

COMMISSION FOR LAWYER DISCIPLINE

REPORT

TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ON
ATTORNEY DISCIPLINE

SEPTEMBER 2021

Disciplinary Sanctions
06/1/2021 - 8/31/2021

DISBARMENTS	District	# of Complaints Resolved
Fleischer, Thomas F.	7	1
Izen, Afton Jane	4	1
Pagano, Christina E.	9	1

Board of Disciplinary Appeals:

Delgado, Judge Rodolfo	BODA	1
Finley, W. Thomas	BODA	3
Total:	5	7

RESIGNATIONS IN LIEU OF DISCIPLINE	District	# of Complaints Resolved
Alanis, Roel	12	3
Davis, William P.	6	2
Gupta, Viney K.	9	2
Jones, Amelia Christina	14	23
Joseph, Willie R. Jr.	6	4
McDermed, Breccia M.	8	5
Steiner, Gigi Jordan	6	1

Board of Disciplinary Appeals:

Perez, Noe L. Jr.	BODA	5
Total:	8	45

SUSPENSIONS	District	# of Complaints Resolved
Allen, Jeffrey Roberts	7	1
Baez, Edgardo Rafael	10	1
Conley, Carlton	10	1
DeGarza, Andre	5	1
Eureste, Arthur R.	4	1
Grantham, David Shane	6	2
Green, Loren Craig	7	2
Harris, James Bruce	14	1
Hughes, Carl Donald Jr.	6	1
Jones, Amelia Christina	14	1
Klevenhagen, John Joseph III	4	1
Lewis-Perez, Jana Samone	5	1
Mastriani, John Victor	4	1
Mastriani, John Victor	4	1
Mastriani, John Victor	4	1
Mastriani, John Victor	4	1
Mastriani, John Victor	4	1
McCoy, Dianna Lee	13	2
Nolan, Pattie Jo	3	1
Panick, Heather Catherine Sutherland	4	1
Quinata, Derek Alfonso	17	1
Stovall, Max Franklin	4	8
Board of Disciplinary Appeals:		
Jefferson Smith, Deanna Marie	BODA	1
Total:	23	33

PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	District	# of Complaints Resolved
Adams, J. Paxton	3	1
Adams, J. Paxton	3	1
Etheridge, John Blake	10	1
Fisher, Sharion L.	6	1
Fleischer, Thomas F.	7	1
Josephson, Sean Rolfe	4	1
Mena, G. Danny	17	1
Onyenah, Kenneth Chuks	6	1
Parks, Clyde R.	6	2
Turner, Thomas J.	6	1

Board of Disciplinary Appeals:

Domangue, Dina Fae	BODA	1
Total:		11
		12

PRIVATE REPRIMANDS

Grievance Comm.	# of Sanctions	# of Complaints Resolved
2	2	3
3	2	2
4	4	4
6	3	3
7	1	1
9	1	1
10	1	1
11	2	2
12	2	2
15	2	2
16	1	1
BODA	1	1
Total:		22
		23
Grievance Referral Program		23
Grand Total:		92
		143

Disciplinary Actions - Current Bar Year

BAR YEARS 2021-2022	Total Sanctions	Total Complaints Resolved
DISBARMENTS	5	7
RESIGNATIONS IN LIEU OF DISCIPLINE	8	45
SUSPENSIONS	23	33
PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	11	12
PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	22	23
GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	23	23
Total:	92	143

*does not reflect year-end figures/summary data includes ytd

Disciplinary Actions - Previous Bar Year

BAR YEARS 2020-2021	Total Sanctions	Total Complaints Resolved
DISBARMENTS	18	48
RESIGNATIONS IN LIEU OF DISCIPLINE	15	31
SUSPENSIONS	123	156
PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	36	42
PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	100	102
GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	80	80
Total:	372	459

BAR YEARS 2019-2020	Total Sanctions	Total Complaints Resolved
DISBARMENTS	21	28
RESIGNATIONS IN LIEU OF DISCIPLINE	9	35
SUSPENSIONS	140	188
PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	39	41
PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	106	115
GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	86	88
Total:	401	495

BAR YEARS 2018-2019	Total Sanctions	Total Complaints Resolved
DISBARMENTS	14	38
RESIGNATIONS IN LIEU OF DISCIPLINE	17	88
SUSPENSIONS	152	209
PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	32	39
PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	124	138
GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	75	82
Total:	414	594

BAR YEARS 2017-2018	Total Sanctions	Total Complaints Resolved
DISBARMENTS	21	49
RESIGNATIONS IN LIEU OF DISCIPLINE	23	103
SUSPENSIONS	113	161
PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	25	29
PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	70	74
GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	79	80
Total:	331	496

BAR YEARS 2016-2017	Total Sanctions	Total Complaints Resolved
DISBARMENTS	21	63
RESIGNATIONS IN LIEU OF DISCIPLINE	28	124
SUSPENSIONS	126	182
PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	30	37
PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	90	98
GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	50	50
Total:	345	554

BAR YEARS 2015-2016	Total Sanctions	Total Complaints Resolved
DISBARMENTS	22	61
RESIGNATIONS IN LIEU OF DISCIPLINE	27	146
SUSPENSIONS	132	205
PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	30	33
PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	67	72
GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	47	47
Total:	325	564

BAR YEARS 2014-2015	Total Sanctions	Total Complaints Resolved
DISBARMENTS	27	56
RESIGNATIONS IN LIEU OF DISCIPLINE	19	56
SUSPENSIONS	113	147
PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	32	36
PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	66	72
GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	63	71
Total:	320	438

BAR YEARS 2013-2014	Total Sanctions	Total Complaints Resolved
DISBARMENTS	22	41
RESIGNATIONS IN LIEU OF DISCIPLINE	17	59
SUSPENSIONS	130	169
PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	31	35
PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	63	70
GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	58	58
Total:	321	432

BAR YEARS 2012-2013	Total Sanctions	Total Complaints Resolved
DISBARMENTS	39	51
RESIGNATIONS	24	46
SUSPENSIONS	122	160
PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	37	40
PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	89	91
GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	56	56
Total:	367	444

BAR YEARS 2011-2012	Total Sanctions	Total Complaints Resolved
DISBARMENTS	38	45
RESIGNATIONS	27	87
SUSPENSIONS	137	174
PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	40	41
PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	106	115
GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	54	54
Total:	402	516

BAR YEARS 2010-2011	Total Sanctions	Total Complaints Resolved
DISBARMENTS	28	52
RESIGNATIONS	23	101
SUSPENSIONS	157	254
PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	40	50
PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	77	82
GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	46	46
Total:	371	584

BAR YEARS 2009-2010	Total Sanctions	Total Complaints Resolved
DISBARMENTS	25	33
RESIGNATIONS	22	40
SUSPENSIONS	111	169
PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	37	47
PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	81	89
GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	39	39
Total:	315	417

BAR YEARS 2008-2009	Total Sanctions	Total Complaints Resolved
DISBARMENTS	32	43
RESIGNATIONS	26	104
SUSPENSIONS	127	189
PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	46	54
PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	68	73
GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	36	36
Total:	335	499

BAR YEARS 2007-2008	Total Sanctions	Total Complaints Resolved
DISBARMENTS	24	63
RESIGNATIONS	24	90
SUSPENSIONS	121	224
PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	28	35
PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	69	73
GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	33	33
Total:	299	518

BAR YEARS
2006-2007

Total Sanctions

DISBARMENTS	30
RESIGNATIONS	31
SUSPENSIONS	110
PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	62
PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	87
Total:	320

DISTRICT 2:

**Dallas Attorney
06/28/2021-Agreed Private Reprimand**

Rule 1.01(b)(1)

In representing a client, a lawyer shall not neglect a legal matter entrusted to the lawyer.

Rule 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.

Rule 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.

Rule 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 fee that has 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.

**Dallas Attorney
8/5/2021-Agreed Private Reprimand**

Rule 1.01(b)(1)

In representing a client, a lawyer shall not neglect a legal matter entrusted to the lawyer.

Rule 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.

Rule 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 fee that has 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.

Rule 8.04(a)(8)

A lawyer shall not fail to furnish to the Chief Disciplinary Councils office or a district grievance committee a response or other information as requested 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.

DISTRICT 3:

Adams, J. Paxton: #24042459
06/02/2021-Agreed Public Reprimand

On June 2, 2021, **J. Paxton Adams** [#24042459], 45, of Huntsville, accepted a public reprimand. An investigatory panel of the District 3 Grievance Committee found that Adams neglected his client's case, 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. Adams further failed to return unearned fees. Additionally, Adams failed to timely respond to the grievance.

Adams violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$500.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Adams, J. Paxton: #24042459
06/02/2021-Agreed Public Reprimand

On June 2, 2021, **J. Paxton Adams** [#24042459], 45, of Huntsville, accepted a public reprimand. An investigatory panel of the District 3 Grievance Committee found that Adams failed to hold funds belonging to his client separate from his own property and failed to promptly deliver funds that his client was entitled to receive. Adams further failed to return unearned fees. Additionally, Adams failed to timely respond to the grievance.

Adams violated Rules 1.14(a), 1.14(b), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$5,000.00 in restitution and \$500.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Houston Attorney
08/20/2021-Agreed Private Reprimand

Rule 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.

Houston Attorney
08/04/2021-Agreed Private Reprimand

Rule 3.03(a)(1)

A lawyer shall not knowingly make a false statement of material fact or law to a tribunal.

Nolan, Pattie Jo: #24046615
06/29/2021-Partially Probated Suspension
06/28/2021-06/28/2022: SUSPENSION
06/29/2022-06/28/2023: PROBATED

On June 29, 2021, **Pattie Jo Nolan** [#24046615], 51, of Weatherford, received a two-year partially probated suspension, effective June 28, 2021, with the first year actively served and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 3 Grievance Committee found that Nolan failed to refund advance payments of fees that had not been earned and failed to timely respond to a grievance.

Nolan violated Rules 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8). She was ordered to pay \$1250.00 in restitution and \$2700.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

DISTRICT 4:

Eureste, Arthur R.: #06702250
06/04/2021-Agreed Active Suspension
08/01/2021-07/31/2024: SUSPENSION

On June 4, 2021, **Arthur R. Eureste** [#06702250], 67, of Houston, accepted a three-year active suspension, effective August 1, 2021. The 215th Judicial District Court of Harris County found that Eureste neglected his client's legal matter and frequently failed to carry out completely the obligations he owed to his client. Eureste also failed to keep his client reasonably informed about the status of his case and failed to promptly comply with his client's reasonable requests for information. During the course of the representation, Eureste committed a serious crime or any other criminal act that reflected on his honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a lawyer. Furthermore, Eureste engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation.

Eureste violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.01(b)(2), 1.03(a), 8.04(a)(2), and 8.04(a)(3). He was ordered to pay \$1,500.00 in attorneys' fees.

Houston Attorney
07/23/2021-Agreed Private Reprimand

Rule 1.15(a)(3)

A lawyer shall decline to represent a client or, where representation has commenced, shall withdraw, from the representation of a client, if the lawyer is discharged, with or without good cause.

Izen, Afton Jane: #10443400
05/03/2021-Disbarment

On May 3, 2021, **Afton Jane Izen** [#10443400], 72, of Houston, was disbarred. The 215th Judicial District Court, Harris County, found that Izen committed professional misconduct by violating Rule 1.01(b)(1) [in representing a client, a lawyer shall not neglect a legal matter entrusted to the lawyer], Rule 1.03(a) [failure to keep a client reasonably informed about the status of a matter and promptly comply with reasonable requests for information], and Rule 8.04(a)(8) [failure to timely respond to a grievance].

Izen was ordered to pay \$1,794.50 in restitution and \$2,875.00 in attorneys' fees. A Notice of Appeal has been filed.

Josephson, Sean Rolfe: #24041215
06/28/2021-Agreed Public Reprimand

On June 28, 2021, **Sean Rolfe Josephson** [#24041215], 51, of Fort Bend County, accepted a public reprimand. An investigatory panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that Josephson neglected his client's case, failed to keep his client reasonably informed about the status of the case, engaged in conduct involving dishonesty in that he said a matter was filed when it had not yet been filed, and failed to withdraw from representation when his physical, mental or psychological condition materially impaired his ability to represent client.

Josephson violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(a)(2), and 8.04(a)(3). He was ordered to pay \$500.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Klevenhagen, John Joseph III: #90001652
06/30/2021-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension
06/30/2021-06/29/2024: PROBATED

On June 30, 2021, **John Joseph Klevenhagen, III** [#90001652], 49, of Houston, accepted a 36-month judgment of fully probated suspension, effective June 30, 2021. An investigatory panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that, Klevenhagen failed to keep his client reasonably informed about the status of her matter, neglected the legal matter entrusted to him, failed to refund advance payment of fee that had not been earned and failed to timely furnish to the Chief Disciplinary Counsel's office a response or other information as required by the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

Klevenhagen violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay restitution of \$3,500.00 and \$1,000.00 in attorneys' fees and expenses.

Mastriani, John Victor: #13184375
08/27/2021-Agreed Partially Probated Suspension
08/26/2021-08/25/2022: SUSPENSION
08/26/2022-08/25/2024: PROBATED

On August 27, 2021, **John Victor Mastriani** [#13184375], 61, of Houston, accepted a 36-month partially probated suspension, with the first 12 months actively suspended, effective August 26, 2021. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that Mastriani neglected a legal matter and failed to keep his client reasonably informed about the status of the case.

Mastriani violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), and 1.03(a). He was ordered to pay \$1,300.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Mastriani, John Victor: #13184375
08/29/2021-Agreed Partially Probated Suspension
08/26/2021-08/25/2022: SUSPENSION
08/26/2022-08/25/2024: PROBATED

On August 29, 2021, **John Victor Mastriani** [#13184375], 61, of Houston, accepted a 36-month partially probated suspension, with the first 12 months actively suspended, effective August 26, 2021. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that Mastriani neglected a legal matter, failed to keep his client reasonably informed about the status of the case, and further failed to refund advance payments of fee that had not been earned.

Mastriani violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), and 1.15(d). He was ordered to pay \$500.00 in restitution and \$750.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Mastriani, John Victor: #13184375
08/27/2021-Agreed Partially Probated Suspension
08/26/2021-08/25/2022: SUSPENSION
08/26/2022-08/25/2024: PROBATED

On August 27, 2021, **John Victor Mastriani** [#13184375], 61, of Houston, accepted a 36-month partially probated suspension, with the first 12 months actively suspended, effective August 26, 2021. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that Mastriani neglected a legal matter, failed to keep his client reasonably informed about the status of the case, and further failed to refund advance payments of fee that had not been earned. Additionally, Mastriani failed to timely respond to the grievance.

Mastriani violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$1,500.00 in restitution and \$766.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Mastriani, John Victor: #13184375
08/29/2021-Agreed Partially Probated Suspension
08/26/2021-08/25/2022: SUSPENSION
08/26/2022-08/25/2024: PROBATED

On August 29, 2021, **John Victor Mastriani** [#13184375], 61, of Houston, accepted a 36-month partially probated suspension, with the first 12 months actively suspended, effective August 26, 2021. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that Mastriani failed to carry out completely the obligations owed to his client, failed to keep his client reasonably informed about the status of the case, and further failed to refund advance payments of fee that had not been earned. Additionally, Mastriani failed to timely respond to the grievance.

Mastriani violated Rules 1.01(b)(2), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$2,000.00 in restitution and \$600.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Mastriani, John Victor: #13184375
08/29/2021-Agreed Partially Probated Suspension
08/26/2021-08/25/2022: SUSPENSION
08/26/2022-08/25/2024: PROBATED

On August 29, 2021, **John Victor Mastriani** [#13184375], 61, of Houston, accepted a 36-month partially probated suspension, with the first 12 months actively suspended, effective August 26, 2021. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that Mastriani failed to carry out completely the obligations owed to his client, failed to keep his client reasonably informed about the status of the case, and further failed to refund advance payments of fee that had not been earned. Additionally, Mastriani failed to timely respond to the grievance.

Mastriani violated Rules 1.01(b)(2), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$1,000.00 in restitution and \$966.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Houston Attorney
06/01/2021-Agreed Private Reprimand

Rule 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.

Rule 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.

Rule 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 fee that has 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.

Rule 8.04(a)(8)

A lawyer shall timely furnish to the Chief Disciplinary Councils office 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.

Houston Attorney
06/30/2021-Agreed Private Reprimand

Rule 1.15(a)(3)

A lawyer shall decline to represent a client or, where representation has commenced, shall withdraw, from the representation of a client, if he lawyer is discharged, with or without good cause.

Houston Attorney
08/23/2021-Agreed Private Reprimand

Rule 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 fee that has 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.

Panick, Heather Catherine Sutherland: #24062935
07/14/2021-Agreed Active Suspension
09/01/2021-08/31/2023: SUSPENSION

On July 14, 2021, **Heather Catherine Sutherland Panick** [#24062935], 42, of Elkhorn, Nebraska, accepted a two-year active suspension, effective September 1, 2021. An investigatory panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that Panick engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation.

Panick violated Rule 8.04(a)(3). She was ordered to pay \$1,000.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Stovall, Max Franklin: #00789657
08/30/2021-Agreed Partially Probated Suspension
09/01/2021-11/30/2021: SUSPENSION
12/01/2021-08/31/2023: PROBATED

On August 30, 2021, **Max Franklin Stovall** [#00789657], 56, of Houston, received a two-year partially probated suspension, effective September 1, 2021. The evidentiary panel of District 4 Grievance Committee found that Stovall neglected the legal matter entrusted to him. Stovall further failed to keep his clients reasonably informed about the status of their case and failed to promptly comply with his clients' reasonable requests for information. Stovall also failed to provide closing statements and failed to distribute all funds from the settlement amounts received. Stovall also failed to direct and supervise a nonlawyer in the distribution of the funds.

Stovall violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.04(d), 1.14(b), 5.03(a), 5.03(b)(1), 5.03(b)(2), and 8.04(a)(3). He was ordered to pay \$11,193.00 in restitution and \$2,000.00 in attorneys' fees.

DISTRICT 5:

DeGarza, Andre: #24059332
08/24/2021-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension
09/01/2021-08/31/2022: PROBATED

On August 24, 2021, **Andre DeGarza** [#24059332], 71, of LaGrange, accepted a one-year fully probated suspension, effective September 1, 2021. An evidentiary panel of the District 5 Grievance Committee found that, DeGarza willfully, in connection to an adjudicatory proceeding, manifested bias or prejudice based on race. DeGarza violated Rule 5.08(a).

Lewis-Perez, Jana Samone: #24077463
08/20/2021-Agreed Partially Probated Suspension
09/16/2021-12/16/2021: SUSPENSION
12/17/2021-03/16/2022: PROBATED

On August 20, 2021, **Jana Samone Lewis-Perez** [#24077463], 37, of Pearland, accepted an 18-month partially probated suspension, effective September 16, 2021, with the first three months actively served and the remainder probated. An investigatory panel of the District 5 Grievance Committee found that Lewis-Perez neglected a legal matter entrusted to her and failed to keep her client reasonably informed about the status of her legal matter and promptly comply with reasonable requests for information about the case. Upon termination of representation, Lewis-Perez failed to refund any advance payments of fee that had not been earned. Lastly, Lewis-Perez failed to timely respond to the grievance without asserting a privilege or other legal ground for her failure to do so.

Lewis-Perez violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8). She was ordered to pay \$500.00 in restitution and \$1,000.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

DISTRICT 6:

Dallas Attorney
07/12/2021-Agreed Private Reprimand

Rule 1.01(b)(1)

In representing a client, a lawyer shall not neglect a legal matter entrusted to the lawyer.

Rule 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.

Rule 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.

Rule 3.04(d)

A lawyer shall not: knowingly disobey, or advise the client to disobey, an obligation under the standing rules of or a ruling by a tribunal except for an open refusal based either on an assertion that no valid obligation exists or on the client's willingness to accept any sanctions arising from such disobedience.

Davis, William P.: #05564000
06/15/2021-Resignation in lieu of Discipline

On June 15, 2021, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation, in lieu of discipline, of **William P. Davis** [#0556400], 83, of Dallas. At the time of Davis's resignation, there were two pending matters against him alleging professional misconduct. Davis created a life insurance trust agreement for the Complainant's husband, with Davis listed as trustee. In October 2018, the Complainant's husband died, and Davis collected the life insurance benefits. From November 2019 to March 2020, Davis made several distributions to himself and depleted the account. Davis did not disclose to Complainant that the funds had been spent. Complainant demanded an accounting, but Davis did not provide one. After Complainant filed the grievance, Davis wired \$200,000.00 to Complainant on July 27, 2020. In the second pending matter, Complainant hired William P. Davis (Davis) in 2000 for advice on tax, real estate, investment, and asset protection. Davis misappropriated \$2.116 million in investment principal and withheld \$1,281,162.50 in interest payments. Davis falsified or attempted to falsify government documents to justify his inability to return funds to Complainant or explain the status of her investments. Davis purported to obtain a mortgage loan for her from a bank, but Davis made that loan from his IOLTA at a higher than market rate. Davis was actively suspended from law practice and required to notify clients of his suspension by March 15, 2018. Davis did not notify Complainant of that suspension. Davis' statements regarding his compliance with the Agreed Judgment of Partially Probated Suspension as set forth in his letter to CDC's Compliance Monitor and its attached affidavit, were false.

Alleged Rules Violated: 1.04(a), 1.06(b)(2), 1.08(a), 1.14(a), 1.14(b), 1.14(c), 8.04(a)(3), 8.04(a)(7), and 8.04(a)(1).

Fisher, Sharion L.: #07061100
08/31/2021-Agreed Public Reprimand

On August 31, 2021, **Sharion L. Fisher** [#07061100], 71, of Dallas, agreed to a public reprimand. An investigatory panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that on or about October 15, 2019, Complainant retained Fisher for a guardianship and probate matter related to Complainant's elderly mother. In representing Complainant, Fisher neglected the legal matter entrusted to her and failed to communicate with Complainant. Fisher failed to identify Complainant's other property and appropriately safeguard the property. Upon termination of representation, Fisher failed to surrender papers and property to which Complainant was entitled and failed to refund an unearned fee. Fisher failed to respond to the grievance.

Fisher violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.14(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8). She was ordered to pay attorneys' fees and direct expenses in the sum of \$250.00.

Grantham, David Shane: #24087614
07/09/2021-Partially Probated Suspension
08/01/2021-01/31/2022: SUSPENSION
02/01/2022-07/31/2023: PROBATED

On July 9, 201, **David Shane Grantham** [#24087614], 49, of Dallas, received a 24-month partially probated suspension, effective August 1, 2021, with the first six months actively served and the remainder probated. The 191st District Court of Dallas County found that Grantham committed Professional Misconduct by violating Rules 1.05(b)(1)(ii) [A lawyer shall not knowingly reveal confidential information of a client or a former client to anyone else, other than the client, the client's representatives, or the members, associates, or employees of the lawyer's law firm], 1.05(b)(3) [A lawyer shall not knowingly use confidential information of a former client to the disadvantage of the former client after the representation is concluded unless the former client consents after consultation or the confidential information has become generally known], 3.02 [In the course of litigation, a lawyer shall not take a position that unreasonably increases the costs or other burdens of the case or that unreasonably delays resolution of the matter], 3.04(d) [A lawyer shall not knowingly disobey, or advise the client to disobey, an obligation under the standing rules of or a ruling by a tribunal except for an open refusal based either on an assertion that no valid obligation exists or on the client's willingness to accept any sanctions arising from such disobedience], 4.04(a) [In representing a client, a lawyer shall not use means that have no substantial purpose other than to embarrass, delay, or burden a third person, or use methods of obtaining evidence that violate the legal rights of such a person], and 4.04(b)(1) [A lawyer shall not present, participate in presenting, or threaten to present criminal or disciplinary charges solely to gain an advantage in a civil matter].

Grantham was ordered to pay attorneys' fees and direct expenses in the sum of \$10,982.95.

Hughes, Carl Donald Jr.: #10209000
05/18/2021-Default Partially Probated Suspension
06/01/2021-11/30/2022: SUSPENSION
12/01/2022-05/31/2024: PROBATED

On May 18, 2021, **Carl Donald Hughes, Jr.** [#10209000], 73, of Dallas, received a 36-month partially probated suspension, effective June 1, 2021, with the first 18 months actively served and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found on or about January 5, 2017, Complainant hired Hughes to file a civil action involving a real estate matter. Hughes failed to keep the Complainant reasonably informed about the status of her case and failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information. Hughes failed to explain the legal matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the Complainant to make informed decisions regarding the representation. Upon termination of representation, Hughes failed to surrender papers and property to which Complainant was entitled. Upon termination of representation, Hughes also failed to refund advance payments of the fee that had not been earned. Hughes also failed to respond to the grievance.

Hughes violated Rules 1.03(a),1.03(b), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$1,734.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses, and \$13,000.00 in restitution. Hughes filed an appeal on August 13, 2021.

Joseph, Willie R. Jr.: #24106671
08/27/2021-Resignation in lieu of Discipline

On August 27, 2021, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation, in lieu of discipline, of **Willie Joseph, Jr.** [#24106671], 34, of Dallas. At the time of Joseph's resignation, there were three pending matters against him alleging professional misconduct. In the first matter, on February 21, 2020, Joseph pleaded guilty to the charge of Battery of a Dating Partner - Intentionally Inflicting Serious Bodily Injury (Louisiana Revised Statute 14:34.9M). Joseph was sentenced to five years hard labor and committed to the Louisiana Department of Corrections. In the second matter, Complainant hired Joseph for representation in a family law matter on or about January 18, 2019. Joseph failed to communicate with the Complainant. Joseph neglected the legal matter by failing to timely file a motion/petition for enforcement, failing to timely set a hearing, failing to obtain citation, failing to submit an amendment to the standing orders, cancelling the hearing set on the motion for enforcement, failing to timely withdraw as counsel, and failing to protect Complainant's interests. In the third matter, Complainant hired Joseph to represent her in a divorce matter on October 21, 2019. During Joseph's representation of Complainant, Joseph failed to abide by Complainant's decisions concerning objectives and general methods of representation. Joseph agreed to and accepted terms of temporary orders without Complainant's consent or approval. Joseph failed to keep Complainant reasonably informed about the status of her legal matter, failed to respond to reasonable requests for information, and made misrepresentations to Complainant. Joseph neglected Complainant's legal matter by, including but not limited to, failing to correct the temporary orders. Joseph owes Complainant \$500.00 in restitution.

Alleged Rules Violated: 1.01(b)(1), 1.01(b)(2), 1.02(a)(1), 1.02(a)(2), 1.03(a), 1.03(b), 1.15(b)(1), 8.04(a)(2), and 8.04(a)(3).

Dallas Attorney
08/13/2021-Agreed Private Reprimand

Rule 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.

Rule 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.

Onyenah, Kenneth Chuks: #24007779
07/15/2021-Agreed Public Reprimand

On July 15, 2021, **Kenneth Chuks Onyenah** [#24007779], 61, of Dallas, agreed to a public reprimand. An investigatory panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that on or about August 14, 2019, Complainant retained Onyenah to represent her in a DWI case. In representing Complainant, Onyenah neglected the legal matter entrusted to him. Onyenah failed to keep Complainant reasonably informed about the status of her case and failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information from Complainant. In addition, Onyenah had direct supervisory authority over a non-lawyer employee and failed to make reasonable efforts to ensure that employee's conduct was compatible with the professional obligations of Onyenah.

Onyenah violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), and 5.03(a). He was ordered to pay attorneys' fees and direct expenses in the sum of \$250.00.

Parks, Clyde R.: #15518500
06/25/2021-Agreed Public Reprimand

On June 25, 2021, **Clyde R. Parks** [#15518500], 73, of Dallas, agreed to a public reprimand. An investigatory panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that Parks employed Law Street Marketing a/k/a Exclusive Legal Marketing and agents of Law Street Marketing a/k/a Exclusive Legal Marketing improperly solicited the Complainants on behalf of Parks' law firm. Parks paid something of value to a person not licensed to practice law for soliciting prospective clients or referring prospective clients to Parks' law firm. Parks' agent engaged in conduct that constitutes barratry.

Parks violated Rules 7.03(b), and 8.04(a)(9). He was ordered to pay attorneys' fees and direct expenses in the sum of \$750.00.

Steiner, Gigi Jordan: #19134900
08/27/2021-Resignation in lieu of Discipline

On August 27, 2021, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation, in lieu of discipline, of **Gigi Jordan Steiner** [#19134900], 58, of Dallas. At the time of Steiner's resignation, there was one pending matter against her alleging professional misconduct. On January 2013, Complainant arranged for the formation of a limited liability corporation (LLC) regarding an investment in an apartment complex and served as the manager. While acting as manager, Steiner stole approximately \$50,000.00 from the LLC. Steiner filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy and the Bankruptcy Court issued findings of fact and conclusions of law and found that Steiner did knowingly and fraudulently, in or in connection with her bankruptcy case, made a false oath or account, as contemplated by section 727(a)(4) of the Bankruptcy Code by: (1) falsely claiming in her bankruptcy schedules and statements of financial affairs that she is a member and 100% owner of the LLC and falsely claiming the LLC had no value; (2) falsely testifying at the 341 meeting that she contributed money to the LLC; and, (3) concealing her theft, embezzlement and conversion of LLC's money by failing to report the funds she obtained in her statement of financial affairs. The Bankruptcy Court ordered Steiner to pay the LLC \$201,000.00. On April 12, 2019, Steiner pled nolo contendere to a 3rd degree felony of Theft of Property \$20,000.00 - \$100,000.00 and Steiner received deferred adjudication and was ordered to pay \$50,702.25 in restitution. Steiner paid the restitution as ordered.

Alleged Rules Violated: 8.04(a)(2), and 8.04(a)(3).

Turner, Thomas J.: #20331500
06/03/2021-Agreed Public Reprimand

On June 3, 2021, **Thomas J. Turner** [#20331500], 74, of Richardson, agreed to a public reprimand. An investigatory panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that in representing the complainant, Turner neglected the legal matter entrusted to him, failed to carry out completely the obligations that he owed to the complainant, and failed to keep the complainant reasonably informed about the status of his legal matter and failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information from him.

Turner violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.01(b)(2), and 1.03(a). He was ordered to pay \$10,000.00 in restitution and \$600.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Dallas Attorney
06/10/2021-Private Reprimand

Rule 7.03(a)

The following definitions apply to this Rule: (1) "Regulated telephone, social media, or other electronic contact" means telephone, social media, or electronic communication initiated by a lawyer, or by a person acting on behalf of a lawyer, that involves communication in a live or electronically interactive manner. (2) A lawyer "solicits" employment by making a "solicitation communication," as that term is defined in Rule 7.01(b)(2). Respondent filed a Notice of Appeal on July 2, 2021.

DISTRICT 7:

Allen, Jeffrey Roberts: #24006751
06/11/2021-Default Partially Probated Suspension
06/15/2021-07/14/2021: SUSPENSION
07/15/2021-06/14/2022: PROBATED

On June 11, 2021, **Jeffrey Roberts Allen** [#24006751], 49, of Southlake, received a one-year partially probated suspension, effective June 15, 2021, with the first month actively suspended and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 7 Grievance Committee found that Allen on or about August 31, 2016, was hired by the client for representation in a legal matter involving the purchase of a home and was paid \$2,500.00 for the representation. Allen neglected the legal matter entrusted to him and frequently failed to carry out completely the obligations he owed to the client. Allen failed to keep the client reasonably informed about the status of the legal matter, failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information from the client and failed to file a response to the grievance.

Allen violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.01(b)(2), 1.03(a), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$2,500.00 in restitution and \$2,249.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Dallas Attorney
06/25/2021-Agreed Private Reprimand

Rule 1.01(b)(1)

In representing a client, a lawyer shall not neglect a legal matter entrusted to the lawyer.

Rule 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.

Fleischer, Thomas F.: #00784056
05/27/2021-Disbarment

On May 27, 2021, **Thomas F. Fleischer** [#00784056], 54, of North Richland Hills, was disbarred, effective May 24, 2021. The District 7 Grievance Committee found that, on January 31, 2017, Complainant hired Fleischer to represent her in the probate of the estate of her deceased father. Complainant was appointed the estates administrator and Fleischer was entrusted with the estate's funds but failed to deposit the funds in an IOLTA or a designated trust account. Over the course of the representation, Complainant made multiple requests for information that went unanswered by Fleischer. Complainant also requested reimbursement for estate-related expenses and to reimburse Teacher Retirement System (TRS) for overpayments made to the decedent. Fleischer failed to reimburse Complainant or TRS. In April 2019, Complainant requested an accounting of the estate funds, and Fleischer represented that he would provide an accounting and proof that the estate funds were safeguarded but failed to provide the accounting or proof that the estate funds were in trust. On May 20, 2019, Complainant sent Fleischer a certified letter requesting that the estate funds be returned to her or sent to her new attorney. Fleischer did not respond to this request. Fleischer failed to respond to the grievance.

Fleischer violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.14(a), 1.14(b), 8.04(a)(3), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay attorneys' fees and direct expenses in the sum of \$3,534.00 and restitution in the sum of \$14,575.33.

Fleischer, Thomas F.: #00784056
05/27/2021-Public Reprimand

On May 27, 2021, **Thomas F. Fleischer** [#00784056], 54, of North Richland Hills, received a public reprimand. The District 7 Grievance Committee found that Fleischer mailed a cease and desist letter to Complainant dated September 3, 2019, regarding Complainant's public comments about Complainant's former employer, Trademark Electric, Inc. The letterhead identifies the "Law Office of Tom Fleischer" and Fleischer indicates that he has been retained by Trademark Electric Inc. Fleischer's law license was actively suspended on September 1, 2019, for non-payment of dues and was not reinstated until September 25, 2019. Fleischer's license to practice was suspended when he mailed this letter on September 3, 2019, and when Complainant received the letter on September 6, 2019. Fleischer failed to respond to the grievance.

Fleischer violated Rules 8.04(a)(8), and 8.04(a)(11). He was ordered to pay attorneys' fees and direct expenses in the sum of \$2,377.50.

Green, Loren Craig: #24029179
06/08/2021-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension
06/15/2021-06/14/2024: PROBATED

On June 8, 2021, **Loren Craig Green** [#24029179], 55, of Arlington, agreed to a 36-month fully probated suspension, effective June 15, 2021. The District 7 Grievance Committee found that, in August 2017, Green was hired by Complainant for representation relative to a motor vehicle accident. During the representation, Green's employee, a non-lawyer, handled the Complainant's case and rendered legal services to the Complainant even though the non-lawyer employee is not a licensed attorney. Green allowed the non-lawyer employee to perform activities that constitute the unauthorized practice of law. Green had direct supervisory authority over the non-lawyer employee and failed to make reasonable efforts to ensure that his conduct was compatible with the professional obligations of Green. The non-lawyer employee failed to exercise due diligence in serving the defendant, he drafted a fraudulent pleading purportedly signed by a fictitious attorney and failed to notify the Complainant that funds had been received by Green's office for Complainant's personal property loss.

Green violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(b), 1.14(b), 3.03(a)(1), 3.03(a)(5), 5.03(b)(2), 5.05(b), and 8.04(a)(3). He was ordered to pay \$500.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

DISTRICT 8:

McDermed, Breccia M.: #24052206
06/15/2021-Resignation in lieu of Discipline

On June 15, 2021, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation, in lieu of discipline, of **Breccia M. McDermed** [#24052206], 45, of Fort Worth. At the time of McDermed's resignation, eight disciplinary cases were pending against her. McDermed neglected her clients' legal matters, failed to keep clients reasonably informed about the status of their matters, failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information, and failed to explain matters to the extent reasonably necessary to permit clients to make informed decisions. McDermed failed to promptly deliver property to which a client was entitled, failed to withdraw when discharged by a client, and further failed to surrender papers and property to which clients were entitled. McDermed knowingly made a false statement of fact in connection with a disciplinary matter and further engaged in conduct involving dishonest, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation. McDermed repeatedly failed to timely furnish a written response to the Chief Disciplinary Counsel's office.

McDermed violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.03(b), 1.14(b), 1.15(a)(3) 1.15(d), 8.01(a), 8.04(a)(3), and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct. She was ordered to pay restitution totaling \$8,235.00 and attorneys' fees and costs in the amount of \$5,657.20.

DISTRICT 9:

Gupta, Viney K.: #00790085
06/15/2021-Resignation in lieu of Discipline

On June 15, 2021, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation, in lieu of discipline, of **Viney K. Gupta** [#00790085], 72, of Orange, CA. At the time of Gupta's resignation, the following disciplinary cases were pending against him. In the first case, Gupta filed numerous frivolous, untimely, and/or misleading petitions for review of removal orders and asylum determinations in the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ("Ninth Circuit") between January 2019 and July 2019. In each of the petitions for review, Gupta sought review of a negative credible fear finding and the resulting expedited removal order, despite the fact that the Ninth Circuit lacked jurisdiction to review such matters. As such, these pleadings were frivolous because there was no plausible basis for the Ninth Circuit to assert jurisdiction and they did not contain a good faith argument for reconsidering the jurisdictional question. In addition, Gupta frequently filed groundless motions in addition to the initial petition for review. Gupta also filed frivolous motions for reconsideration that were denied. These pleadings wasted valuable court resources and delayed a final resolution in his clients' cases. On or about October 10, 2019, the Ninth Circuit issued an Order suspending Gupta from the practice of law in its Court for six (6) months. Gupta was ordered to: 1) file notices of withdrawal in eighteen (18) pending cases in which he remained counsel of record; 2) serve the Order on his clients in the pending cases; 3) turn over all client files and materials to the clients; 4) notify the clients that he could no longer provide any legal assistance for them or collect fees for future services in the Ninth Circuit; 5) provide the Court with the addresses and telephone numbers of his clients; and 6) file proof with the Court that he made the required notifications. Gupta failed to comply with the terms of the Order and, on December 11, 2019, he filed motions to withdraw in ten of his pending cases.

On November 4, 2019, the Court gave Gupta additional time to comply with the Order. In response, he filed five additional motions to withdraw but failed to comply with any other provisions in the Order. On November 19, 2019, the Court gave Gupta a final opportunity to fully comply with the Order, but he failed to do so. On December 11, 2019, the Court imposed a monetary sanction of \$1,000.00 on Gupta. In the second case, Complainant hired Gupta in January 2019 to represent him on an appeal of Complainant's immigration case before the Ninth Circuit. Following Gupta's directions, Complainant paid an advanced fee equivalent of \$6,000.00 to Gupta's brother in India, who is not a licensed attorney in the United States. On December 16, 2019, without Complainant's consent, Gupta filed a pro se habeas corpus petition on Complainant's behalf in the United States District Court for the Central District of California. The purported signature on said petition was not that of Complainant and Complainant did not file the petition. As set forth above, Gupta was suspended from practicing law before the Ninth Circuit on October 10, 2019. On November 18, 2019, Gupta was suspended from the practice of law before the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Immigration Courts, and the Department of Homeland Security. Nonetheless, he continued to practice law when he prepared and filed the alleged pro se habeas corpus petition for Complainant on December 16, 2019. Gupta also failed to file a response to the complaint as directed.

Gupta violated Rules 1.02(a)(1), 1.14(a), 3.01, 3.02, 3.04(d), 5.04(a), 8.04(a)(3), 8.04(a)(8), and 8.04(a)(11).

Austin Attorney
07/16/2021-Agreed Private Reprimand

Rule 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.

Rule 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.

Rule 8.04(a)(8)

A lawyer shall timely furnish to the Chief Disciplinary Councils office 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.

Pagano, Christina E.: #07154500
07/14/2021-Disbarment

On July 14, 2021, **Christina E. Pagano** [#07154500], 68, of Austin, received a judgment of disbarment, effective July 8, 2021. An evidentiary panel of the District 9 Grievance Committee found that on or about January 16, 2018, Pagano was hired to represent Complainant in a CPS matter. Thereafter, Pagano failed to keep Complainant reasonably informed about the status of Complainant's case and failed to promptly respond to Complainant's requests for information. Upon termination, Pagano failed to timely withdraw from the case. Pagano further failed to provide a written response to Complainant's disciplinary complaint.

Pagano violated Rules 1.03(a), 1.15(a)(3), and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct, Article X, Section 9, State Bar Rules. Pagano was ordered to pay \$1,500.00 in restitution and \$2,318.87 in attorneys' fees and expenses.

DISTRICT 10:

Baez, Edgardo Rafael: #24048334
07/18/2021-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension
08/21/2021-08/20/2025: PROBATED

On July 18, 2021, **Edgardo Rafael Baez** [#24048334], 50, of San Antonio, agreed to a four-year fully probated suspension, effective August 21, 2021. An investigatory panel of the District 10 Grievance Committee found that Baez entered into an arrangement for unconscionable fee and failed to promptly render full accounting.

Baez violated Rules 1.04(a), and 1.14(b), was ordered to pay \$1,200.00 in attorneys' fees and \$7,500.00 in restitution.

Conley, Carlton: #04663030
06/11/2021-Agreed Partially Probated Suspension
06/15/2021-12/15/2021: SUSPENSION
12/16/2021-12/15/2022: PROBATED

On June 11, 2021, **Carlton Conley** [#04663030], 57, of San Antonio, agreed to an 18-month partially probated suspension, effective June 15, 2021, with the first six months actively served and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 10 Grievance Committee found that Conley failed to withdraw when the representation would result in a violation of a rule of Professional Conduct.

Conley violated Rule 1.15(a) and agreed to pay \$1,000.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

San Antonio Attorney
08/31/2021-Agreed Private Reprimand

Rule 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.

Etheridge, John Blake: #24063290
07/28/2021-Agreed Public Reprimand

On July 28, 2021, **John Blake Etheridge** [#24063290], 48, of San Antonio, accepted a public reprimand. An evidentiary panel of the District 10 Grievance Committee found that Etheridge failed to respond to the grievance.

Etheridge violated Rule 8.04(a)(8) and was ordered to pay \$400.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

DISTRICT 11:

San Antonio Attorney
06/03/2021-Agreed Private Reprimand

Rule 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 fee that has 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.

San Antonio Attorney
07/13/2021-Agreed Private Reprimand

Rule 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 fee that has 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.

DISTRICT 12:

Alanis, Roel: #24097287

08/27/2021-Resignation in lieu of Discipline

On August 27, 2021, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation, in lieu of discipline, of **Roel Alanis** [#24097287], 31, of Weslaco. At the time of his resignation, Alanis had three grievances pending alleging that Alanis had neglected a client's matter, failed to communicate with a client, made a misrepresentation, failed to properly safeguard funds belonging to a third party, and failed to properly deliver funds that belonged to a third party. Alanis had also committed the crimes of bribing immigration officials and conspiracy to bribe as alleged in USA vs. Alanis, 1:19 -CR-00673, in the U.S. District Court in the Southern District of Texas.

Alanis violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a) & (b), 1.14(a) & (b) & 8.04(a)(2) & (3).

San Antonio Attorney

06/07/2021-Agreed Private Reprimand

Rule 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.

San Antonio Attorney

08/16/2021-Agreed Private Reprimand

Rule 1.01(b)(1)

In representing a client, a lawyer shall not neglect a legal matter entrusted to the lawyer.

Rule 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.

DISTRICT 13:

McCoy, Dianna Lee: #24026865
05/17/2021-Default Partially Probated Suspension
05/07/2021-11/06/2021: SUSPENSION
11/07/2021-05/06/2026: PROBATED

On May 17, 2021, **Dianna Lee McCoy** [#24026865], 57, of Austin, received a five-year partially probated suspension, related to two disciplinary cases, effective May 7, 2021, with the first six months actively served and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 13 Grievance Committee found in the first case that on or about November 8, 2019, McCoy was court-appointed to represent the complainant in a criminal matter. In representing the complainant, McCoy neglected the legal matter entrusted to her, failed to keep the complainant reasonably informed about the status of his criminal matter and failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information from the complainant. In a second case, on or about March 27, 2019, McCoy was court-appointed to represent the complainant in a criminal matter. McCoy failed to keep the complainant informed about the status of his case and failed to reply to his requests for information related to his case. In both cases, McCoy failed to respond to the allegations in the grievances filed by the complainants.

McCoy violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), and 8.04(a)(8). She was ordered to pay \$1,858.21 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

DISTRICT 14:

Harris, James Bruce: #24026926
06/25/2021-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension
06/15/2021-12/14/2021: PROBATED

On June 25, 2021, **James Bruce Harris** [#24026926], 51, of Wichita, agreed to a six-month fully probated suspension, effective June 15, 2021. The District 14 Grievance Committee found that, in June of 2018, Harris was hired by Complainant for representation in a divorce matter. During the course of the representation, Harris failed to explain the divorce matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit Complainant to make informed decisions regarding the representation.

Harris violated Rule 1.03(b). He was ordered to pay \$500.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Jones, Amelia Christina: #24086652
05/14/2021-Partially Probated Suspension
06/15/2021-12/14/2021: SUSPENSION
12/15/2021-06/14/2023: PROBATED

On May 14, 2021, **Amelia Christina Jones** [#24086652], 40, of Denton, received a default judgement to a 24-month partially probated suspension, effective June 15, 2021, with the first six months actively served and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 14 Grievance Committee found that on May 28, 2019, Complainant hired Jones for representation in a civil matter. Thereafter, Jones neglected the legal matter entrusted to her by failing to perform any legal services on behalf of Complainant. Jones failed to keep Complainant reasonably informed about the status of his legal matter, failed to promptly comply with reasonable request for information, and failed to explain the matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit Complainant to make informed decisions regarding the representation. Upon termination of representation, Jones failed to return unearned fees and failed to return Complainant's file as requested. Jones failed to respond to the grievance.

Jones violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.03(b), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8). She was ordered to pay \$2,567.50 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses, and \$2,902.00 in restitution.

Jones, Amelia Christina: #24086652
08/27/2021-Resignation in lieu of Discipline

On August 27, 2021, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation, in lieu of discipline, of **Christina Amelia Jones** [#24086652], 41, of Lake Dallas. At the time of Jones' resignation, there were fifteen pending matters against her alleging professional misconduct. In the first matter, on or about January 29, 2020, Complainant hired Jones for representation in a civil law matter. Jones neglected the legal matter entrusted to her by failing to serve a demand letter on the apartment complex. Jones failed to communicate with Complainant. Jones failed to refund any advance payments of the fee that had not been earned to Complainant in the amount of \$1500.00. Jones failed to respond to the grievance. In the second matter, on or about January 28, 2020, Complainants hired Jones for representation in a family law matter. Jones failed to communicate with Complainants. Further, Jones failed to render a full accounting and the client's file to the Complainant as requested. In the third matter, on or about September 13, 2019, Complainant hired Jones for representation in a civil matter. Jones neglected the legal matter and failed to communicate with Complainant. Jones failed to return any portion of the legal fee that had not been earned in the amount of \$2000.00. Jones failed to respond to the grievance. In the fourth matter, on or about October 11, 2019, Complainant hired Jones for representation in a home warranty matter. Jones neglected the legal matter and failed to communicate with the Complainant. Jones failed to provide the Complainant their file and failed to provide the Complainant an accounting of the legal fees paid, as requested. Jones failed to return any portion of the legal fee that had not been earned in the amount of \$2000.00. Jones failed to respond to the grievance. In the fifth matter, on or about December 20, 2018, Complainant hired Jones for representation in his divorce. Jones neglected the legal matter and failed to communicate with Complainant. Jones failed to return any portion of the legal fee that had not been earned in the amount of \$6,611.00. Jones failed to respond to the grievance. In the sixth matter, on or about September 4, 2019, Complainant hired Jones for representation in a civil matter. Jones neglected the legal matter and failed to communicate with Complainant. Jones failed to return any portion of the legal fee that had not been earned in the amount of \$1,500.00. Jones failed to respond to the grievance. In the seventh matter, on or about January 31, 2017, Complainant retained an attorney in Jones' law firm for representation in a probate matter. Jones was a partner of the law firm. Jones neglected the matter

entrusted to her and failed to communicate with Complainant. Jones failed to provide a copy of the file to Complainant. In the eighth matter, on or around 2017, Complainant hired Jones for representation in a family law matter. Jones failed to communicate with Complainant. In the ninth matter, in or around June 2019, Complainant hired Jones for representation in a civil matter. Jones neglected the legal matter entrusted to her by, including but not limited to, failing to respond to a motion for summary judgment, allowing a judgment to be rendered against Complainant, and failing to take any corrective actions after the judgment was rendered. Jones failed to communicate with Complainant. At the Investigatory Hearing held on February 8, 2021, Jones made misrepresentations to the Investigatory Hearing Panel, that she spoke with the opposing counsel and Judge for Complainant's legal matter and that the Judge indicated that the motion for summary judgment would not be ruled upon and that the opposing counsel would withdraw the motion for summary judgment. Jones failed to respond to the grievance. In the tenth matter, on or about February 6, 2020, Complainant hired Jones for representation in his divorce. Jones neglected the matter entrusted to her and failed to communicate with complainant. Jones failed to provide an accounting and failed to return any portion of the unearned legal fee to Complainant in the amount of \$3,000.00. In the eleventh matter, on or about November 8, 2019, Complainant hired Jones for representation in a conservatorship matter. Jones neglected the legal matter entrusted to her and failed to communicate with Complainant. Upon termination, Jones failed to refund any advance payments of the fee that had not been earned to Complainant in the amount of \$2,500.00. Jones failed to respond to the grievance. In the twelfth matter, on or about January 28, 2020, Complainant hired Jones for representation in her divorce. Jones neglected the matter entrusted to her and failed to communicate with Complainant. Jones failed to return any portion of the unearned legal fee in the amount of \$3,395.00. Jones failed to respond to the grievance. In the thirteenth matter, on or around February 2019, Complainant hired Jones for representation in a family law matter. Jones neglected the matter entrusted to her and failed to communicate with Complainant. Jones owes Complainant \$2,625.00 in restitution. Jones failed to respond to the grievance. In the fourteenth matter, on or about February 19, 2010, Complainant hired Jones to probate Complainant's mother's will. Jones neglected the legal matter and failed to communicate with Complainant. Upon termination, Jones failed to refund any portion of the unearned fee and failed to provide a copy of the file to Complainant, as requested. Jones owes Complainant \$1,846.00 in restitution. Jones failed to respond to the grievance. In the fifteenth matter, on or about January 3, 2019, Complainant hired Jones for representation in a family matter. Jones failed to communicate with Complainant.

Alleged Rules Violated 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.14(b), 1.15(d), 8.04(a)(3), and 8.04(a)(8)

DISTRICT 15:

**San Antonio Attorney
06/14/2021-Agreed Private Reprimand**

Rule 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.

Rule 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.

San Antonio Attorney
07/07/2021-Agreed Private Reprimand

Rule 1.05 (b)(1)(ii)

A lawyer shall not knowingly reveal confidential information of a client or a former client to anyone else, other than the client, the client's representatives, or the members, associates, or employees of the lawyer's law firm.

DISTRICT 16:

San Antonio Attorney
06/27/2021-Agreed Private Reprimand

Rule 1.01(b)(1)

In representing a client, a lawyer shall not neglect a legal matter entrusted to the lawyer.

Rule 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.

DISTRICT 17:

Mena, G. Danny: #13929900
08/12/2021-Agreed Public Reprimand

On August 12, 2021, **G. Danny Mena** [#13929900], 66, of El Paso, accepted a public reprimand. An investigatory panel of the District 17 Grievance Committee found that Mena neglected a client's matters, failed to keep client reasonably informed, failed to promptly render a full account regarding client's funds and failed to take steps to reasonably protect his client's interests.

Mena violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a)&(b), 1.14(b), and 1.15(d), and agreed to pay \$800.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Quinata, Derek Alfonso: #24072292
07/13/2021-Agreed Partially Probated Suspension
08/31/2021-09/30/2021: SUSPENSION
09/30/2021-08/31/2022: PROBATED

On July 13, 2021, **Derek Alfonso Quinata** [#04837375], 40, of El Paso, accepted a one-year partially probated suspension, with the first month actively served effective August 31, 2021. The County Court at Law Seven of El Paso found that Quinata violated Rules 1.01(b)(1) [a lawyer shall not neglect a legal matter entrusted to the lawyer], 1.03(a) [failing to keep a client reasonably informed about the status of a matter and promptly comply with reasonable requests for information], 1.14(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], 1.15(d) [failing to return any advance payments of fee that has not been earned] and 8.04(a)(8) [failure to respond to a grievance timely].

Quinata violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.14(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8), was ordered to pay \$2,700.00 in attorneys' fees and \$750.00 in restitution.

BOARD OF DISCIPLINARY APPEALS

Delgado, Rodolfo: #05645550
07/30/2021-Disbarment

On July 30, 2021, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals entered a Judgment of Disbarment against McAllen, TX attorney **Rodolfo Delgado**, 68, State Bar of Texas Card No. 05645550. On October 1, 2019, a Judgment in a Criminal Case was entered in Cause No. 4:18CR00115-001, styled United States of America v. Rodolfo "Rudy" Delgado in the United States District Court, Southern District of Texas, Houston Division, wherein Delgado was found guilty of Conspiracy, Federal Program Bribery, violations of the Travel Act, and Obstruction of Justice. Delgado was sentenced to imprisonment for a term of 60 months followed by supervised release for a term of two years.

Domangue, Dina Fae: #24049570
05/25/2021-Agreed Public Reprimand

On May 25, 2021, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed an Agreed Judgment of Public Reprimand against Columbia, LA attorney **Dina Fae Domangue**, 47, State Bar of Texas Card No. 24049570. On February 6, 2020, a Public Reprimand entered by the Louisiana Disciplinary Board, in a matter styled: In Re: Dina Fae Domangue, Number 17-DB-083. Domangue was reprimanded for violations of Louisiana Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3 (diligence), 1.4(a) (communication), 1.16(d) (return of client file/unearned fees), and 8.1(c) (failure to cooperate with investigation).

Finley, W. Thomas: #07025500
05/06/2021-Disbarment

On May 6, 2021, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed a Judgment of Disbarment against Dallas attorney **W. Thomas Finley**, 73, State Bar of Texas Card No. 07025500. On September 11, 2019, an Order of Deferred Adjudication was entered in Cause No. F-1800311-K, styled The State of Texas v. Walter Thomas Finley, in the Criminal District Court #4 of Dallas County, Texas wherein Finley pled guilty to Theft of Property over \$200,000.00 and was placed on Community Supervision for a term of ten years.

Jefferson Smith, Deanna Marie: #24046152
07/30/2021-Active Suspension
07/30/2021-09/29/2022: SUSPENSION

On July 30, 2021, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals entered a Judgment of Suspension against Grand Prairie, attorney **Deanna Marie Jefferson Smith**, 53, State Bar of Texas Card No. 24046152. On September 30, 2020, a Judgment in a Criminal Case was entered in Cause No. 3:18-CR-00068-K, styled United States of America v. Deanna Jefferson Smith, in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas, Dallas Division, wherein Smith pleaded guilty to Theft or Embezzlement in Connection with Health Care and was sentenced to probation for a term of two years.

A Texas Attorney
Reciprocal Discipline – Agreed Judgment of Private Reprimand

On July 28, 2021, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals entered an Agreed Judgment of Private Reprimand against a Texas Attorney. On April 1, 2021, a Letter of Reprimand was entered by the Southern Nevada Disciplinary Board of the State Bar of Nevada finding violations of Nevada Rules of Professional Conduct 1.1 (competence) and 1.15 (safekeeping client property).

Perez, Noe L. Jr.: #24034625
06/15/2021-Resignation in lieu of Discipline

On June 15, 2021, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation, in lieu of discipline, of **Noe L. Perez, Jr.** [#24034625], 60, of Edinburg. At the time of Perez's resignation, a judgment was entered in Cause No. 4:18CR00238-001, styled United States of America v. Noe Perez, in the United States District Court Southern District of Texas (Houston), wherein Perez pled guilty to Conspiracy to Commit Bribery Concerning Programs Receiving Federal Funds and was committed to the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons for a total term of twenty-four (24) months. Perez was also fined \$100.00. This conviction would have subjected Perez to compulsory discipline.