the legal matter entrusted to her, failed to keep client reasonably informed about the status of her legal matter, failed to promptly comply with client's reasonable requests for information, failed to withdraw from the representation upon being discharged, failed to return client's file and any unearned fees, and failed to respond to client's grievance. Wilson violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(a)(3), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8). She was ordered to pay \$1,000.00 in restitution and \$1,500.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

DISTRICT 15:

San Antonio Attorney
05/11/2018-Agreed 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.

Houston Attorney
02/23/2018-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

DISTRICT 17:

San Antonio Attorney
04/20/2018-Agreed Private Reprimand

Rule 1.01(b)(1)

In representing a client, a lawyer shall not neglect a legal matter entrusted to the lawyer.

Rule 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.

Rule 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.

Truhill, Robert J.: #20254500
03/08/2018-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension
04/01/2018-09/30/2019: PROBATED

On March 8, 2018, **Robert J. Truhill** [#20254500], 72, of El Paso, accepted an 18-month, fully probated suspension, effective April 1, 2018. The District 17 Grievance Committee found that Truhill neglected a client's matter. Truhill violated Rule 1.01(b)(1) and agreed to pay \$950.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Villalobos, Jaime A.: #00785151
03/08/2018-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension
04/01/2018-03/31/2020: PROBATED

On March 8, 2018, **Jaime A. Villalobos** [#00785151], 51, of El Paso, accepted a two-year, fully probated suspension, effective April 1, 2018. The District 17 Grievance Committee found that Villalobos failed to safeguard client's funds and upon termination, failed to refund the unearned portion of the fee. Villalobos violated Rules 1.14(a)&(b) and 1.15(d), and agreed to pay \$800.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

BOARD OF DISCIPLINARY APPEALS:

Gordon, Robin Jeffrey: #08206200
03/21/2018-Agreed Public Reprimand

March 21, 2018, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed an Agreed Judgment of Public Reprimand of Nashville, TN attorney **Robin Jeffrey Gordon**, 53, State Bar of Texas Card No. 08206200. On April 4, 2017, Mr. Gordon was reprimanded by the Disciplinary District V of the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Supreme Court of Tennessee in a matter styled, In Re: Robin Jeffrey Gordon, #14618, Respondent, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee (Davidson County), File No. 40240c-5-ES. on Oct. 31, 2012 for violations of Rule 1.3 (diligence) and 3.2 (expediting litigation) of the Tennessee Rules of Professional Conduct. Mr. Gordon is currently suspended from the practice of law in Texas.

Kleinsmith, Philip M.: #11567650
04/23/2018-Disbarment

On April 23, 2018, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed a judgment of disbarring Colorado Springs attorney, **Philip M. Kleinsmith**, 78, State Bar of Texas Card No. 11567650. On December 21, 2016, the Supreme Court of Colorado entered an Order and Notice of Disbarment against Kleinsmith in a matter styled *Complainant, People of the State of Colorado, Respondent: Philip M. Kleinsmith*, in Case No. 16PDJ031 for failing to promptly deliver to a third person funds belonging to the third person and converted those funds to his own use. In accordance with Part IX of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, Kleinsmith is disbarred in Texas.

Martinez, Rodrigo Jr.: #13144200
04/23/2018-Disbarment

On April 23, 2018, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed a final judgment of disbarment against Edinburg attorney **Rodrigo Martinez Jr.**, 61, 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. On January 29, 2016, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed an agreed interlocutory order of suspension against Mr. Martinez, suspending Martinez while he appealed his criminal conviction. On March 9, 2017, the Thirteenth Court of Appeals affirmed his conviction, modifying the amount of restitution to \$416,000 and issued its mandate on December 28, 2017.

Mehl, Lawrence R.: #13904500
03/27/2018-Resignation in lieu of Discipline

On March 27, 2018, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation, in lieu of discipline, of **Lawrence R. Mehl** [#13904500], 71, of Waltham, Massachusetts. Mehl previously resigned from the practice of law in Massachusetts, in a matter styled, *In Re: Lawrence R. Mehl*, Supreme Judicial Court for Suffolk County, No. BD-207 053. That resignation would subject Mehl to reciprocal discipline.

Young, John S.: #22197800
04/24/2018-Agreed Interlocutory Suspension

On April 24, 2018, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed an agreed interlocutory order of suspension against Sweetwater, Texas attorney **John S. Young**, 57, State Bar of Texas Card No. 22197800. On November 13, 2017, Young was found guilty of two counts of Forgery of a Financial Instrument (counts one and two), Theft of Property in a value of \$200,000 or more (count three), and Money Laundering in a value greater than \$100,000 and less than \$200,000 (count four), Intentional Crimes as defined in the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, in the case styled, *The State of Texas v. John Stacy Young*, Cause No. 30544B-17-0081-SB in the 119th Judicial District Court of Tom Green County, Texas. Mr. Young was sentenced to prison for 730 days as to counts one and two and 11 years as to counts three and four, to run concurrently, and ordered to pay a fine in the amount of \$10,000.00. Young has appealed his criminal conviction. The Board retains jurisdiction to enter a final judgment when the criminal appeal is final.