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

JUDICIAL ACTIONS

To read the entire public sanctions, go to scjc.texas.gov.

On February 5, 2026, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct issued an inquiry concerning an order of suspension to **FIDENCIO M. GUERRA JR.**, senior judge, sitting by assignment, Hidalgo County.

On February 5, 2026, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct issued an inquiry concerning an order of suspension to **ROSIE SPEEDLIN-GONZALEZ,** judge of County Court at Law No. 13, San Antonio, Bexar County.

On February 5, 2026, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct issued an inquiry concerning an amended order of suspension to **ROSIE SPEEDLIN-GONZALEZ,** judge of County Court at Law No. 13, San Antonio, Bexar County.

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STATEWIDE REPRESENTATION

BODA

On August 1, 2025, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals entered a judgment of probated suspension in the reciprocal discipline case against Houston attorney **KENNETH M. PLAISANCE** [#24045166]. On February 6, 2024, the Supreme Court of Louisiana entered an order and per curium opinion in *In Re: Kenneth M. Plaisance,* Attorney Disciplinary Proceeding No. 2023-B-1460, suspending Plaisance from the practice of law in Louisiana for a period of two years and one day, with one year deferred. The court referenced findings of the Hearing Committee, additional findings and recommendations of the Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board, and facts and testimony on which the court based its conclusion that Plaisance violated Louisiana Rules of Professional Conduct 1.4 (communication), 1.7(a) (conflict of interest: current clients), 3.1 (meritorious claims and contentions), and 8.4(d) (misconduct: conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice). Plaisance is suspended from the practice of law in Texas for one year, beginning August 1, 2025, and extending through July 31, 2026, with the suspension fully probated. Plaisance appealed the judgment to the Supreme Court of Texas in Case No. 25-0703. On January 31, 2026, the court affirmed the board's judgment. BODA Case No. 69894.

DISBARMENT

On January 30, 2026, **MICHAEL MCLANE NELSON JR.** [#24099566], of Austin, was disbarred by an evidentiary panel of the District 9 Grievance Committee effective January 22, 2026. The issuance of the disbarment was related to six disciplinary cases initiated by complaints that were filed against him predominantly by his former clients.

The evidentiary panel found that in all six disciplinary cases, Nelson neglected the legal matters entrusted to him by his clients. Additionally, the panel found that Nelson failed to timely furnish to the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel a response to each complaint as required by the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

In four of the six disciplinary cases, the panel found that Nelson failed to keep his clients informed about the status of their legal matters and failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information. Further, in three of the six disciplinary cases, the panel found that Nelson failed to explain matters to the extent reasonably necessary to permit his clients to make informed decisions regarding the representation.

Finally, in three of the six disciplinary cases, the panel found that upon termination of representation, Nelson failed to take reasonable steps to protect the clients' interests, such as allowing them time to employ other counsel, surrendering papers and property to the clients, and refunding any advance payments of fees that he had not earned.

Nelson was found to have violated the following Rules: 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.03(b), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay $11,900 in restitution and $13,406.67 in attorneys' fees.

RESIGNATION

On January 16, 2026, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation, in lieu of discipline, of **GREGORY E. SIMMONS** [#18367700], of Cypress. At the time of his resignation, there were two pending disciplinary actions alleging that Simmons neglected his clients' cases; failed to keep his clients reasonably informed about the status of their cases and failed to promptly comply with his clients' reasonable requests for information; failed to promptly deliver client funds; failed to keep client funds separate from his own until there was an accounting and severance of their interest; failed to withdraw from a representation when his physical condition materially impaired

his fitness to represent his client; and failed to refund advance payments of fees not earned to his clients.

Simmons allegedly violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(b), 1.15(c), 1.16(a)(2), and 1.16(d).

On January 20, 2026, **RANDALL BARRERA** [#00792349], of Corpus Christi, accepted a 30-month fully probated suspension effective February 1, 2026. An evidentiary panel of the District 11 Grievance Committee found that Barrera failed to properly safeguard client funds, failed to promptly deliver client funds, failed to hold client funds separate from his own property, failed to comply with the terms of a prior disciplinary judgment, and engaged in conduct involving misrepresentation.

Barrera violated Rules 1.15(a), 1.15(b), 1.15(c), 8.04(a)(3), and 8.04(a)(7). He agreed to pay $2,500 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On January 29, 2026, **R. SCOTT WOLFROM** [#21871040], of The Woodlands, accepted a one-year fully probated suspension effective January 1, 2026. An investigatory panel of the District 3 Grievance Committee found that Wolfrom neglected his client's legal matter and frequently failed to carry out completely the obligations he owed to his client. Wolfrom further failed to keep his client reasonably informed about the status of her case and failed to promptly comply with his client's reasonable requests for information. Additionally, Wolfrom failed to respond to the grievance.

Wolfrom violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.01(b)(2), 1.03(a), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay $500 in attorneys' fees.

On January 28, 2026, **PAUL THOMAS VINCENT** [#24060777], of Waxahachie, received an 18-month fully probated suspension beginning February 1, 2026, and ending on July 31, 2027. An evidentiary panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that on or about October 17, 2023, Vincent was court-appointed to represent the complainant in a criminal matter. Vincent failed to keep the complainant reasonably informed about the status of his matter and failed to comply with the complainant's reasonable requests for information. Vincent failed to timely furnish to the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel a response or other information as required by the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure and did not in good faith timely assert a privilege or other legal ground for his failure to do so.

Vincent violated Rules 1.03(a) and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay $2,064.64 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On February 11, 2026, **ADAM MICHAEL HELLECK** [#24038953], of Houston, accepted a 12-month judgment of partially probated suspension effective March 1, 2026, with the first two months actively suspended and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that, in representing a client, Helleck neglected a legal matter entrusted to him, frequently failed to carry out completely the obligations he owed to his client, and failed to keep his client reasonably informed about the status of his case. Also, upon request by his client, Helleck failed to promptly render a full accounting of the retainer fees paid by his client, and, upon termination of representation, Helleck failed to refund advanced payments of fees that had not been earned and engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation.

Helleck violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.01(b)(2), 1.03(a), 1.15(b), 1.16(d), and 8.04(a)(3). He was ordered to pay $4,000 in restitution and $1,500 in attorneys' fees and expenses.

On February 18, 2026, **TERRY LEVOY MARSAW** [#00786085], of Dallas, received a 36-month partially probated suspension effective March 15, 2026. Marsaw shall be actively suspended from the practice of law for a period of 12 months beginning March 15, 2026, and ending March 14, 2027. The 24-month period of probated suspension shall begin on March 15, 2027, and shall end on March 14, 2029. The 14th District Court of Dallas County found that Marsaw neglected a legal matter entrusted to him; failed to carry out completely the obligations he owed to a client; failed to keep a client reasonably informed about the status of a matter and promptly comply with reasonable requests for information; failed to explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation; failed to hold funds and other property belonging in whole or in part to clients or third persons that were in his possession in connection with a representation separate from his own property; failed to promptly notify the client or third person upon receiving funds or other property in which that client or third person had an interest; and failed to keep funds or other property in which both he and another person claimed interests separate until there was an accounting and severance of their interest.

Marsaw violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.01(b)(2), 1.03(a), 1.03(b), 1.15(a), 1.15(b), and 1.15(c). He was ordered to pay $1,973.87 in restitution and $11,338.26 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On February 9, 2026, **KEITH BRIAN KOZURA** [#24015150], of Flower Mound, received a five-year active suspension beginning February 9, 2026, and ending on February 8, 2031. An evidentiary panel of the District 14 Grievance Committee found that the complainant hired Kozura for representation in her divorce and paid Kozura $1,244 for legal services and filing fees. Kozura neglected the legal matter entrusted to him when he failed to file the agreed final divorce decree following a divorce hearing. As a result, the complainant's divorce decree was not entered, and her divorce petition was subsequently dismissed. Kozura stopped communicating with the complainant, failing to keep the complainant reasonably informed about the status of the matter and failing to promptly comply with the complainant's reasonable requests for information. Kozura failed to return unearned fees, and he failed to protect his client's interests when he failed to notify her that her suit was dismissed and that her husband filed a new petition for divorce, which was granted by default, resulting in the husband obtaining full custody of their children and moving them out of the United States.

Kozura violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), and 1.15(d). He was ordered to pay $1,244 in restitution, $1,925 in attorneys' fees, and $635 in direct expenses.

On January 20, 2026, **MARIA DOLORES GUEVARA** [#08592150], of Laredo and San Antonio, accepted a public reprimand. An investigatory panel of the District 10 Grievance Committee found Guevara neglected client matters, failed to keep the client reasonably informed, and failed to explain the matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation.

Guevara violated Rules 1.01(b), 1.03(a), and 1.03(b). She agreed to pay $1,200 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On February 3, 2026, **GEORGE WILLIAM VIE III** [#20579310], of Houston, received an agreed judgment of public reprimand. An investigatory panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that Vie, upon conclusion of employment with a firm, failed to surrender papers and property to which the firm and its clients were entitled and

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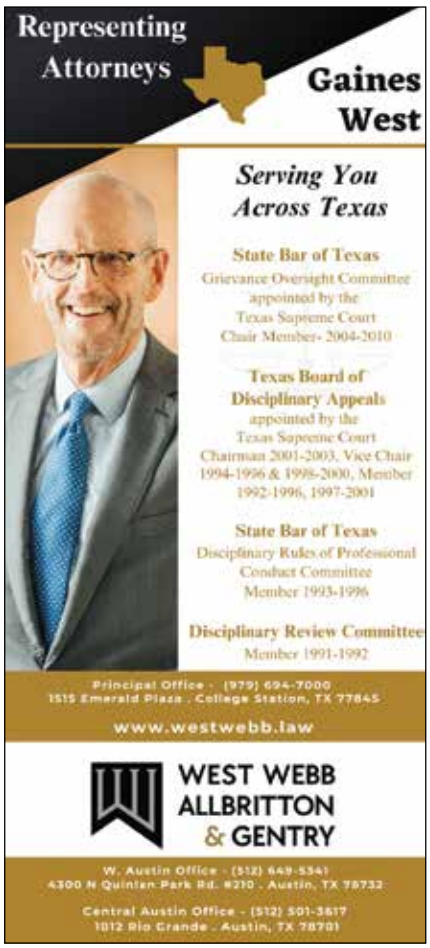
engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation.

Vie violated Rules 1.15(d) and 8.04(a)(3). He was ordered to pay $500 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On February 2, 2026, **EDWIN EMILIO REYES** [#24088290], of Houston, received an agreed judgment of public reprimand. An investigatory panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that, in representing a client, Reyes neglected a legal matter entrusted to him, failed to keep his client reasonably informed about the status of his client's legal matter and failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information, and failed to explain a legal matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit his client to make informed decisions regarding the representation.

Reyes violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), and 1.03(b). He was ordered to pay $500 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

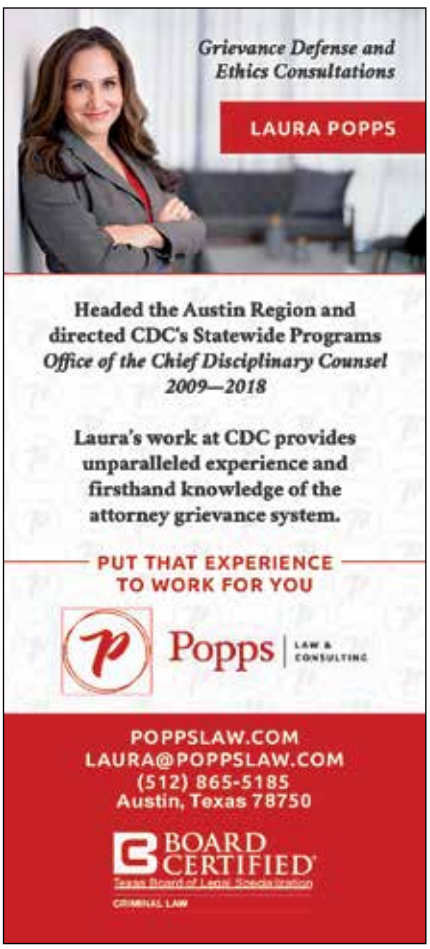


On January 16, 2026, **DON C. BURNS** [#03442510], of San Angelo, accepted a public reprimand. An investigatory panel of the District 15 Grievance Committee found that a conflict arose between Burns and his client that created a conflict of interest, and the continued representation of the client was adversely limited by Burns' own interest. Burns failed to obtain his client's consent to the conflict of interest.

Burns violated Rule 1.06(b)(2). He agreed to pay $1,000 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On February 2, 2026, **EDWIN EMILIO REYES** [#24088290], of Houston, received an agreed judgment of public reprimand. An investigatory panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that, in representing a client, Reyes neglected a legal matter entrusted to him, failed to keep his client reasonably informed about the status of his client's legal matter and failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information, and failed to explain a legal matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit his client to make informed decisions regarding the representation.

Reyes violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), and 1.03(b). Reyes was ordered to pay $500 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.



PRIVATE REPRIMANDS

Listed here is a breakdown of Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct violations for five attorneys, with the number in parentheses indicating the frequency of the violation. Please note that an attorney may be reprimanded for more than one rule violation.

1.01(b)(1)—In representing a client, a lawyer shall not neglect a legal matter entrusted to the lawyer (3).

1.01(b)(2)—In representing a client, a lawyer shall not frequently fail to carry out completely the obligations that the lawyer owes to a client or clients (2).

1.03(a)—A lawyer shall keep a client reasonably informed about the status of a matter and promptly comply with reasonable requests for information (5).

1.03(b)—A lawyer shall explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation (2).

1.16(d)—Upon termination of representation, a lawyer shall take steps to the extent reasonably practicable to protect a client's interests, such as giving reasonable notice to the client, allowing time for employment of other counsel, surrendering papers and property to which the client is entitled, and refunding any advance payments of fees that have not been earned. The lawyer may retain papers relating to the client to the extent permitted by other law only if such retention will not prejudice the client in the subject matter of the representation (1).

8.04(a)(3)—A lawyer shall not engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation (1). **TBJ**