

COMMISSION FOR LAWYER DISCIPLINE

REPORT

TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
ON  
ATTORNEY DISCIPLINE

APRIL 2018

**Disciplinary Sanctions**  
**12/01/2017 - 02/28/2018**

DISBARMENTS	District	# of Complaints Resolved
Lindley, Hamilton Philip	8	1
Metcalf, Alexander Dale	8	9
Mulder, James C.	4	2
Total:	3	12

RESIGNATIONS IN LIEU OF DISCIPLINE	District	# of Complaints Resolved
Burnett, Burt Lee	14	8
Jordan, Chad-Hassan Akil	4	8
Kennedy, David Alan	2	1
Parker, Kenneth Leigh Jr.	3	1
Segundo, Rene	12	4
Swaim, Michael T.	4	2
Total:	6	24

SUSPENSIONS	District	# of Complaints Resolved
Bergman, Helene Thaisa W.	4	2
Bracey, Monique Jurae	1	2
Brown, Daniel Lucius	10	1
Castillo, David	10	1
Crews, Jeffrey Earl	4	1
Davis, Mark Anthony	11	1
Dugas, Evin G.	10	3
Duran, Xavier	6	1
Eason, Steven L.	6	1
Gilmet, Yexenia	4	1
Grissom, James P.	12	1
Grun, Henry Jr.	10	2
Hayes, Robert James	10	3
Holmes, Steven B.	6	1
Livesay, Richard Kent	12	2

McKee, Darwin	9	1
Mitchell, Stephen Whitson	7	4
Mitchell, Stephen Whitson	7	1
Shilling, Kathryn L.	6	1
Vega, Arthur G.	10	6
Wanies-Guirgis, Christina J.	4	5
Wasserstein, Brent Marshall	4	1
Watson, Byron Keith	4	2
Williams, Pierre Terrell	14	1
Wright, Martha C.	6	1

**Board of Disciplinary Appeals:**

Bruno, Joseph M.	BODA	1
Burris, Erik James	BODA	1
Cortese, Perry	BODA	1
Horal, Patricia Anne	BODA	1
Karenko, Juliann Kcenia	BODA	1
Malhotra, Rahul	BODA	1
Strong, Staci Jennifer	BODA	1
Total:		53

PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	District	# of Complaints Resolved
Adamson, Marshall E.	6	1
Duremdes, Fulgencio Tupas	4	1
Easley, Sharon Malchar	1	1
Fuller, Roger	6	1
Kasofsky, Dale S.	12	2
Pittard, Robert Chris	10	1
Sharkey, Christopher	4	1
Swearingen, Robert Adren	8	1
Thomas, Jermaine Savoy	4	1

**Board of Disciplinary Appeals:**

Carthew, Paul Anthony	BODA	1
Monsebroten, James Matthew	BODA	1
Total:		11
		12

**PRIVATE REPRIMANDS**

Grievance Comm.	# of Sanctions	# of Complaints Resolved
1	1	1
4	5	5
5	2	2
6	4	5
7	1	1
9	2	2
10	3	3
11	1	1
12	2	2
14	1	2
17	1	1
Total:		23
		25
Grievance Referral Program		14
Grand Total:		89
		140

### **Disciplinary Actions - Current Bar Year**

BAR YEARS	Total Sanctions	Total Complaints Resolved
2017-2018		
DISBARMENTS	16	35
RESIGNATIONS IN LIEU OF DISCIPLINE	20	98
SUSPENSIONS	88	130
PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	18	20
PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	58	62
GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	53	53
Total:	253	398

\*does not reflect year-end figures

### **Disciplinary Actions - Previous Bar Year**

BAR YEARS	Total Sanctions	Total Complaints Resolved
2016-2017		
DISBARMENTS	20	59
RESIGNATIONS IN LIEU OF DISCIPLINE	28	122
SUSPENSIONS	126	182
PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	30	37
PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	89	97
GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	50	50
Total:	343	547

BAR YEARS	Total Sanctions	Total Complaints Resolved
2015-2016		
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	55
RESIGNATIONS IN LIEU OF DISCIPLINE	19	56
SUSPENSIONS	113	147
PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	32	36
PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	66	72
GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	64	72
Total:	321	438

BAR YEARS 2013-2014	Total Sanctions	Total Complaints Resolved
DISBARMENTS	22	41
RESIGNATIONS IN LIEU OF DISCIPLINE	17	58
SUSPENSIONS	130	169
PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	31	35
PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	63	70
GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	57	57
Total:	320	430

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 1:

**Bracey, Monique Jurae: #24058788**  
**11/02/2017-Partially Probated Suspension**  
**10/13/2017-01/12/2018: SUSPENSION**  
**01/12/2018-04/12/2019: PROBATED**

On November 2, 2017, **Monique Jurae Bracey** [#24058788], 35, of Plano, received an 18-month, partially probated suspension, effective October 13, 2017. An evidentiary panel of the District 1 Grievance Committee found that Bracey neglected the legal matters entrusted to her by failing to provide legal services. Bracey failed to keep Complainants reasonably informed about the status of their legal matters. Thereafter, upon termination of the representation, Bracey failed to refund advance payments of fees that had not been earned. Further, Bracey failed to respond to the grievances. Bracey violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8). She was ordered to pay \$2,113.00 in restitution and \$1,568.00 in attorneys' fees.

**Easley, Sharon Malchar: #06358440**  
**02/26/2018-Agreed Public Reprimand**

On February 26, 2018, **Sharon Malchar Easley** [#06358440], 68, of Plano, agreed to a public reprimand. The District 1 Grievance Committee found that Easley represented Complainant in a child custody suit. Easley neglected Complainant's legal matter by failing to appear in person at the trial scheduled. Easley violated Rule 1.01(b)(1). She was ordered to pay attorneys' fees and direct expenses in the sum of \$225.00.

**Dallas Attorney**  
**02/12/2018-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 2:

**Kennedy, David Alan: #00787819**  
**01/23/2018-Resignation in lieu of Discipline**

On January 23, 2018, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation, in lieu of discipline, of **David Alan Kennedy** [#00787819], 59, of Tyler. Kennedy was retained for representation in a guardianship. Kennedy neglected the matter, failed to keep Complainant advised of the status of the matter and respond to Complainant's requests for information, failed to refund advance payment of fees that had not been earned, and failed to respond to the grievance. Alleged Rules violated 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8)

DISTRICT 3:

**Parker, Kenneth Leigh Jr.: #00792739**  
**01/23/2018-Resignation in lieu of Discipline**

On January 23, 2018, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation, in lieu of discipline, of **Kenneth Leigh Parker, Jr.** [#00792739], 47, of Beaumont. At the time of his resignation, there was only one disciplinary action pending which alleged that while Parker represented his client on multiple cases, he failed to hold client's funds in a separate trust account. Parker further fabricated work and forged multiple court orders and documents in order to secure payment and/or fees. In addition, Parker failed to refund unearned fees. Parker violated Rules 1.14(a), 1.15(d), 8.04(a)(2), and 8.04(a)(3).

DISTRICT 4:

**Bergman, Helene Thaisa W.: #02196500**  
**11/10/2017-Partially Probated Suspension**  
**11/09/2017-02/09/2018: SUSPENSION**  
**02/10/2018-11/09/2018: PROBATED**

On November 10, 2017, **Helene Thaisa W. Bergman** [#02196500], 63, of Houston, received a one-year, partially probated suspension, effective November 9, 2017, with the first three months actively served and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that Bergman failed to return unearned fees, and failed to protect her client's interests.

Bergman was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$1,685.00 and attorneys' direct expenses in the amount of \$250.00. Bergman violated Rule 1.15(d).

**Houston Attorney**  
**12/21/2017-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.

**Crews, Jeffrey Earl: #24012475**  
**11/28/2017-Fully Probated Suspension**  
**01/01/2018-12/31/2018: PROBATED**

On November 28, 2017, **Jeffrey Earl Crews** [#24012475], 56, of Houston, received a one-year, fully probated suspension, effective January 1, 2018. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that, in representing his client, Crews neglected the legal matter entrusted to him, failed to keep his client reasonably informed about the status of their matter and to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information, and, upon termination of representation, failed to refund advance payments of fee that had not been earned. In addition, Crews 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. Crews violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$2,300.00 in restitution and \$1,500.00 in attorneys' fees.

**Duremdes, Fulgencio Tupas: #06276850**  
**12/18/2017-Agreed Public Reprimand**

On December 18, 2017, **Fulgencio Tupas Duremdes** [#06276850], 81, of Houston, received a public reprimand. The 113th District Court of Harris County found that Duremdes committed professional misconduct by violating Rule 1.04(g) [failure to obtain a client's written permission to refer the client to another lawyer]. Duremdes was ordered to pay \$774.20 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

**Gilmet, Yexenia: #24059821**  
**01/05/2018-Default Partially Probated Suspension**  
**03/04/2018-06/03/2018: SUSPENSION**  
**06/04/2018-09/03/2018: PROBATED**

On January 5, 2018, **Yexenia Gilmet** [#24059821], 38, of Houston, received a six-month, partially probated suspension, effective March 4, 2018, with the first three months actively suspended and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that Gilmet frequently failed to carry out completely the obligations owed to her client, failed to keep her client reasonably informed about the status of her case, and failed to promptly comply with her client's reasonable requests for information. Upon termination of the representation, Gilmet failed to refund unearned fees until after the grievance was filed. Gilmet violated Rules 1.01(b)(2), 1.03(a), and 1.15(d). She was ordered to pay \$1,805.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

**Houston Attorney**  
**01/10/2018-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.

**Jordan, Chad-Hassan Akil: #24073262**  
**12/12/2017-Resignation in lieu of Discipline**

On December 12, 2017, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation, in lieu of discipline, of **Chad-Hassan Akil Jordan** [#24073262], 35, of Houston. At the time of Jordan's resignation, he had eight grievances pending against him. Jordan neglected legal matters entrusted to him, frequently failed to carry out completely the obligations that he owed to his clients, failed to abide by a client's decision as to whether accept an offer of settlement of a matter, failed to keep clients reasonably informed about the status of their legal matters and promptly comply with reasonable requests for information, and failed to explain matters to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation. Jordan also failed to hold funds belonging in whole or in part to his client that were in his possession in connection with a representation separate from his own property, upon receiving funds in which his client had an interest, Jordan failed to promptly notify the client, and upon termination of representation, Jordan failed to refund advance payments of fee that had not been earned. Jordan committed a criminal act that reflected adversely on his honesty, trustworthiness, and fitness as a lawyer in other respects, he engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation. Further, Jordan failed to furnish a response to grievances. Jordan violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.01(b)(2), 1.02(a)(2), 1.03(a), 1.03(b), 1.14(a), 1.14 (b), 1.15(d), 8.04(a)(2), 8.04(a)(3), and 8.04(a)(8).

**Houston Attorney**  
**02/21/2018-Agreed Private Reprimand**

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.

**Mulder, James C.: #14634200**  
**11/09/2017-Disbarment**

On November 9, 2017, **James C. Mulder** [#14634200], 68, of Houston, was disbarred. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that Mulder failed to hold funds belonging in whole or in part to his clients that were in his possession in connection with the representation separate from his own property; failed to render a full accounting regarding such funds upon request; and disbursed funds to persons who were not entitled to receive them by virtue of the representation or by law. Mulder committed a serious crime or other criminal act that reflects adversely on his honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a lawyer in other respects; and engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation. Mulder also 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. Mulder violated Rules 1.14(a), 1.14(b), 1.14(c), 8.04(a)(2), 8.04(a)(3), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$294,000.00 in restitution and \$1,750.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

**Sharkey, Christopher: #18114150**  
**02/08/2018-Agreed Public Reprimand**

On February 8, 2018, **Christopher Sharkey** [#18114150], 57, of Houston, received an agreed judgment of public reprimand. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that in representing his client, Sharkey neglected the legal matter entrusted to him and failed to keep his client reasonably informed about the status of their legal matter and to comply with reasonable requests for information. Sharkey violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), and 1.03(a). He was ordered to pay \$700.00 in attorneys' fees.

**Swaim, Michael T.: #19545320**  
**01/23/2018-Resignation in lieu of Discipline**

On January 23, 2018, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation, in lieu of discipline, of **Michael T. Swaim** [#19545320], 56, of Houston. At the time of Swaim's resignation, there were two grievances pending against him alleging he neglected a legal matter entrusted to him, frequently failed to carry out completely the obligations he owed to a client, and failed to keep his clients reasonably informed about the status of their legal matters and promptly comply with reasonable requests for information. He also failed to provide, upon conclusion of a contingent fee matter, a written statement describing the outcome of the matter and, upon receiving funds in which his client had an interest, failed to promptly notify the client and promptly deliver to the client funds that the client was entitled to receive. Swaim also failed to furnish responses to disciplinary grievances. Swaim violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.01(b)(2), 1.03(a), 1.04(d), 1.14(b), and 8.04(a)(8).

**Thomas, Jermaine Savoy: #24033386**  
**12/04/2017-Agreed Public Reprimand**

On December 4, 2017, **Jermaine Savoy Thomas** [#24033386], 42, of Houston, accepted a public reprimand. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that Thomas knowingly failed to disclose a fact to a tribunal when disclosure was necessary to avoid assisting a criminal or fraudulent act, and engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation. Thomas violated Rules 3.03(a)(2), and 8.04(a)(3). He agreed to pay attorneys' fees and direct expenses in the amount of \$500.00.

**Houston Attorney**  
**01/15/2018-Agreed Private Reprimand**

Rule 1.15(d)

for failing, upon termination of representation, to reasonably protect a client's interests, give notice to the client to seek other counsel, or surrender papers and property which belongs to the client

**Houston Attorney**  
**12/18/2017-Agreed Private Reprimand**

Rule 1.09(a)(3)

for representing a person in a matter adverse to a former client if it is the same or a substantially related matter

**Wanies-Guirgis, Christina J.: #24084772**  
**02/15/2018-Agreed Partially Probated Suspension**  
**02/01/2018-01/31/2019: SUSPENSION**  
**02/01/2019-01/31/2021: PROBATED**

On February 15, 2018, **Christina J. Wanies-Guirgis** [#24084772], 33, of Houston, accepted an agreed judgment of a three-year, partially probated suspension, effective February 1, 2018, with the first year actively suspended and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that Wanies-Guirgis neglected legal matters entrusted to her, failed to keep her clients reasonably informed about their cases and failed to promptly comply with her clients' reasonable requests for information. Upon termination of her representation, Wanies-Guirgis failed to refund advance payments of fee that were not earned. Wanies-Guirgis also failed to respond to grievances. Wanies-Guirgis violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8). She was ordered to pay a total of \$2,400.00 in restitution and \$1,000.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

**Wasserstein, Brent Marshall: #24039234**  
**01/11/2018-Fully Probated Suspension**  
**09/04/2020-03/03/2021: PROBATED**

On January 11, 2018, **Brent Marshall Wasserstein** [#24039234], 42, of Houston, received a six-month, fully probated suspension, effective September 4, 2020. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that Wasserstein failed to hold funds belonging to his client separate from his own property in a separate trust account. Wasserstein violated Rule 1.14(a). He was ordered to pay \$701.00 in direct expenses.

**Watson, Byron Keith: #20933600**  
**12/19/2017-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension**  
**01/01/2018-06/30/2018: PROBATED**

On December 19, 2017, **Byron Keith Watson** [#20933600], 62, of Houston, received an agreed judgment of fully probated suspension. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that in representing a client, Watson neglected the legal matter entrusted to him, and, failed to keep another client reasonably informed about the status of his legal matter and failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information. Watson violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), and 1.03(a). He was ordered to pay \$300.00 in attorneys' fees.

DISTRICT 5:

**Houston Attorney**  
**02/27/2018-Agreed Private Reprimand**

Rule 1.01(b)(1)

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

**Houston Attorney**  
**01/18/2018-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 6:

**Adamson, Marshall E.: #00797973**  
**11/21/2017-Public Reprimand**

On November 21, 2017, **Marshall E. Adamson** [#00797973], 57, of Dallas, received a public reprimand. The District 6 Grievance Committee found that on October 6, 2014, Complainant hired Adamson for representation in a probate matter. In representing Complainant, Adamson neglected the legal matter entrusted to him by failing to provide legal services. Adamson failed to keep Complainant reasonably informed about the status of the probate matter and failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information from Complainant about the matter. Upon termination of representation, Adamson failed to surrender papers and property to which Complainant was entitled. Adamson violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), and 1.15(d). He was ordered to pay attorneys' fees and direct expenses in the sum of \$2,137.50.

**Duran, Xavier: #24015154**  
**12/14/2017-Fully Probated Suspension**  
**12/08/2017-06/07/2018: PROBATED**

On December 14, 2017, **Xavier Duran** [#24015154], 46, of Dallas, received a six-month, fully probated suspension, effective December 8, 2017. An evidentiary panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that in or around 2008, Complainant hired Duran to represent him in a criminal matter. In representing Complainant Duran neglected the legal matter entrusted to him by failing to perform any work in the case. Duran failed to keep Complainant reasonably informed about the status of his criminal matter, and failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information from Complainant about his criminal matter. Duran violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), and 1.03(a). He was ordered to pay \$2,405.25 in attorneys' fees and costs.

**Eason, Steven L.: #06360990**  
**12/19/2017-Partially Probated Suspension**  
**01/17/2018-07/16/2018: SUSPENSION**  
**07/17/2018-01/16/2020: PROBATED**

On December 19, 2017, **Steven L. Eason** [#06360990], 57, of Dallas, received a two-year, partially probated suspension, effective January 17, 2018 with the first six months actively suspended and the remainder probated. The 134th District Court of Dallas County found that Eason committed professional misconduct by violating Rule 1.01(b)(1) [neglecting a legal matter entrusted to him by a client]. Eason was ordered to pay \$309.67 in direct expenses.

**Fuller, Roger: #07524350**  
**02/07/2018-Agreed Public Reprimand**

On February 7, 2018, **Roger Fuller** [#07524350], 56, of Dallas, received a public reprimand. The 101st District Court of Dallas County found that Fuller committed professional misconduct by failing to supervise his non-lawyer employees. Fuller violated Rule 5.03(a). He was ordered to pay \$1,985.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

**Dallas Attorney**  
**12/29/2017-Agreed Private Reprimand**

Rule 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.

**Holmes, Steven B.: #09908485**  
**12/13/2017-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension**  
**12/15/2017-12/14/2020: PROBATED**

On December 13, 2017, **Steven B. Holmes** [#09908485], 60, of Dallas, agreed to a 36-month, fully probated suspension, effective December 15, 2017. The District 6 Grievance Committee found that in October 2015, Holmes plead guilty to making a material false statement to the Department of Housing & Urban Development. Holmes committed a criminal act that reflects adversely on the lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a lawyer. Holmes engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation. Holmes violated Rules 8.04(a)(2), and 8.04(a)(3). He was ordered to pay \$1,200.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

**Dallas Attorney**  
**12/08/2017-Agreed Private Reprimand**

Rule 8.04(a)(11)

A lawyer shall not engage in the practice of law when the lawyer is on inactive status or when the lawyer's right to practice has been suspended or terminated, including but not limited to situations where a lawyer's right to practice has been administratively suspended for failure to timely pay required fees or assessments or for failure to comply with Article XII of the State Bar Rules relating to Mandatory Continuing Legal Education.

**Dallas Attorney**  
**11/21/2017-Private Reprimand**

Rule 1.01(b)(1)

A lawyer shall not neglect a legal matter entrusted to the lawyer.

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.

**Shilling, Kathryn L.: #00784961**  
**12/21/2017-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension**  
**12/15/2017-12/14/2019: PROBATED**

On December 21, 2017, **Kathryn L. Shilling** [#00784961], 56, of Dallas, agreed to a 24-month, fully probated suspension, effective December 15, 2017. The District 6 Grievance Committee found that Shilling failed to keep Boardwalk Motor Sports, LLC and/or Boardwalk Motorsports, Ltd. and/or Boardwalk Ferrari (Boardwalk) reasonably informed about the status of their appellate matter. Shilling failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information from Boardwalk about their appellate matter. Shilling failed to reduce the contingent fee agreement entered into with Boardwalk to writing. Upon conclusion of Boardwalk's appellate matter, Shilling failed to provide Boardwalk with a written statement showing the remittance to Boardwalk and the method of its determination. Shilling failed to hold funds belonging to Boardwalk that were in Shilling's possession in connection with the representation separate from Shilling's own property. Upon receiving funds in which Boardwalk had an interest, Shilling failed to promptly notify Boardwalk. Shilling failed to promptly deliver to Boardwalk funds that Boardwalk was entitled to receive. Upon request by Boardwalk, Shilling failed to promptly render a full accounting regarding such funds. Upon termination of representation, Shilling failed to surrender papers and property to which Boardwalk was entitled. Shilling violated Rules 1.03(a), 1.04(d), 1.14(a), 1.14(b), 1.14(c), and 1.15(d). She was ordered to pay \$1,150.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses and \$106,678.52 in restitution.

**Wright, Martha C.: #22048800**  
**02/20/2018-Agreed Partially Probated Suspension**  
**04/01/2018-06/30/2018: SUSPENSION**  
**07/01/2018-03/31/2020: PROBATED**

On February 20, 2018, **Martha C. Wright** [#22048800], 59, of Grand Prairie, received a 24-month, partially probated suspension, effective April 1, 2018, with the first 3 months actively suspended and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that in or about September 2015, Complainant hired Wright to represent him with a foreclosure matter. In representing Complainant, Wright neglected the legal matter entrusted to her by failing to timely file pleadings. Wright failed to keep Complainant reasonably informed about the status of her legal matter. Further, Wright failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information from Complainant about his legal matter. Wright violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), and 1.03(a). She was ordered to pay \$1,000.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

**Dallas Attorney**  
**11/30/2017-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 7:

**Mitchell, Stephen Whitson: #14220900**  
**02/13/2018-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension**  
**02/15/2018-02/14/2020: PROBATED**

On February 13, 2018, **Stephen Whitson Mitchell** [#14220900], 52, of Fort Worth, agreed to a 24-month, fully probated suspension, effective February 15, 2018. The District 7 Grievance Committee found that upon receiving settlement funds in which Complainants had an interest, Mitchell failed to promptly deliver to Complainants funds that Complainants were entitled to receive. Upon request by Complainants, Mitchell failed to promptly render a full accounting regarding such funds. Mitchell also communicated about the subject of the demand for accounting of funds when Mitchell knew Complainant was represented by another lawyer regarding that subject; Mitchell did not have the consent of the other lawyer nor was he authorized by law to make the communication. Mitchell violated Rules 1.14(b) and 4.02(a). He was ordered to pay \$2,500.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses and \$11,510.00 in restitution.

**Mitchell, Stephen Whitson: #14220900**  
**02/13/2018-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension**  
**02/15/2018-02/14/2020: PROBATED**

On February 13, 2018, **Stephen Whitson Mitchell** [#14220900], 52, of Fort Worth, agreed to a 24-month, fully probated suspension, effective February 15, 2018. The District 7 Grievance Committee found that, after a settlement was reached in a personal injury matter, Mitchell failed to promptly deliver to Complainant funds that Complainant was entitled to receive. Upon request by Complainant, Mitchell failed to promptly render a full accounting regarding such funds. Mitchell violated Rule 1.14(b). He was ordered to pay \$1,500.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses and \$7,765.62 in restitution.

**Dallas Attorney**  
**02/27/2018-Agreed Private Reprimand**

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 1.14(c)

When in the course of representation a lawyer is in possession of funds or other property in which both the lawyer and another person claim interests, the property shall be kept separate by the lawyer until there is an accounting and severance of their interest. All funds in a trust or escrow account shall be disbursed only to those persons entitled to receive them by virtue of the representation or by law. If a dispute arises concerning their respective interests, the portion in dispute shall be kept separated by the lawyer until the dispute is resolved, and the undisputed portion shall be distributed appropriately.

DISTRICT 8:

**Lindley, Hamilton Philip: #24044838**  
**11/16/2017-Disbarment**

On November 16, 2017, **Hamilton Philip Lindley** [#24044838], 41, of McGregor, was disbarred. The District 8 evidentiary panel found that Lindley fabricated letters, forged client signatures, and falsified written agreements of other attorneys. Lindley violated Rules 8.04(a)(2), and 8.04(a)(3) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct. Lindley was ordered to pay \$12,917.54 in attorneys' fees and costs. Lindley has filed an Appeal.

**Metcalf, Alexander Dale: #24058000**  
**11/17/2017-Disbarment**

On November 17, 2017, **Alexander Dale Metcalf** [#24058000], 34, of Bastrop, was disbarred. An evidentiary panel of the District 8 Grievance Committee found that Metcalf committed misconduct in nine cases. Complainants paid Metcalf advanced fees ranging from \$1,500.00 to \$7,500.00. In one case, Metcalf failed to respond to the complaint. In four cases he did not complete sufficient work to earn the entire fee. In the remaining four cases, Metcalf failed to provide any legal services. Although Complainants attempted to obtain information regarding the status of their legal matters via telephone, text, email, letter, and in person, Metcalf failed to respond to their requests for information. Metcalf ultimately abandoned his law practice without notifying Complainants, failed to return unearned fees and failed to return client's files. Metcalf also failed to file a response to the complaints as directed. Metcalf violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), 1.14(b), and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct, Article X, Section 9, State Bar Rules. Metcalf was ordered to pay \$22,200.00 in restitution and \$6,478.48 in attorneys' fees and expenses.

**Swearingen, Robert Adren: #19563050**  
**10/25/2017-Public Reprimand**

On October 25, 2017, **Robert Adren Swearingen** [#19563050], 62, of College Station, received a public reprimand. The District 8 evidentiary panel found that Swearingen represented the mother in an original suit affecting the parent-child relationship with her minor child. In the original SAPCR, Swearingen sought and obtained orders favorable to the mother. Thereafter, two suits occurred to modify orders affecting the parent-child relationship. Swearingen did not participate in the first modification proceeding. In the second modification proceeding, Swearingen represented the minor child's stepmother, adverse to his former client, the mother. Swearingen did not ask for, or receive, his former client's consent to adverse representation. Swearingen violated Rule 1.09(a)(3) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct. Swearingen was ordered to pay \$5,000.00 in attorneys' fees and costs. Swearingen has filed an appeal.

DISTRICT 9:

**McKee, Darwin: #13695700**  
**12/05/2017-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension**  
**01/01/2018-12/31/2018: PROBATED**

On December 5, 2017, **Darwin McKee** [#13695700], 66, of Austin, accepted a one-year, fully probated suspension, effective January 1, 2018. An evidentiary panel of the District 9 Grievance Committee found that McKee was hired in a personal injury matter and filed suit on his client's behalf. Thereafter, McKee failed to obtain citation or achieve service of process on the defendant. The matter was placed on the court's dismissal docket and McKee's client prepared and filed a Motion to Retain, which was granted. McKee failed to properly withdraw after being terminated by his client. McKee violated Rules 1.01(b)(1) and 1.15(a)(3). He was ordered to pay \$4,500.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses and to complete three additional hours of CLE in the area of law practice management.

**Austin Attorney**  
**12/05/2017-Agreed Private Reprimand**

Rule 1.03(b)

for failing to explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation

Rule 1.15(d)

for failing, upon termination of representation, to reasonably protect a client's interests, give notice to the client to seek other counsel, or surrender papers and property which belongs to the client

**Austin Attorney**  
**02/07/2018-Agreed Private Reprimand**

Rule 1.14(b)

for failing, upon receiving funds or other property in which a client or third person has an interest, to promptly notify the client or third person and render a full accounting upon request

DISTRICT 10:

**Brown, Daniel Lucius: #03108300**  
**02/07/2018-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension**  
**02/15/2018-08/14/2019: PROBATED**

On February 7, 2018, **Daniel Lucius Brown** [#03108300], 63, of San Antonio, accepted an 18-month, fully probated suspension, effective February 15, 2018. The District 10 Grievance Committee found that Brown neglected a client's matter and failed to keep a client reasonably informed. Brown violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), and 1.03(a)&(b), and agreed to pay \$2,500.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

**Castillo, David: #03984700**  
**02/08/2018-Agreed Partially Probated Suspension**  
**06/01/2018-06/30/2018: SUSPENSION**  
**07/01/2018-06/30/2020: PROBATED**

On February 8, 2018, **David Castillo** [#03984700], 57, of Harlingen, agreed to a 25-month, partially probated suspension, effective June 1, 2018, with the first 30 days actively served and the remainder probated. The District 10 Grievance Committee found that, in an immigration representation, Castillo failed to hold client's funds in a trust account, failed to return the unearned portion of a fee, misrepresented facts related to his trust account and violated terms of a disciplinary judgment. Castillo violated Rules 1.14(a)&(b), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(3)&(7), and agreed to pay \$4,042.15 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

**Dugas, Evin G.: #06172950**  
**08/18/2017-Partially Probated Suspension**  
**11/01/2017-11/01/2020: SUSPENSION**  
**11/01/2020-11/01/2027: PROBATED**

On August 18, 2017, **Evin G. Dugas** [#06172950], 57, of San Antonio, received a ten-year, partially probated suspension, effective November 1, 2017, with the first three-years actively served and the remainder probated. The 57th Judicial District Court of Bexar County found that Dugas committed professional misconduct by violating Rules 1.01(b)(1) [neglect], 1.03(a) [communication], 1.15(d) [for failing, upon termination of representation, to surrender papers and property which belong to the client or refund advance payments of fees], 8.04(a)(3) [dishonesty, deceit, or misrepresentation], & 8.04(a)(8) [failing to respond to a grievance timely]. A motion for new trial has been filed by Dugas. Dugas was ordered to pay \$31,623.00 in attorneys' fees and litigation expenses.

**San Antonio Attorney**  
**12/11/2017-Agreed Private Reprimand**

Rule 1.01(b)(2)  
for failing to carry out completely the obligations owed to a client.

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

**Grun, Henry Jr.: #08556100**  
**02/21/2018-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension**  
**03/01/2018-02/29/2020: PROBATED**

On February 21, 2018, **Henry Grun, Jr.** [#08556100], 64, of San Antonio, accepted a two-year, fully probated suspension, effective March 1, 2018. The District 10 Grievance Committee found that Grun neglected a client's matter, failed to keep a client informed, acted as an intermediary without the necessary disclosures and failed to return a client's file. Grun violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a)&(b),

1.07(a)(1) and 1.15(d), and agreed to pay \$1,200.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

**Hayes, Robert James: #24057610**  
**12/19/2017-Active Suspension**  
**12/13/2017-12/12/2022: SUSPENSION**

On December 19, 2017, **Robert James Hayes** [#24057610], 45, of Missouri, received a five-year, active suspension, effective December 13, 2017. The District 10 Grievance Committee found that Hayes neglected client's matters, failed to keep clients reasonably informed, failed to refund an unearned fee, failed to return a client's files, and failed to respond to grievances timely. Hayes violated Rules 1.01(b)(1)&(2), 1.03(a)&(b), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8), and agreed to pay \$2,000.00 in restitution, and \$2,400.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

**San Antonio Attorney**  
**02/26/2018-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.

**Pittard, Robert Chris: #00794465**  
**02/22/2018-Agreed Public Reprimand**

On February 22, 2018, **Robert Chris Pittard** [#00794465], 61, of San Antonio, accepted a public reprimand. The 285th Judicial District Court of Bexar County found that Pittard committed professional misconduct by violating Rule 1.14(b) [failing, upon receiving funds or other property in which a client or third person has an interest, to promptly render a full accounting]. Pittard was ordered to pay \$1,000.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

**San Antonio Attorney  
12/17/2017-Agreed Private Reprimand**

Rule 1.01(b)(1)  
for neglecting a legal matter entrusted to the lawyer

Rule 1.03(a)  
for failing to keep a client reasonably informed about the status of a matter and promptly comply with reasonable requests for information;

Rule 1.03(b)  
for failing to explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding representation

Rule 5.03(a)  
for failing to make reasonable efforts to ensure that the non-lawyer's conduct is compatible with the professional obligations of the lawyer

Rule 5.03(b)  
A lawyer shall be subject to discipline for the conduct of such a person that would be a violation of these rules if engaged in by a lawyer if: (1) the lawyer orders, encourages, or permits the conduct involved; or (2) the lawyer: (i) is a partner in the law firm in which the person is employed, retained by, or associated with; or is the general counsel of a government agency's legal department in which the person is employed, retained by or associated with; or has direct supervisory authority over such person; and (ii) with knowledge of such misconduct by the nonlawyer knowingly fails to take reasonable remedial action to avoid or mitigate the consequences of that person's misconduct.

**Vega, Arthur G.: #20533600  
1/30/2018-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension  
02/01/2018-01/31/2020: PROBATED**

On January 30, 2018, **Arthur G. Vega** [#20533600], 65, of Bexar, accepted a two-year, fully probated suspension, effective February 1, 2018. The District 10 Grievance Committee found that Vega neglected client's matters, and failed to keep clients reasonably informed. Vega violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), and 1.03(a)&(b) and agreed to pay \$2,500.00 in restitution, and \$2,000.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

DISTRICT 11:

**Davis, Mark Anthony: #24012509**  
**01/10/2018-Agreed Partially Probated Suspension**  
**04/01/2018-05/01/2018: SUSPENSION**  
**05/01/2018-05/31/2020: PROBATED**

On January 10, 2018, **Mark Anthony Davis** [#24012509], 46, of Victoria, accepted a 27-month, partially probated suspension, effective April 1, 2018, with the first-thirty days actively served and the remainder probated. The District 11 Grievance Committee found that Davis failed to keep a client reasonably informed, failed to return the unearned portion of a fee and failed to respond to the grievance. Davis violated Rules 1.03(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8) and was ordered to pay \$2,500.00 in restitution and \$800.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

**San Antonio Attorney**  
**02/15/2018-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.

DISTRICT 12:

**Grissom, James P.: #08511900**  
**12/13/2017-Partially Probated Suspension**  
**03/31/2019-09/30/2019: SUSPENSION**  
**01/31/2022-01/30/2023: PROBATED**

On December 13, 2017, **James P. Grissom** [#08511900], 70, of McAllen, received an 18-month, partially probated suspension, effective March 31, 2019, with the first six-months actively served and the remainder probated. The District 12 Grievance Committee found that Grissom failed to hold client's funds in a trust account separate from his own property, failed to keep disputed funds in a trust account and knowingly disobeyed an order by a tribunal. Grissom violated Rules 1.14(a), 1.14(c), and 3.04(d) and was ordered to pay \$4,418.95 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

**San Antonio Attorney**  
**02/21/2018-Agreed Private Reprimand**

Rule 5.03(a)

for failing to make reasonable efforts to ensure that the non-lawyer's conduct is compatible with the professional obligations of the lawyer.

**Kasofsky, Dale S.: #11105225**  
**02/21/2018-Agreed Public Reprimand**

On February 21, 2018, **Dale S. Kasofsky** [#11105225], 52, of McAllen, accepted a public reprimand. The District 12 Grievance Committee found that Kasofsky failed to communicate with his clients. Kasofsky violated Rule 1.03(b) and agreed to pay \$1,500.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

**Livesay, Richard Kent: #00790057**  
**12/28/2017-Agreed Partially Probated Suspension**  
**01/01/2018-05/31/2018: SUSPENSION**  
**06/01/2018-12/31/2018: PROBATED**

On December 28, 2017, **Richard Kent Livesay** [#00790057], 49, of Edinburg, accepted a 12-month, partially probated suspension, effective January 1, 2018, with the first five-months actively served and the remainder probated. The District 12 Grievance Committee found that Livesay's employee improperly communicated with one represented by counsel and initiate in-person contact with prospective clients to seek professional employment. Livesay failed to properly supervise his non-lawyer employees and assisted another in violating the disciplinary rules. Livesay violated Rules 4.02(a), 5.03(b)(1), 7.03(a), and 8.04(a)(1). He was ordered to pay \$2,000.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

**San Antonio Attorney**  
**02/20/2018-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.

**Segundo, Rene: #17996999**  
**02/13/2018-Resignation in lieu of Discipline**

On February 13, 2018, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation, in lieu of discipline, of **Rene Segundo** [#17996999], 55, of Mission. At the time of his resignation, Segundo had four matters pending alleging he neglected clients' matters, failed to keep clients informed, failed to safeguard clients' funds, failed to return unearned fees, violated advertising rule, violated terms of a prior disciplinary judgment, failed to respond to grievances, failed to comply with cessation of practice rules and practiced law while his license was suspended. Segundo violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a)&(b), 1.14(a)&(b), 1.15(d), 7.07(c) & 8.04(a)(7),(8),(10)&(11).

DISTRICT 14:

**Burnett, Burt Lee: #00787171**  
**02/13/2018-Resignation in lieu of Discipline**

On February 13, 2018, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation, in lieu of discipline, of **Burt Lee Burnett** [#00787171], 50, of Abilene. At the time of Burnett's resignation, there were eight pending matters against him alleging Burnett neglected cases, failed to communicate with clients, failed to provide written settlement disbursement statements to clients, failed to safeguard clients' funds, failed to promptly disburse funds, failed to return clients' files at the end of the representation, engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation, and failed to respond to grievances. Alleged Rules violated: 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.04(d), 1.14(a), 1.14(b), 1.15(d), 8.04(a)(3), and 8.04(a)(8). Burnett owes restitution to multiple clients totaling \$838,455.91.

**Dallas Attorney**  
**02/26/2018-Agreed Private Reprimand**

Rule 8.04(a)(2)

A lawyer shall not commit a serious crime or commit any other criminal act that reflects adversely on the lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a lawyer in other respects.

**Williams, Pierre Terrell: #00798587**  
**11/06/2017-Default Partially Probated Suspension**  
**11/01/2017-10/31/2018: SUSPENSION**  
**11/01/2018-10/31/2019: PROBATED**

On November 6, 2017, **Pierre Terrell Williams** [#00798587], 47, of Denton, received a 24-month, partially probated suspension, effective November 1, 2017, with the first twelve months actively served and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 14 Grievance Committee found that on March 28, 2016, Williams plead guilty to four drug-related crimes that reflect adversely on the lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a lawyer in other respects. Williams failed to timely furnish to the Chief Disciplinary Counsel's office a response to the grievance or other information as required by the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure. Williams did not in good faith timely assert a privilege or other legal ground for failure to do so. Williams violated Rules 8.04(a)(2), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$1,156.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

DISTRICT 17:

**San Antonio Attorney  
01/03/2018-Agreed Private Reprimand**

Rule 3.05(b)(1)

A lawyer shall not, except as otherwise permitted by law and not prohibited by applicable rules of practice or procedure, communicate or cause another to communicate ex parte with a tribunal for the purpose of influencing that entity or person concerning a pending matter other than: in the course of official proceedings in the cause.

Rule 8.04(a)(6)

A lawyer shall not knowingly assist a judge or judicial officer in conduct that is a violation of applicable rules of judicial conduct or other law.

Rule 8.04(a)(1)

A lawyer shall not violate these rules, knowingly assist or induce another to do so, or do so through the acts of another, whether or not such violation occurred in the course of a client-lawyer relationship.

**Board of Disciplinary Appeals:**

**Bruno, Joseph M.: #00788860  
01/22/2018-Agreed Partially Probated Suspension  
01/22/2018-02/21/2018: SUSPENSION  
02/22/2018-04/22/2018: PROBATED**

On January 22, 2018, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed an Agreed Judgment of Partially Probated Suspension of New Orleans, LA attorney **Joseph M. Bruno**, 63, State Bar of Texas Card No. 00788860. On October 9, 2017, the Supreme Court of the State of Louisiana entered an Order Per Curiam suspending Mr. Bruno from the practice of law for 90 days and all but 30 days deferred subject to his successful completion of probation in a matter styled *In Re: Joseph M. Bruno*, Number 2017-B-1012. The Supreme Court of Louisiana found that he violated Louisiana Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3 and 1.4 by neglecting a client's matter and by failing to communicate with the client. Bruno is suspended from the practice of law in Texas beginning January 22, 2018, and ending April 22, 2018, with the first 30 days active and the remainder probated, provided that he comply with the terms and conditions of his partially probated suspension.

**Erik James Burris: #24061360  
01/26/2018-Compulsory Discipline – Interlocutory Order of Suspension**

On January 26, 2018, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed an interlocutory order of suspension against San Diego, CA attorney **Erik James Burris**, 42, State Bar of Texas Card No. 24061360. On December 16, 2015, Maj. Burris was found guilty of assault, rape, sexual assault and other sexual misconduct, and sodomy in violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, Intentional Crimes as defined in the TEXAS RULES OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE, by General Court-Martial Order Number 10

and was dismissed from the service, confined for 20 years and ordered to forfeit all pay and allowances (Forfeiture waived for six months and paid to Burris' dependent children.) Burris has appealed his criminal conviction to the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces. The Board retains jurisdiction to enter a final judgment when the criminal appeal is final.

**Carthew, Paul Anthony: #00796315**  
**02/22/2018-Agreed Public Reprimand**

On February 22, 2018, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed an Agreed Judgment of Public Reprimand of Rochester, MI attorney **Paul Anthony Carthew**, 47, State Bar of Texas Card No. 00796315. Mr. Carthew was reprimanded by consent by the Attorney Discipline Board for the State of Michigan on October 31, 2012, for violating an order of discipline; holding himself out as an attorney while suspended from the practice of law; engaging in conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice; engaging in conduct that exposes the legal profession to obloquy, contempt, censure, or reproach; engaging in conduct that is contrary to justice, ethics, honesty, or good morals; and violating the standards or rules of professional responsibility adopted by the Supreme Court of Michigan.

**Cortese, Perry: #00790508**  
**01/26/2018-Interlocutory Suspension**

On January 26, 2018, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed an interlocutory order of suspension against Little River Academy, TX attorney **Perry Cortese**, 55, State Bar of Texas Card No. 00790508. On October 20, 2017, Mr. Cortese was found guilty of Conspiracy to Commit Mail and Wire Fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§1341, 1343 and 1349 and conspiracy to commit money laundering in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§1956(a)(2)(A), 1956(a)(2)(B)(i) and 1956(h), Intentional Crimes as defined in the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure in the case styled, *United States of America v. Perry Don Cortese*, in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida, Tampa Division; Cause No. 8:15-CR-320-T-23TGW and was sentenced to prison for 25 years. After release from prison, Cortese will be under supervised release for three years. He was also ordered to pay restitution of \$3,767,196.00. Cortese has appealed his criminal conviction. The Board retains jurisdiction to enter a final judgment when the criminal appeal is final.

**Horal, Patricia Anne: #24067667**  
**02/28/2018-Agreed Active Suspension**  
**03/01/2018-05/29/2018: SUSPENSION**

On February 28, 2018, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed an Agreed Judgment of Suspension of Tampa, FL attorney **Patricia Anne Horal**, 35, State Bar of Texas Card No. 24067667. On November 9, 2017, Ms. Horal was suspended from the practice of law for 90 days by consent by the Supreme Court of Florida for the following violations of the Rules Regulating the Florida Bar: 4-5.3 (responsibilities regarding non-lawyer assistants), 4-5.4 (professional independence of a lawyer), 4-5.5 (unlicensed practice of law), 4-7.18 (direct contact with prospective clients). Ms. Horal is suspended from the practice of law in Texas from March 1, 2018, and ending May 29, 2018.

**Karenko, Juliann Kcenia: #24058887**  
**02/22/2018-Agreed Active Suspension**  
**03/09/2018-03/18/2018: SUSPENSION**

On February 22, 2018, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed an Agreed Judgment of Suspension of Kemah attorney **Juliann Kcenia Karenko**, 54, State Bar of Texas Card No. 24058887. On November 16, 2017, Ms. Karenko was suspended from the practice of law for 10 days by consent by the Supreme Court of Florida for the following violations of the Rules Regulating the Florida Bar: competence, diligence, communication, expediting litigation, false statement of a material fact, failure to disclose a fact, and failure to respond to the bar. Ms. Karenko is suspended from the practice of law in Texas from March 9, 2018, and ending March 18, 2018.

**Malhotra, Rahul: #00797781**  
**01/26/2018-Active Suspension**  
**01/26/2018-03/22/2022: SUSPENSION**

On January 26, 2018, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed an order of suspension against Toronto, Canada attorney **Rahul Malhotra**, 47, State Bar of Texas Card No. 00797781. On March 28, 2017, Mr. Malhotra pled guilty to False Statement in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1001(a)(2), an Intentional Crime as defined in the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, in the case styled, United States of America v. Rahul Malhotra, in the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, San Antonio Division; Cause No. 5:16-CR-00460-OLG(1) and was placed on community supervision for five years and ordered to pay an assessment of \$100.00 and a fine of \$7,500.00. Mr. Malhotra is suspended from the practice of law in Texas during the term of his criminal probation as originally assessed-until March 22, 2022.

**Monsebroten, James Matthew: #24044180**  
**01/18/2018-Agreed Public Reprimand**

On January 18, 2018, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed an Agreed Judgment of Public Reprimand of Coos Bay, OR attorney **James Matthew Monsebroten**, 49, State Bar of Texas Card No. 24044180. On August 1, 2017, the Supreme Court of the State of Oregon entered an Order Approving Stipulation for Discipline and publicly reprimanded Mr. Monsebroten in a matter styled In Re: Complaint as to the Conduct of James M. Monsebroten, Accused, Case No. 17-10. Monsebroten admits that he violated the following Oregon Rules of Professional Conduct 1.4(a) by failing to keep his client reasonably informed, 1.4(b) by failing to explain matters sufficiently to allow his client to make informed decisions, 1.5(c)(3) by failing to have a written fee agreement for earned-upon-receipt fees for a flat fee, 1.15-1(a) by failing to hold a client's property in trust, and 1.15-1(c) by failing to deposit unearned fees in trust.

**Strong, Staci Jennifer: #24037564**  
**01/26/2018-Default Active Suspension**  
**01/26/2018-07/26/2020: SUSPENSION**

On January 26, 2018, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals revoked the probation of McKinney, TX attorney **Staci Jennifer Strong**, 45, State Bar of Texas Card No. 24037564 finding that she materially violated the terms and conditions of her agreed judgment of fully probated suspension and suspended her from the practice of law for 30 months, beginning January 26, 2018, and ending July 26, 2020. On or about February 10, 2016, the District 6-3 State Bar of Texas grievance committee signed an agreed judgment of fully probated suspension against Ms. Strong. The judgment found that Strong violated TDRPC 1.14(a) by failing to hold funds belonging to a client of her law firm that were in her possession separate and apart from her own property, TDRPC 1.14(b) by failing to notify a party that had an interest in the funds of the receipt of the funds and failed to deliver the funds to the interested party, and TDRPC 8.04(a)(3) by engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation and suspended her from the practice of law for 30 months, fully probated on certain terms beginning March 1, 2016, and ending August 31, 2018.