

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 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 August 22, 2024, the Special Court of Review issued a per curiam opinion regarding *In Re Inquiry Concerning the Honorable Grace Uzomba, CJC No. 20-0623*, finding that the State Commission on Judicial Conduct established by a preponderance of the evidence that **GRACE UZOMBA** violated Article V, Section 1-a(6) (A), of the Texas Constitution and Canons 2(A), 3(B)(2), and 3(B)(4) of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct and issuing a public reprimand.

On December 13, 2024, the Special Court of Review issued an opinion regarding *In Re Inquiry Concerning Honorable Ursula Hall*, vacating the State Commission on Judicial Conduct's public reprimand and dismissing the charges against **URSULA HALL** without sanctions.

On December 27, 2024, the Special

Court of Review issued an opinion regarding *In Re Honorable Franklin Bynum, CJC Nos. 20-1415 & 21-0679*, concluding that the State Commission on Judicial Conduct met its burden of proving that **FRANKLIN BYNUM** willfully violated Canons 2A, 2B, 3B(2), 3B(4), 3B(5), 3B(6), 3B(8), 3B(10), 4A(1) and 4A(2) of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct and Article V, Section 1-a(6)A of the Texas Constitution and issuing a public reprimand to Bynum.

SUSPENSIONS

On December 2, 2024, **JORDAN ELIZABETH HARTSHORN** [#24096929], of El Paso, accepted a nine-month fully probated suspension effective December 1, 2024. An investigatory panel of the District 17 Grievance Committee found that Hartshorn neglected client matters, failed to explain matters to clients to make informed decisions regarding the representation, represented opposing parties in the same litigation, failed to cease work in a client matter when

representation was terminated, failed to tender all of a client's material after the representation ended, and engaged in conduct involving dishonesty and misrepresentation.

Hartshorn violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(b), 1.06(a), 1.15(a)(3), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(3). She agreed to pay \$1,500 in restitution and \$800 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On December 2, 2024, **MATTHEW RYAN MALDONADO** [#24096170], of Kyle, accepted a 12-month fully probated suspension effective December 1, 2024. An investigatory panel of the District 15 Grievance Committee found that Maldonado failed to timely furnish a response to the grievance.

Maldonado violated Rule 8.04(a)(8). He agreed to pay \$1,250 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On December 3, 2024, **JOHN LEE MOTLEY** [#14595950], of Richardson, agreed to a 24-month partially probated

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suspension beginning with an active suspension of six months on January 1, 2025, and ending on June 30, 2025. The probated suspension would begin on July 1, 2025, and end on December 31, 2026. An investigatory panel of the District 1 Grievance Committee found that in representing the complainant, Motley neglected the complainant's matter and frequently failed to carry out completely the obligations Motley owed to the complainant. Motley failed to keep the complainant reasonably informed about the status of the complainant's child support matter and failed to comply with reasonable requests for information from the complainant. Motley failed to explain the child support matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the complainant to make informed decisions regarding the representation. Motley failed to file a response to the grievance.

Motley violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.01(b)(2), 1.03(a), 1.03(b), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$750 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

PUBLIC REPRIMANDS

On November 18, 2024, **ELSIE MARTIN-SIMON** [#18382800], of Houston, accepted a public reprimand. An investigatory panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that Martin-Simon neglected the legal matter entrusted to her, failed to keep her client informed about the status of the matter, and failed to promptly comply with her client's reasonable request for information.

Martin-Simon violated Rules 1.01(b)(1) and 1.03(a). She agreed to pay \$1,300 in restitution and \$250 in attorneys' fees and expenses.

On November 21, 2024, **STACY LEIGH GRANT** [#24096134], of Amarillo, received an agreed judgment of public reprimand. An investigatory panel of the District 13 Grievance Committee found that Grant failed to timely furnish a response to the grievance or other information required and did not timely assert a privilege or other legal ground for failure to do so.

Grant violated Rule 8.04(a)(8). She was ordered to pay \$750 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)—Neglecting a legal matter entrusted to the lawyer (1).




1.03(b)—Failing to explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation (1).


3.03(a)(1)—Knowingly made a false statement of material fact or law to a tribunal (1).

3.08(a)—The continued employment as an advocate before a tribunal in a legal adjudicatory proceeding when respondent knew that he would be a witness necessary to establish an essential fact on behalf of respondent's client (1).

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

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