



DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

General questions regarding attorney discipline should be directed to the Chief Disciplinary Counsel's Office, toll-free (877)953-5535 or (512)453-5535. The Board of Disciplinary Appeals may be reached at (512)475-1578. Information and copies of actual orders are available at www.txboda.org. The State Commission on Judicial Conduct may be contacted toll-free (877)228-5750 or (512)463-5533. Please note that persons disciplined by the Commission on Judicial Conduct are not necessarily licensed attorneys.

REINSTATEMENT

Victor Jacob Bieganowski [#02301100], 61, of El Paso, has filed a petition for reinstatement in the 34th District Court of El Paso County for reinstatement as a member of the State Bar of Texas.

BODA ACTIONS

On April 13, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed a final judgment suspending **Saul A. Gower** [#08031500], 59, of Houston, from the practice of law during the term of his criminal proba-

tion. On Aug. 15, 2007, Gower pleaded guilty to one count of misbranding a pharmaceutical drug while held for sale in violation of Title 21 U.S.C. §331(k) and 333(a)(2) and Title 18 U.S.C. §2 and one count of making a false statement to an agent of the Food and Drug Administration in violation of 18 U.S.C. §1001, intentional crimes as defined in the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, in criminal case no. H-07-100, styled, *United States of America v. Saul Gower*, in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Houston Division. On June 26, 2008, a judgment was signed in case no. 4:07CR00100-02 sentencing Gower to four years of probation, restricting him to his place of residence for six months, and ordering him to perform 300 hours of community service and pay \$200 in assessments; \$1,000 in fines; and \$98,426 in restitution. Gower will be suspended from the practice of law until the end of his term of criminal probation, June 25, 2012. BODA cause number 45574.

On April 13, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed an interlocutory order of suspension against **Mazen Younes Abdallah** [#24054175], 29, of Houston. On May 20, 2009, Abdallah was found guilty of conspiracy to defraud and falsely bill Medicare and Medicaid in violation of 18 U.S.C. §371, an intentional crime as defined in the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, in case no. 4:07CR00155-04, styled, *United States of America v. Mazen Abdallah*, in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Houston Division. Abdallah was sentenced to 30 months imprisonment followed by 30 months of supervised release. He was further ordered to pay \$100 in assess-

ments and \$637,425.79 in restitution. Abdallah has appealed the conviction. The Board retains jurisdiction to enter a final judgment when the criminal appeal is final. BODA cause number 45332.

On April 13, 2010, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals revoked the probation of **Alton W. Payne** [#15649450], 61, of Houston, and suspended him from the practice of law for 22 months, effective April 13. On Nov. 25, 2008, Payne signed a corrected agreed judgment of partially probated suspension that was also signed by the District 4-B3 Grievance Committee. The agreed judgment stipulated that Payne committed professional misconduct by violating Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(3) and (a)(8) and suspended him from the practice of law for two years, with the last 22 months of the suspension probated on certain terms and conditions. The Board of Disciplinary Appeals found that Payne materially violated the terms and conditions of corrected agreed judgment of suspension. Payne has appealed the revocation to the Supreme Court of Texas (cause number 10-0303). BODA cause number 45772.

On April 13, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed a judgment of suspension against **Joanne Engum** [#24007161], 42, of Watertown, Mass. On Oct. 30, 2009, the Supreme Court of the State of Louisiana signed an order/per curium suspending Engum from the practice of law for one year and one day in the matter styled, *In Re: Joanne Engum, No. 2009-B-1619*. Engum did not answer or appear in this disciplinary proceeding. In accordance with Part IX of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, Engum is suspended from the practice of law in Texas for one year, effective April 13, 2010. BODA cause number 46090.

On April 13, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals affirmed the judgment of partially probated suspension of **Cyril**

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Chukwurah [#24048394], 54, of Houston, signed by an evidentiary panel of the District 4-B Grievance Committee in case nos. H0020723857 and H0120827940 on June 29, 2009. Chukwurah remains on a probated suspension until Oct. 31, 2011. BODA cause number 44874.

On April 13, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals affirmed the judgment of partially probated suspension of **Thomas Anthony Zakes** [#22243420], 48, of Houston, signed by an evidentiary panel of the District 4-B Grievance Committee in case nos. H0100725482, H0110725558, and H0050826779 on March 12, 2009. Zakes remains on a probated suspension until April 30, 2012. BODA cause number 44450.

On April 13, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals affirmed the default judgment of partially probated suspension of **Manuel A. Velasco** [#20540000], 82, of Pasadena, signed by an evidentiary panel of the District 4-E10 Grievance Committee in case nos. H0090725265 on Feb. 19, 2009. Velasco is actively suspended from the practice of law until Feb. 12, 2012 and on a probated suspension until Feb. 12, 2014. BODA cause number 44169.

On March 9, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed an agreed judgment of indefinite disability suspension against **Paige Horelica** [#24010112], 38, of Richmond, in accordance with Part XII of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure and Section 8 of the Internal Procedural Rules of the Board of Disciplinary Appeals. BODA cause number 46280.

DISBARMENT

On April 14, **Paul Alan Lockman** [#12475000], 63, of Dallas, was disbarred. An evidentiary panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that in the first matter, Lockman failed to keep funds belonging to a third party in a separate trust account. Upon receiving funds in which the third party had an interest, Lockman failed to promptly

notify the third party, failed to promptly deliver the funds, and failed to promptly render a full accounting regarding such funds. Lockman engaged in misconduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation.

In a second matter, Lockman neglected the legal matter. He also failed to keep his client reasonably informed about the status of the matter. In both matters, Lockman failed to timely furnish to the Chief Disciplinary Counsel's office a response or other information as required. Lockman did not in good faith timely assert a privilege or other legal ground for failure to do so.

Lockman violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.14(a) and (b), and 8.04(a)(3) and (a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$3,943.75 in attorney's fees and costs.

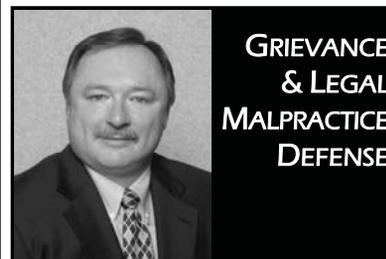
Lockman had until May 14, 2009, to file an appeal.

RESIGNATIONS

On April 15, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation, in lieu of discipline, of **Dwayne Hoover** [#09941300], 54, of Granbury. The Court found that on July 5, 2006, Hoover pleaded guilty in the 396th District Court of Tarrant County to two counts of indecency with a child — contact and four counts of indecency with a child — exposure and was sentenced to four years confinement in the institutional division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, which would subject him to compulsory discipline.

On April 15, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation, in lieu of discipline, of **John David Townsend** [#20165850], 46, of Fort Worth. The Court found that on Feb. 19, 2008, an order of deferred adjudication was entered in the 291st Judicial District Court of Dallas County, wherein Townsend pleaded guilty to aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and was placed on 10 years' deferred probation, ordered to complete 240 hours of community service, enter a batterer's intervention and prevention program, enter

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family violence counseling, submit to electronic monitoring for 90 days upon release from residential treatment, enter residential treatment for substance abuse at the Salvation Army, submit to intensive outpatient treatment, attend Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous meetings, and ordered to pay a \$2,000 fine and \$100 in assessments, which would subject him to compulsory discipline.

On April 15, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation, in lieu of discipline, of **Phyllis Butler Royal** [#17351720], 58, of Odessa. The Court found that on Feb. 9, a judgment in a criminal case was entered in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas, Midland Division, wherein Royal pleaded guilty to bank fraud, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §1344, and was committed

to the custody of the U.S. Bureau of Prisons for a term of one year and one day. Upon release from imprisonment, Royal shall be on supervised release for four years and was further ordered to pay \$19,100 in restitution and \$100 in assessments. Royal's conviction would subject her to compulsory discipline.

SUSPENSIONS

On April 19, **John Michael Moore** [#00792285], 45, of Houston, accepted a five-year, partially probated suspension effective April 1, with the first three years actively served and the remainder probated. The 127th District Court of Harris County found that in connection with a personal injury matter, Moore failed to promptly distribute client funds and failed to hold client funds separate from his own personal property. Moore also failed to respond to the client's requests for information regarding the status of the matter. Moore failed to timely furnish to the Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel a response as required by the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

Moore violated Rules 1.03(a); 1.14(a), (b), and (c); and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$1,668.60 in attorney's fees and expenses and \$46,667.67 in restitution.

On April 14, **Luro C. Taylor** [#19712700], 59, of Houston, received a three and a half year, partially probated suspension effective May 31, with the first six months actively served and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 4-F Grievance Committee found that Taylor was hired for representation in a civil matter. Following unsuccessful mediation, the client fired Taylor and demanded his file back. Taylor returned the file, but failed to withdraw from the representation. Taylor, still counsel of record, failed to appear for a scheduled hearing and the Court awarded discovery sanctions against the client, striking his pleadings. Taylor continued to represent the client in the matter and final judgment was eventually entered against the client.

Taylor violated Rules 1.01(b)(1) and 1.15(a)(1). He was ordered to pay \$2,479 in attorney's fees and costs.

On April 20, Taylor received a four-year, partially probated suspension effective June 1, with the first year to be actively served and the remainder probated. The 145th Judicial District Court found that Taylor failed to adequately communicate with one complainant and to respond to her grievance. He also failed to respond to the grievance filed by a second complainant.

Taylor violated Rules 1.03(a) and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$1,500 in attorney's fees.

Taylor had until May 20 to file an appeal.

On May 12, **Alicia Rochelle Johnson** [#00787771], 44, of Fort Worth, accepted a one-year probated suspension effective May 15. In representing her client, Johnson neglected the legal matter entrusted to her and failed to carry out completely the obligations Johnson owed to her client, to keep the client reasonably informed about the status of her eviction matter, to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information from the client, and to explain the eviction matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation.

Johnson violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), (b)(2) and 1.03(a) and (b). She agreed to pay \$1,500 in restitution and \$1,025 in attorney's fees and costs.

On May 3, **George C. Camp** [#03687000], 65, of Austin, received a two-year, active suspension effective May 1. An evidentiary panel of the District 9 Grievance Committee found that Camp entered into a contract with the Texas Department of Transportation on March 2, 2007, to provide an analysis of applicable water law in a pending matter. Camp held himself out as an attorney at law in the contract and in correspondence with TXDOT. Camp has been continuously suspended from the practice of law since June 9, 1995.

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Camp violated Rule 8.04(a)(11). He was ordered to pay \$3,993.75 in attorney's fees and expenses.

On May 11, **Jimmy Mark Gilbreth** [#07904793], 49, of Bellaire, accepted a one-year, fully probated suspension effective July 14, 2009. An evidentiary panel of the District 4-E Grievance Committee found that Gilbreth, while representing clients before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, failed to keep his clients reasonably informed about the status of their legal matters.

Gilbreth violated Rule 1.03(a). He agreed to pay \$200 in attorney's fees.

On March 25, **Brenda Vickers** [#18542030], 52, of Bedford, received a four-year, fully probated suspension effective April 1. Vickers failed to hold funds belonging in whole to the complainant that were in Vickers' possession in connection with the representation separate from Vickers' own property. Vickers failed to disburse funds in her trust account only to those persons entitled to receive them by virtue of the representation or by law.

Vickers violated Rules 1.14(a) and (c). She was ordered to pay \$2,417 in attorney's fees and expenses.

On Jan. 20, **Paul Wesley Cordova** [#24030612], 42, of Houston, received a three-year, partially probated suspension effective Feb. 1, with the first year and a half actively served and the remainder probated. The District 4-F Grievance Committee found that Cordova was hired for representation in a personal injury matter. Cordova filed suit and gave his client notice of the trial date; however, Cordova failed to appear for trial. Cordova also failed to maintain communication with his client. Furthermore, Cordova failed to file a response to the grievance.

Cordova violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$927.50 in attorney's fees and costs.

REPRIMANDS

On April 16, **Carol W. Myers** [#14758480], 62, of Pasadena, accepted a public reprimand. The 190th Judicial District Court of Harris County found that Myers failed to abide by her client's decisions concerning the objectives and general methods of representation.

Myers violated Rule 1.02(a)(1). She agreed to pay \$1,000 in attorney's fees and costs.

On April 5, **James R. Reed** [#16679300], 53, of Conroe, received a public reprimand. An evidentiary panel of the District 4E Grievance Committee found that Reed failed to keep his client reasonably informed about the status of the client's legal matter and failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information. Reed knowingly failed to respond to a lawful demand for information from

the Chief Disciplinary Counsel's office.

Reed violated Rules 1.03(a) and 8.01(b). He was ordered to pay \$7,860.17 in attorney's fees and costs.

On April 30, **Craig F. Sandling** [#17621700], 56, of Austin, accepted a public reprimand. An evidentiary panel of the District 9 Grievance Committee found that the complainant hired Sandling in February 2008 to appeal his parole revocation. On April 26, 2008, Sandling received a letter from the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles stating that they had voted to deny the motion. Sandling failed to notify the complainant of the outcome of the case until Feb. 9, 2009, when Sandling sent him a copy of his response to this complaint.

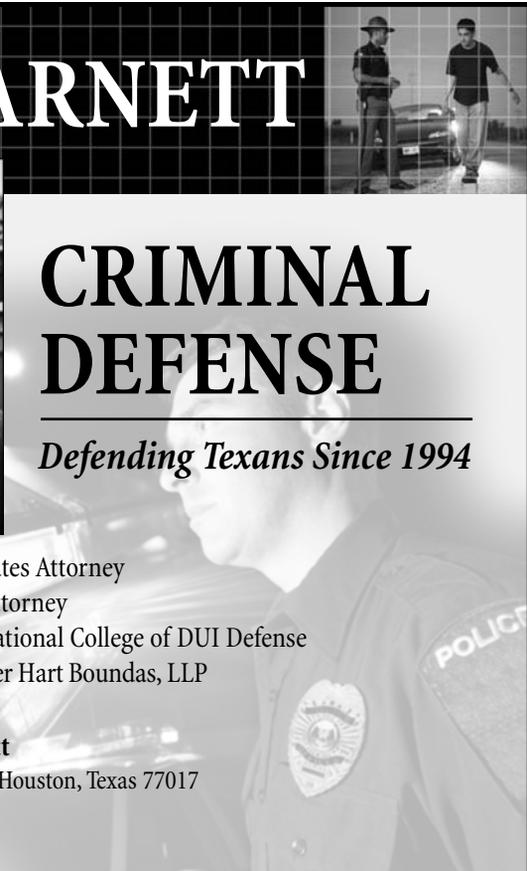
Sandling violated Rule 1.03(a). He was ordered to pay \$748.92 in attorney's fees and expenses. ❖

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