

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Contact the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel at 877-953-5535, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals at 512-427-1578 or tjboda.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 ACTION

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

On April 15, 2024, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct issued a public reprimand to **URSULA HALL**, 165th Judicial District Court, Houston, Harris County.

BODA

On April 17, 2024, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals entered an agreed judgment of suspension in the reciprocal discipline case against San Antonio attorney **DANIEL G. GARCIA** [#07631820]. On October 26, 2023, an order of the adjudicating official was entered by the United States Department of Justice Executive Office for Immigration Review, Immigration Court, in the matter styled *In the Matter of Daniel G. Garcia*, Disciplinary Cases #D2018-0190, D2019-0052 in which Garcia was

suspended from the practice of law before the immigration courts, the Board of Immigration Appeals, and the Department of Homeland Security for two years and four months. Garcia was found in violation of 8 C.F.R. § 1003.102(c) (false statement of material fact), 8 C.F.R. § 1003.102(l) (failure to appear), 8 C.F.R. § 1003.102(n) (conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice), 8 C.F.R. § 1003.102(o) (competence), and 8 C.F.R. § 1003.102(q) (neglect). Garcia is suspended from the practice of law for two years and four months beginning April 17, 2024, and extending through August 16, 2026. BODA Case No. 68986.

REINSTATEMENT

TODD R. PHILLIPPI [#00790178], of Midlothian, filed a petition in the 443rd District Court in Ellis County for reinstatement as a member of the State Bar of Texas.

RESIGNATION

On April 16, 2024, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation in lieu of discipline of **MICHAEL LAKE MATTSON** [#24030007], of The Woodlands. At the time of Mattson's resignation, there were four pending matters against him alleging professional misconduct in the Dallas Regional Office.

In the first case, on or about September 19, 2014, the complainant hired Mattson to represent him in his immigration matters, specifically, filing an application for asylum and the supporting documents. The complainant paid Mattson \$5,300 for his representation. Mattson failed to reply to the complainant's requests for information and to keep him informed of the status of his matter. Mattson placed himself on inactive status with the State Bar and failed to inform the complainant of his cessation of practice in accordance with section 13.01 of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure. Mattson failed to withdraw from the representation when he went on inactive status. Upon going on inactive status,

Mattson failed to take any steps to protect the complainant's interest including giving reasonable notice to the complainant and returning unearned fees and client property to the complainant.

In the second case, in 2010, the complainant hired Mattson to represent him in his immigration matters. The complainant paid Mattson \$3,500 for his representation. Mattson frequently failed to appear for hearings in the complainant's immigration matter and failed to communicate with the complainant. Mattson failed to refund any unearned funds and the file to the complainant. Mattson failed to withdraw from the representation when his physical, mental, or psychological condition impaired his ability to represent the complainant.

In the third case, in March 2013, the complainant hired Mattson to represent him in his immigration matter. The complainant paid Mattson approximately \$5,000 for his representation. Mattson failed to inform the complainant of a hearing and as a result, a final deportation order was issued against the complainant.

In the fourth case, in October 2018, the complainant hired Mattson to represent him in his immigration matter. The complainant paid Mattson \$6,000 for his representation. Mattson neglected the matter resulting in a removal order being issued removing the complainant from the country. Mattson failed to communicate with the complainant and failed to return attorneys' fees that had not been earned.

Mattson allegedly violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.03(b), 1.15(a)(2), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(10).

SUSPENSIONS

On April 1, 2024, **LUIS ROBERTO CAMPOS** [#00792394], of Dallas, received a 30-month fully probated suspension beginning April 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2026. An investigatory panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that the complainant's mother hired Campos in 2020 to represent the complainant's brother in a criminal matter. Campos failed to hold

ATTORNEY GRIEVANCES

DON'T REPRESENT YOURSELF!

How often do you advise clients to represent themselves when accused of wrongdoing?

Why give yourself different advice?

CONSULTATION OR REPRESENTATION

STEVEN L. LEE

OVER 40 YEARS EXPERIENCE

11 years experience with the State Bar of Texas as Assistant and Deputy General Counsel as well as Acting General Counsel

LAW OFFICE OF STEVEN L. LEE, P.C.

1411 WEST AVENUE, SUITE 100
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701

(512) 215-2355

Representing Lawyers & Law Students Since 1991

STATEWIDE REPRESENTATION

funds and other property belonging to the complainant's family that was in Campos' possession in connection with the representation separate from Campos' own property. Upon request by the complainant, Campos failed to promptly render a full accounting regarding such funds and property. Furthermore, upon termination of representation, Campos failed to return paper and property to which the client was entitled.

Campos violated Rules 1.14(a), 1.14(b), and 1.15(d). He was ordered to pay \$750 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On April 16, 2024, **DARWIN MCKEE** [#13695700], of Austin, accepted an 18-month fully probated suspension beginning on May 1, 2024, related to a complaint filed by a former client. An investigatory panel of the District 9 Grievance Committee found that McKee was paid \$750 to represent the client in a lawsuit the client filed in Williamson County and subsequently in a matter arising out of the same transaction in Travis County. After a motion for summary judgment was filed in the Williamson County matter by the opposing party, McKee failed to file a response on his client's behalf and appear at a hearing held on October 19, 2023. As a result, the Williamson County case was dismissed with prejudice.

Likewise, in the Travis County matter, McKee failed to file a response to the opposing party's motions for summary judgment and dismissal of the case. As a result, the client's Travis County case was dismissed. Following the dismissal of both cases, the client asked McKee for a refund. McKee responded by telling the client that he had earned the full \$750. However, McKee failed to provide the client with an accounting showing how the fee was earned in full.

McKee violated Rules 1.01(b)(1) and 1.14(b). He was ordered to pay \$500 in attorneys' fees.

On April 16, 2024, **G. DANNY MENA** [#13929900], of El Paso, accepted a six-month fully probated suspension effective May 1, 2024. An investigatory panel of the District 17 Grievance

Committee found that Mena failed to carry out completely the obligations owed to a client and failed to respond to his client's requests for information.

Mena violated Rules 1.01(b)(2) and 1.03(a). He agreed to pay \$1,200 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

PUBLIC REPRIMANDS

On March 21, 2024, **ROBERT JOSEPH HEIL** [#24032286], of Corpus Christi, accepted a public reprimand. An investigatory panel of the District 11 Grievance Committee found that Heil neglected client matters, failed to keep clients reasonably informed, failed to provide an accounting of client funds, and failed to withdraw from a probate case.

Heil violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(b), 1.14(b), and 1.15(a)(3). He agreed to pay \$1,000 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On March 26, 2024, **DOROTHY KATHLEEN LAWRENCE** [#24072015], of

Dripping Springs, accepted a public reprimand. An investigatory panel of the District 15 Grievance Committee found that Lawrence neglected client matters, failed to keep clients reasonably informed, and failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information.

Lawrence violated Rules 1.01(b)(1) and 1.03(a). She agreed to pay \$900 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On April 9, 2024, **GLENN DEUTSCH LEVY** [#12264925], of San Antonio, accepted a public reprimand. An investigatory panel of the District 10 Grievance Committee found that Levy neglected client matters, failed to promptly respond to his client's request for information, failed to hold client funds in a trust account, and failed to refund unearned fees in a timely manner.

Levy violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.14(a), and 1.15(d). He agreed to pay \$1,000 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

STATE BAR GRIEVANCE DEFENSE

LEGAL MALPRACTICE

*Over 30 Years
Experience*

WAYNE H. PARIS
Two Riverway, Suite 1080
Houston, Texas 77056
(713) 951-9100

Statewide Representation

ATTORNEY GRIEVANCE & CRIMINAL DEFENSE FEDERAL AND STATE



JIM BURNHAM

Former Chairman of the State Bar
Grievance Committee

Former President of the Dallas Bar
Association

Former Dallas Assistant District
Attorney

Dallas Bar Association Trial Lawyer
of the Year

Fellow of the American College of
Trial Lawyers

Law Offices of Jim Burnham, PLLC
6116 N. Central Expy. Ste. 515
Dallas, Texas 75206

www.jburnhamlaw.com
jim@jburnhamlaw.com
Office: (214) 750-6616

On April 3, 2024, **CARLOS JAVIER RAMIREZ** [#24007893], of Austin, accepted an agreed judgment of public reprimand. An investigatory panel of the District 9 Grievance Committee found that in February 2020, Ramirez was paid \$1,500 to represent a client in a criminal matter in Travis County. Throughout the course of the representation, Ramirez failed to respond to the client's request for information and failed to inform her when hearings had been reset.

In addition, on December 20, 2020, a warrant was issued for the client's arrest and she only learned about the warrant by calling the court for an update on her criminal case. When the client contacted Ramirez about the warrant, he told her that he did not know anything about the warrant. The court also informed the client that nothing had been completed in her criminal case in two years and set a hearing in the matter for June 9, 2023. Notice of the hearing was sent to Ramirez; however, Ramirez failed to appear.

As a result, the client was forced to hire another attorney to represent her. Thereafter, the client sent a certified letter to Ramirez requesting a refund and the return of her case file. Ramirez did not respond.

Ramirez violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.03(b), 1.14(b), and 1.15(d). He was ordered to pay \$500 in attorneys' fees.

PRIVATE REPRIMANDS

Listed here is a breakdown of Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct violations for 11 attorneys, with the number in parentheses indicating the frequency of the violation. Please note that an attorney may be reprimanded for more than one rule violation.

1.01(b)(1)—In representing a client, a lawyer shall not neglect a legal matter entrusted to the lawyer (4).

1.03(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 (1).

1.04(a)—Entering into an arrangement for, charging or collecting an illegal fee or unconscionable fee (1).

1.14(a)—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 (1).

1.14(b)—Upon receiving funds or other property in which a client or third person has an interest, a lawyer shall promptly notify the client or third person. Except as stated in this rule or otherwise permitted by law or by agreement with the client, a lawyer shall promptly deliver to the client or third person any funds or other property that the client or third person is entitled to receive and, upon request by the client or third person, shall promptly render a full accounting regarding such property (2).

1.15(d)—Upon termination of representation, a lawyer shall take steps to the extent reasonably practicable to protect a client's interests, such as giving reasonable notice to the client, allowing time for employment of other counsel, surrendering papers and property to which the client is entitled, and refunding any advance payments of fees that have not been earned. The lawyer may retain papers relating to the client to the extent permitted by other law only if such retention will not prejudice the client in the subject matter of the representation (2).

7.01(a)—Making a false or misleading communication about the identity, qualifications, or services of the respondent (1).

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

8.04(a)(8)—A lawyer shall not fail to timely furnish to the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel or a district grievance committee a response or other information as required by the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, unless he or she in good faith timely asserts a privilege or other legal ground for failure to do so (2). **TBJ**

Representing Attorneys
Gaines West

State-wide Practice
State Bar of Texas
 Grievance Oversight Committee
 Appointed by the Texas Supreme Court
 Chair, 2006-2010
 Member, 2004-2010

Texas Board of Disciplinary Appeals
 Appointed by the Texas Supreme Court
 Chairman, 2001-2003
 Vice Chairman, 1994-1996, 1998-2000
 Member, 1992-1996, 1997-2003

State Bar of Texas
 Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct Committee
 Member, 1993-1996

Disciplinary Review Committee
 Member, 1991-1992

Texas Bar Foundation, Fellow
 State Bar of Texas, Member
 Brazos County Bar Association, Member
 Austin Bar Association, Member


WEST • WEBB ALLBRITTON & GENTRY

Principal Office - 979.694.7000
 1515 Emerald Plaza • College Station, TX 77845
 Austin - 512.501.3617
 1012 Rio Grande St. • Austin, TX 78701

westwebb.law

HUNT HUEY ATTORNEYS COUNSELORS

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



Jeanne M. Huey
 Hunt Huey PLLC

As a former Panel Chair and District 6 Grievance Committee Chair I have the experience to help you defend your reputation and livelihood.
 Call me at 214-336-7364 or email me at jhuey@hunthuey.com
<https://hunthuey.com>