

## DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Contact the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel at 877-953-5535, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals at 512-427-1578 or txboda.org, or the State Commission on Judicial Conduct at 512-463-5533. Some attorneys might share the same or similar names. To identify an attorney, please verify using that attorney's bar card number. Go to [texasbar.com](http://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](http://scjc.texas.gov).

On October 7, 2022, the Special Court of Review issued an opinion regarding *In Re Inquiry Concerning the Honorable Jonathan Bailey, CJC No. 19-1770*, vacating the State Commission on Judicial Conduct's public warning and dismissing the charges against **JONATHAN BAILEY** without sanctions.

On June 6, 2024, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct issued a public admonition to **JAMES AMES**, Bedford Municipal Court, Bedford, Tarrant County.

On June 6, 2024, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct issued a public warning to **FRANCISCO BALDERRAMA**, Lake Worth Municipal Court, Lake Worth, Tarrant County.

On June 6, 2024, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct issued a public admonition to **MARINA CHAVEZ-SOTO**, El Paso Municipal Court, El Paso, El Paso County.

On May 3, 2024, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct issued a public admonition to **MARK MOREFIELD**, 75th District Court, Liberty, Liberty County.

On June 21, 2024, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct issued a public warning and order of additional education to **JESUS NEVAREZ**, 231st District Court, Fort Worth, Tarrant County.

On July 8, 2024, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct issued an order lifting the suspension of **FRANK AGUILAR**, 228th Judicial District Court, Houston, Harris County, and he is no longer suspended from office.

On June 6, 2024, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct issued a public warning to **MIGUEL SALINAS**, La Joya Municipal Court, La Joya, Hidalgo County.

### BODA

On July 12, 2024, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals entered an agreed judgment of probated suspension in the reciprocal discipline case against Shreveport, Louisiana, attorney **CARL HENRY FRANKLIN** [#07373850]. On October 17, 2023, an order per curiam was entered by the Supreme Court of Louisiana in the matter styled *In Re: Carl Henry Franklin*, No. 2023-B-01209, in which Franklin was suspended for six months with the suspension deferred, subject to a one-year probation. Franklin agreed he violated Louisiana Rules of Professional Conduct 1.15 (a, b, d, and f) (safekeeping property). He is suspended for six months with the suspension fully probated for one year, beginning July 12, 2024, and extending through July 11, 2025. BODA Case No. 69470.

On June 24, 2024, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals entered an agreed

judgment of probated suspension in the reciprocal discipline case against Metairie, Louisiana, attorney **JIMMY S. HALL** [#24057583]. On December 5, 2023, an order per curiam was entered by the Supreme Court of Louisiana in the matter styled *In Re: Jim S. Hall*, No. 2023-B-0935, in which Hall was suspended for four months with the suspension fully deferred. Hall was found in violation of Louisiana Rules of Professional Conduct 3.3(a)(1 and 3) (candor toward the tribunal), 8.4 (c) (conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation), 8.4(d) (conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice), 7.2(a)(2) and (c)(1)(I) (communications concerning the lawyer's services), and 7.7(c) (evaluation of advertisements). He is suspended for four months with the suspension fully probated, beginning June 24, 2024, and extending through October 23, 2024. BODA Case No. 69471.

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On June 18, 2024, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals entered an agreed judgment of public reprimand in the reciprocal discipline case against Abilene attorney **WILLIAM TIMOTHY LADYMAN** [#11787900]. On February 8, 2024, an order was entered by the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas in the matter styled *Dale Scoggins, et. al, v. Native Community Capital*, No. 1:23-CV-193-H, in which Ladyman received a public reprimand after he failed to show good cause why he failed to comply with the court's orders. BODA Case No. 69412.

On July 22, 2024, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals issued an agreed judgment of indefinite disability suspension against McAllen attorney **RICHARD D. SCHELL** [#17736780]. The board found that Schell is suffering from a disability. Schell is actively suspended, effective July 22, 2024, until reinstated by the board or by a court. BODA Case No. 69300.

On May 16, 2024, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals issued an order dismissing for want of jurisdiction an appeal filed by a **TEXAS ATTORNEY**. On February 1, 2024, a judgment of private reprimand was issued by an evidentiary panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee of the State Bar of Texas, finding that the attorney violated Texas Disciplinary Rule of Professional Conduct 8.04(a)(8) (failure to respond to disciplinary case). BODA Case No. 69075.

On November 1, 2023, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals issued a judgment in the appeal filed by Fort Worth attorney **CURTIS LILLY** [#24030063]. The board affirmed the judgment of partially probated suspension issued by an evidentiary panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee of the State Bar of Texas on January 9, 2023. The evidentiary panel found that Lilly violated Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional

Conduct 3.03(a)(1) (false statement to a tribunal) and 8.04(a)(3) (conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation). Lilly was suspended for 48 months, with an 18-month active suspension beginning January 23, 2023, and ending July 22, 2024, followed by a probated suspension ending on January 22, 2027. On May 31, 2024, the Supreme Court of Texas dismissed Lilly's appeal of the judgment for want of prosecution. [Case No. 24-0018]. BODA Case No. 67514.

On June 14, 2024, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals issued a dismissal order, dismissing for want of prosecution the appeal filed by Houston attorney **RODNEY E. MOTON** [#24001432]. On September 8, 2023, a judgment of fully probated suspension was issued by an evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee of the State Bar of Texas, finding that Moton violated Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional

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Conduct 1.03(a) (communication), 1.14(b) (safekeeping property), and 1.15(d) (failure to return unearned fees). Moton was suspended from the practice of law from November 1, 2023, through April 30, 2024, with the suspension fully probated. BODA Case No. 68428.

**RESIGNATION**

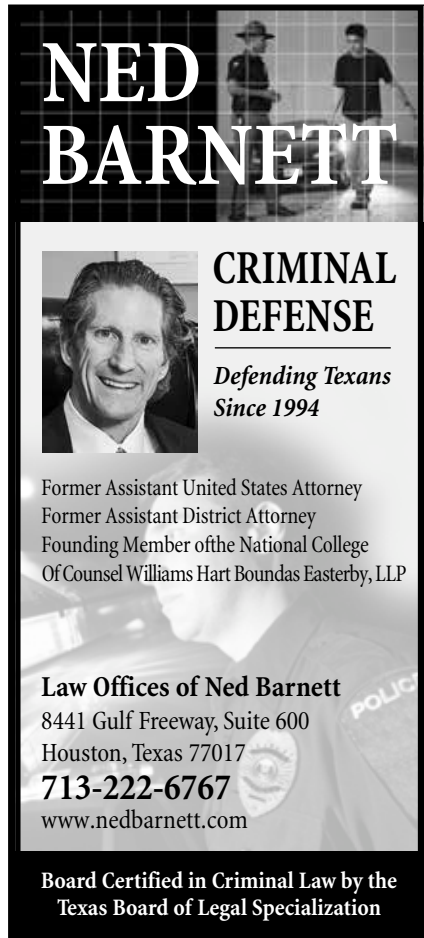
On June 18, 2024, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation in lieu of discipline of **RODOLFO ZEPEDA** [#22258560], of San Antonio. At the time of his resignation, Zepeda had two grievances pending alleging Zepeda failed to explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation; made false statements of material fact or law to a tribunal and failed to disclose facts to a tribunal when disclosure was necessary to avoid assisting a criminal or fraudulent act; failed to make reasonable efforts to ensure that

the person's conduct was compatible with the professional obligations of a lawyer; assisted a nonlawyer in the unauthorized practice of law; violated the disciplinary rules through the acts of another; committed a serious crime or other criminal act that reflected adversely on honesty, trustworthiness, or fitness as a lawyer in other respects; and engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation.

Zepeda allegedly violated Rules 1.03(b), 3.03(a)(1), 3.03(a)(2), 5.03(a), 5.05(b), 8.04(a)(1), 8.04(a)(2), and 8.04(a)(3).

**SUSPENSIONS**

On June 24, 2024, **ISAIAS JOEL SOLORZANO** [#24077239], of Lubbock, agreed to a 13-month partially probated suspension effective December 1, 2024, with the first month actively served and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 16 Grievance



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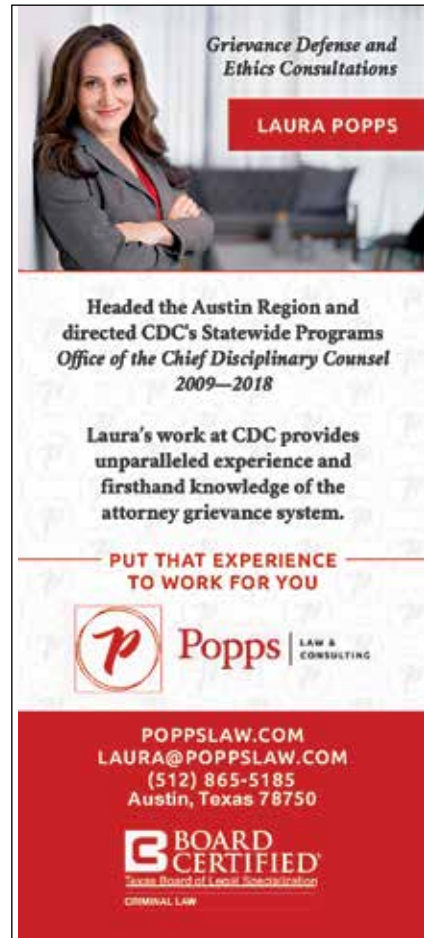
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Committee found Solorzano failed to explain matters to the extent reasonably necessary to permit his client to make informed decisions regarding the representation, represented a person in a substantially related matter in which that person's interests were materially adverse to the interests of his client, failed to disclose facts to a judge when disclosure was necessary to avoid assisting a fraudulent act, made a false statement of material fact to third persons, and engaged in conduct involving dishonesty and misrepresentation.

Solorzano violated Rules 1.03(b), 1.06(b)(1), 3.03(a)(2), 4.01(a), and 8.04(a)(3).

On July 16, 2024, **JAMES BRANDON GAINES** [#24077991], of Lubbock, accepted an 18-month fully probated suspension effective June 1, 2024. An investigatory panel of the District 16 Grievance Committee found that Gaines neglected a legal matter entrusted to the lawyer.

Gaines violated Rule 1.01(b)(1). He agreed to pay \$800 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

### PRIVATE REPRIMANDS

Listed here is a breakdown of Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct violations for three 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 (1).

1.03(a)—Failing to keep a client reasonably informed about the status of a matter and promptly comply with reasonable requests for information (1).

1.14(a)—A lawyer shall hold funds and other property belonging in whole or in part to clients or third persons that are in a lawyer's possession in connection with a representation separate from the lawyer's own property. Such funds shall be kept in a separate account, designated as a "trust" or "escrow" account, maintained

in the state where the lawyer's office is situated, or elsewhere with the consent of the client or third person. Other client property shall be identified as such and appropriately safeguarded. Complete records of such account funds and other property shall be kept by the lawyer and shall be preserved for a period of five years after termination of the representation (1).

1.14(b)—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 (1).

1.15(d)—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 (1).

8.04(a)(8)—A lawyer shall not fail to timely furnish to a district grievance committee a response unless he/she in good faith timely asserts a privilege or other legal ground for failure to do so (1). **TBJ**

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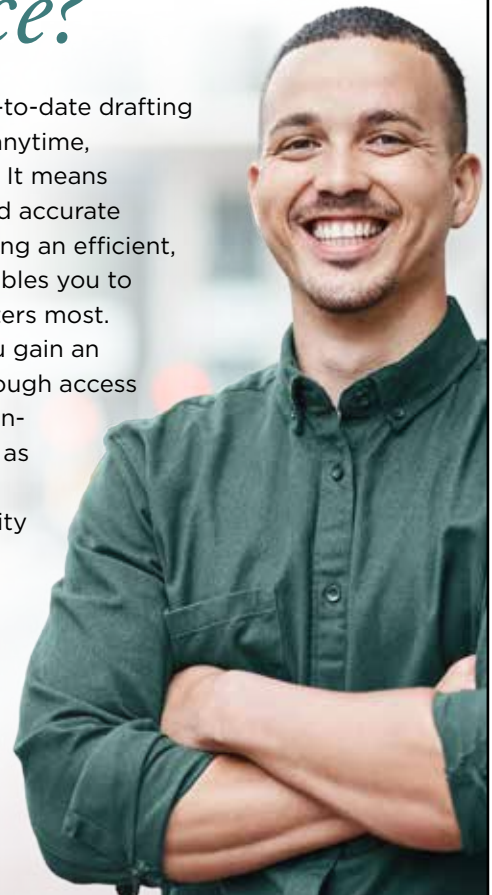
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