

COMMISSION FOR LAWYER DISCIPLINE

REPORT

TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ON
ATTORNEY DISCIPLINE

APRIL 2020

**Disciplinary Sanctions
12/01/2019 - 02/29/2020**

DISBARMENTS	District	# of Complaints Resolved
Ghanayem, Majd M.	14	2
Marquardt, Scott Douglas	1	4
Marquardt, Scott Douglas	1	1

Board of Disciplinary Appeals:

Brannan, Kirk Lawrence	BODA	1
Total:	4	8

RESIGNATIONS IN LIEU OF DISCIPLINE	District	# of Complaints Resolved
Keene, James W.	14	1

Board of Disciplinary Appeals:

Do, David Benjamin	BODA	1
Total:	2	2

SUSPENSIONS	District	# of Complaints Resolved
Barker, Tametha D'Lyn	13	1
Barker, Tametha D'Lyn	13	1
Davison, Ward Brackett Bennett	6	2
Dawson, Kelly	9	1
Deaguero, Richard Joseph	6	1
Froneberger, Joel Douglas	6	1
Ghanayem, Majd M.	14	1
Ghanayem, Majd M.	14	1
Ghanayem, Majd M.	14	2
Guidry, Kerry Michael	4	1
Martin, Dennis R.	10	1
Murray, Patrick Cameron	16	4

Nepomuceno, Emmerico T.	4	2
Ponce, Joe Jesse III	10	1
Rambhotla, Kaushik	9	2
Rodriguez, Brigida	6	1
Saenz, David	12	1
Saenz, David	12	2
Sanchez, Roberto Lazaro	17	2
Smith, Andrew Christopher	4	1
Spriggs, Ronald T.	13	1
Villarreal, Everto A. Jr.	12	1
Villarreal, Marc Elliot	11	1
Warner, Michael "Mike" A.	13	1
Young, Joseph Lee	6	1

Board of Disciplinary Appeals:

Carter, George R.	BODA	1
Delgado, Judge Rodolfo	BODA	1
Horton, Benjamin Richard	BODA	1
Molina, Abigail Dennyse	BODA	1
Ponce, Joe Jesse III	BODA	1
Total:		30
		39

<u>PUBLIC REPRIMANDS</u>	<u>District</u>	<u># of Complaints Resolved</u>
Aguirre, Javier	12	1
Contreras, Richard	17	2
King, Jeffery Charles	6	1
Magana, Michael James	8	1
Seymour, Aaron Christian	14	1
Sword, Kenneth Scott	6	1
Taylor, Jessica Spangler	10	1
Tennant, George B. Jr.	4	1
Total:		8
		9

PRIVATE REPRIMANDS

Grievance Comm.	# of Sanctions	# of Complaints Resolved
1	3	3
3	3	3
4	7	7
5	1	1
6	4	4
7	2	2
9	1	1
10	6	10
11	1	1
12	1	1
13	1	1
Total:		34
Grievance Referral Program		24
Grand Total:		116

Disciplinary Actions - Current Bar Year

BAR YEARS	Total Sanctions	Total Complaints Resolved
2019-2020		
DISBARMENTS	14	18
RESIGNATIONS IN LIEU OF DISCIPLINE	8	35
SUSPENSIONS	106	138
PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	32	33
PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	91	99
GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	62	64
Total:	313	387

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

Disciplinary Actions - Previous Bar Year

BAR YEARS	Total Sanctions	Total Complaints Resolved
2018-2019		
DISBARMENTS	14	38
RESIGNATIONS IN LIEU OF DISCIPLINE	17	89
SUSPENSIONS	152	209
PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	32	39
PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	124	138
GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	74	81
Total:	413	594

BAR YEARS 2017-2018	Total Sanctions	Total Complaints Resolved
DISBARMENTS	21	49
RESIGNATIONS IN LIEU OF DISCIPLINE	23	103
SUSPENSIONS	113	160
PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	25	29
PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	70	74
GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	79	80
Total:	331	495

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 1:

**Dallas Attorney
12/17/2019-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.

**Marquardt, Scott Douglas: #00796999
08/21/2019-Default Disbarment**

On August 21, 2019, **Scott Douglas Marquardt** [#00796999], 49, of McKinney, was disbarred. An evidentiary panel of the District 1 Grievance Committee found that Marquardt was hired to represent a client in a divorce. Marquardt failed to keep his client reasonably informed about the status of the case and failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information from the client. Upon request from the client, Marquardt failed to promptly render a full accounting regarding how the client's fees were used in the case. Marquardt also failed to furnish a response to the grievance. Marquardt violated Rules 1.03(a), 1.14(b), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$16,000.00 in restitution to Complainant, an amount of \$450.00 in attorneys' fees and \$765.16 in direct expenses.

**Marquardt, Scott Douglas: #00796999
08/23/2019-Default Disbarment**

On August 23, 2019, **Scott Douglas Marquardt** [#00796999], 49, of McKinney, was disbarred. An evidentiary panel of the District 1 Grievance Committee found that Marquardt was hired to represent a client in a custody modification. Marquardt failed to keep his client reasonably informed about the status of the case and failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information from the client. Upon termination of representation by the client, Marquardt failed to timely withdraw from the representation, failed to provide the client with an itemized statement, failed to surrender papers and property to which the client was entitled, and failed to refund advance payments of the fee that had not been earned. Marquardt also failed to furnish a response to the grievance. Marquardt violated Rules 1.03(a), 1.15(a)(3), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$6,500.00 in restitution to Complainant and \$615.00 in attorneys' fees.

Dallas Attorney
01/22/2020-Agreed Private Reprimand

Rule 8.02(a)

A lawyer shall not make a statement that the lawyer knows to be false or with reckless disregard as to its truth or falsity concerning the qualifications or integrity of a judge, adjudicatory official or public legal officer, or of a candidate for election or appointment to judicial or legal office.

Dallas Attorney
02/05/2020-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.

DISTRICT 3:

Houston Attorney
02/24/2020-Agreed Private Reprimand

Rule 5.01(a)

For failing to supervise a partner lawyer, and orders, encourages, or knowingly permits the conduct involved.

Houston Attorney
02/24/2020-Agreed Private Reprimand

Rule 5.01(a)

For failing to supervise a partner lawyer, and orders, encourages, or knowingly permits the conduct involved.

**Houston Attorney
02/12/2020-Private Reprimand**

Rule 8.04(a)(8)

For failing to timely furnish a district grievance committee a response or other information as required unless he/she timely asserts a privilege or other legal ground for failure to do so.

DISTRICT 4:

**Houston Attorney
01/23/2020-Agreed Private Reprimand**

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 1.15(a)(2)

For failing to decline or withdraw from representation of a client if the lawyer's physical, mental or psychological condition materially impairs the lawyer's fitness to represent the client.

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.

Rule 8.04(a)(8)

For failing to timely furnish a district grievance committee a response or other information as required unless he/she timely asserts a privilege or other legal ground for failure to do so.

**Houston Attorney
12/20/2019-Agreed Private Reprimand**

Rule 8.04(a)(8)

For failing to timely furnish a district grievance committee a response or other information as required unless he/she timely asserts a privilege or other legal ground for failure to do so.

Houston Attorney
02/12/2020-Agreed Private Reprimand

Rule 3.03(a)(5)

A lawyer shall not knowingly offer or use evidence that the lawyer knows to be false.

Guidry, Kerry Michael: #24045993
10/31/2019-Agreed Active Suspension
01/01/2020-12/31/2024: SUSPENSION

On October 31, 2019, **Kerry Michael Guidry** [#24045993], 40, of Houston, accepted a five-year, active suspension, effective January 1, 2020. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that Guidry failed to keep his clients reasonably informed about the status of their case and failed to promptly comply with their reasonable requests for information. Guidry further failed to hold funds belonging in whole or in part to his clients in a separate trust account, failed to promptly notify his clients of his receipt of the settlement funds, and failed to promptly deliver funds to his clients. During the representation, Guidry engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation. Furthermore, Guidry failed to file a response to the grievance. Guidry violated Rules 1.03(a), 1.14(a), 1.14(b), 8.04(a)(3), and 8.04(a)(8). He agreed to pay \$500.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Houston Attorney
01/10/2020-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.

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.

Nepomuceno, Emmerico T.: #00784669
12/19/2019-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension
01/01/2020-12/31/2020: PROBATED

On December 19, 2019, **Emmerico T. Nepomuceno** [#00784669], 59, of Houston, accepted a one-year, fully probated suspension, effective January 1, 2020. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that, in two matters, Nepomuceno failed to abide by his clients' decisions whether to accept an offer of settlement in their legal matters, failed to explain a legal matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit his clients to make informed decisions regarding the representations, and failed to promptly deliver to third parties funds that those third parties were entitled to receive. Nepomuceno also had direct supervisory authority over a non-lawyer and failed to make reasonable efforts to ensure that the non-lawyer's conduct was compatible with the professional obligations of Nepomuceno and permitted the non-lawyer's conduct that would be a violation of the rules of professional conduct if engaged in by a lawyer. Nepomuceno violated Rules 1.02(a)(2), 1.03(b), 1.14(b), 5.03(a), and 5.03(b)(1).

Smith, Andrew Christopher: #24063859
10/18/2019-Default Partially Probated Suspension
10/09/2019-12/31/2019: SUSPENSION
01/01/2020-10/08/2022: PROBATED

On October 18, 2019, **Andrew Christopher Smith** [#24063859], 42, of Houston, received a three-year, partially probated suspension, effective October 9, 2019, with the first 84 days actively suspended and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that Smith neglected the legal matter entrusted to him, failed to keep his client reasonably informed about the status of the matter, failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information from his client, failed to explain the matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit his client to make informed decisions regarding the representation and Smith's physical, mental or psychological condition materially impaired his fitness to represent his client. Smith also failed to timely furnish to the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel a response or other information as required by the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure. Smith violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.03(b), 1.15(a)(2), and 8.04(a)(8).

Tennant, George B. Jr.: #24042016
02/10/2020-Agreed Public Reprimand

On February 10, 2020, **George B. Tennant, Jr.** [#24042016], 51, of Pearland, accepted a public reprimand. The 80th District Court of Harris County found that Tennant committed professional misconduct by violating Rule 8.04(a)(7) [violating a disciplinary judgment]. Tennant was ordered to pay \$400.00 in attorneys' fees and expenses.

**Houston Attorney
02/24/2020-Agreed Private Reprimand**

Rule 7.05(b)(1)

Except as provided in paragraph (e) of this Rule, a written solicitation communication to prospective clients for the purpose of obtaining professional employment: shall, in the case of a non-electronically transmitted written communication, be plainly marked "ADVERTISEMENT" on its first page, and on the face of the envelope or other packaging used to transmit the communication. If the written communication is in the form of a self-mailing brochure or pamphlet, the word "ADVERTISEMENT" shall be in a color that contrasts sharply with the background color; and in a size of at least 3/8" vertically or three times the vertical height of the letters used in the body of such communication, whichever is larger.

**Houston Attorney
02/07/2020-Agreed Private Reprimand**

Rule 3.04(d)

For knowingly disobeying an obligation under the standing rules or of a ruling by a tribunal.

**Houston Attorney
01/21/2020-Agreed Private Reprimand**

Rule 8.04(a)(8)

For failing to timely furnish a district grievance committee a response or other information as required unless he/she timely asserts a privilege or other legal ground for failure to do so.

DISTRICT 5:

**Houston Attorney
12/09/2019-Agreed Private Reprimand**

Rule 1.01(b)(1)

For neglecting a legal matter entrusted to the lawyer.

Rule 1.03(a)

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

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 5.03(a)

For failing to make reasonable efforts to ensure that the nonlawyer's conduct is compatible with the professional obligations of the lawyer.

Rule 5.03(b)(1)

A lawyer shall be in violation if the lawyer orders, encourages, or permits the conduct involved of a non-lawyer to be in violation of the rules of the Texas Disciplinary rules of Professional Conduct.

Rule 8.04(a)(3)

For engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation.

DISTRICT 6:

Dallas Attorney

12/04/2019-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 8.04(a)(3)

A lawyer shall not engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation.

Davison, Ward Brackett Bennett: #24066787

11/27/2019-Agreed Partially Probated Suspension

12/01/2019-12/31/2019: SUSPENSION

01/01/2020-11/30/2020: PROBATED

On November 27, 2019, **Ward Brackett Bennett Davison** [#24066787], 39, of Dallas, received a 12-month, partially probated suspension, with one month active (December 1 2019, through December 31, 2019) and 23 months probated (January 1, 2020, through November 30, 2020). An investigatory panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that Davison neglected legal matters entrusted to him by clients and frequently failed to carry out completely the obligations he owed to his clients. Davison failed to keep his clients reasonably informed about the status of their legal matters and failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information from his clients about their cases. In representing a client in one matter, Davison failed to explain the

legal matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit his client to make informed decisions regarding the representation. Davison engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit and misrepresentation. Davison violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.01(b)(2), 1.03(a), 1.03(b), and 8.04(a)(3). He was ordered to pay \$3,500.00 in restitution and \$500.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Deaguero, Richard Joseph: #05623500
01/17/2020-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension
02/01/2020-04/30/2021: PROBATED

On January 17, 2020, **Richard Joseph Deaguero** [#05623500], 73, of Dallas, accepted a 15-month, fully probated suspension, effective February 1, 2020. An investigatory panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that Deaguero violated a disciplinary judgment. Deaguero violated Rule 8.04(a)(7). He was ordered to pay \$700.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Froneberger, Joel Douglas: #00785887
11/13/2019-Fully Probated Suspension
12/01/2019-11/30/2021: PROBATED

On November 13, 2019, **Joel Douglas Froneberger** [#00785887], 57, of Waco, received a 24-month, fully probated suspension, effective December 1, 2019. The District 6 Grievance Committee found that in May 2012, the client entered into an agreement with Froneberger and another attorney to handle all of her legal matters within a one-year period for a flat fee and the client's grandmother signed over a Warranty Deed as collateral for the fee. The grandmother and the client did not pay the agreed flat fee and Froneberger and the other attorney subsequently sold the property. Froneberger and the other attorney did not remit the unearned portion of the sale proceeds to the grandmother at the conclusion of the representation. Froneberger violated Rule 1.15(d). He was ordered to pay \$4,262.50 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses and \$89,187.00 in restitution.

Dallas Attorney
01/21/2020-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.

King, Jeffery Charles: #24038039
01/14/2020-Agreed Public Reprimand

On January 14, 2020, **Jeffery Charles King** [#24038039], 43, of Dallas, entered into an agreed judgment of public reprimand. An investigatory panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that King neglected a legal matter entrusted to him and frequently failed to carry out completely the obligations that he owed to his client. King also engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation. Upon termination of representation, King failed to surrender papers and property to which his client was entitled and failed to refund any unearned fees. King violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.01(b)(2), 1.15(d) and 8.04(a)(3). He was ordered to pay \$30,000.00 in restitution and \$616.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Dallas Attorney
09/06/2019-Private Reprimand

Rule 1.02(a)(2)

Subject to paragraphs (b), (c), (d), and (e), (f), and (g), a lawyer shall abide by a client's decisions whether to accept an offer of settlement of a matter, except as otherwise authorized by law.

Dallas Attorney
12/23/2019-Agreed Private Reprimand

Rule 1.01(b)(1)

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

Rodriguez, Brigida: #24046743
12/18/2019-Partially Probated Suspension
01/01/2020-06/30/2020: SUSPENSION
07/01/2020-12/31/2021: PROBATED

On December 18, 2019, **Brigida Rodriguez** [#24046743], 64, of Dallas, received a 24-month, partially probated suspension, with six months active (January 1, 2020, through June 30, 2020) and 18 month probated (July 1, 2020, through December 31, 2021). An evidentiary panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that Rodriguez neglected the legal matter entrusted to her by failing to complete any significant legal work on behalf of her client. Rodriguez failed to keep her client reasonably informed about the status of her case and failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information. Upon termination of representation, Rodriguez failed to refund advance payments of the fee that had not been earned. Rodriguez failed to respond to the grievance. Rodriguez violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8). She was ordered to pay \$1,200.00 in restitution, \$1,480.00 in attorneys' fees, and \$806.25 in direct expenses.

Sword, Kenneth Scott: #24034702
11/04/2019-Agreed Public Reprimand

On November 4, 2019, **Kenneth Scott Sword** [#24034702], 59, of Dallas, entered into an agreed judgment of public reprimand. An investigatory panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that Sword, in representing his client, failed to explain the legal matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit his client to make informed decisions regarding the representation. Sword also failed to hold funds belonging to his client in a separate trust account. Upon receiving funds in which his client had an interest, Sword failed to promptly notify his client, failed to promptly deliver to his client the funds that he was entitled to receive, and failed to render a full accounting regarding such funds. When a dispute arose concerning the respective interests of the funds held by Sword, he failed to hold the disputed portion separate until the dispute was resolved. Upon termination of representation, Sword failed to surrender papers and property to which his client was entitled and failed to provide his client with a written statement showing the outcome of the matter, the remittance to his client, and the method of its determination. Sword violated Rules 1.03(b), 1.04(d), 1.14(a), 1.14(b), 1.14(c) and 1.15(d). He was ordered to pay \$400.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Young, Joseph Lee: #24084136
11/25/2019-Default Fully Probated Suspension
12/01/2019-11/30/2022: PROBATED

On November 25, 2019, **Joseph Lee Young** [#24084136], 33, of Taos, New Mexico, received a 36-month, fully probated suspension (December 1, 2019 through November 30, 2022). An evidentiary panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that Young neglected a legal matter entrusted to him. Young failed to keep his client reasonably informed about the status of her case and failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information from his client about the matter. Young failed to respond to the grievance. Young violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$580.00 in attorneys' fees and \$860.00 in direct expenses.

DISTRICT 7:

Dallas Attorney
12/04/2019-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 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
12/04/2019-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 8:

**Magana, Michael James: #00795494
12/02/2019-Agreed Public Reprimand**

On December 2, 2019, **Michael James Magana** [#00795494], 50, of Belton, received a public reprimand. An investigatory panel of the District 8 Grievance Committee found that Complainant paid Magana to represent a third-party ("Client") on an appeal of a felony criminal conviction. Complainant authorized a \$10,000 credit card payment on May 24, 2018, and another \$10,000 payment on June 29, 2018. Magana failed to place the advanced fees in a trust or escrow account. In 2012, Client was charged with the felony and a misdemeanor. Magana provided a fee agreement, purportedly signed by Client on August 6, 2018, that stated Magana would represent Client on two criminal charges. At the time the purported fee agreement was executed, both matters had been resolved. Magana met with Complainant and Client's mother to explain the appeal process but did not file a notice of appeal. The trial court appointed appellate counsel to represent Client on July 28, 2018. Even though another attorney had been appointed

to represent Client on appeal, Magana asserted that he was working on the case through February of 2019. In August of 2018, Complainant requested that Magana provide an accounting, and return the unearned fees she had advanced for Client's appeal. Magana did not return the fees or provide any invoice. Thereafter, on January 11, 2019, after Complainant contested the charges with the credit card company, Magana agreed to a reversal of the charges. Complainant received notice of reversed charges in March of 2019. Magana violated Rules 1.14(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(3) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct, Article X, Section 9, State Bar Rules. Magana was ordered to pay \$1,000.00 in attorneys' fees and expenses.

DISTRICT 9:

Dawson, Kelly: #24068025

11/27/2019-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension

12/01/2019-02/29/2020: PROBATED

On November 27, 2019, **Kelly Dawson** [#24068025], 42, of Austin, accepted a three-month, fully probated suspension, effective December 1, 2019. An investigatory panel of the District 9 Grievance Committee found that Complainant hired Dawson on August 26, 2016, to facilitate a mediation with her estranged son. If mediation was not successful, Dawson agreed to file a wrongful death suit, on Complainant's behalf, against Complainant's son related to the death of Complainant's daughter. After Complainant sent a demand letter to her son's attorney, without Dawson's knowledge, Complainant's son filed a defamation suit against Complainant in Nevada. Dawson is licensed only in Texas. With Complainant's consent, Dawson agreed to accept service on Complainant's behalf. On October 6, 2016, Dawson accepted service of the suit. Complainant's answer to the defamation suit was due October 27, 2016. On October 21, 2016, Dawson sent Complainant a draft of an answer that included a special appearance and counter-claims. One week later, Complainant sent an email with corrections that needed to be made to the answer prior to filing. However, Dawson never filed the answer. On December 2, 2016, Opposing Counsel filed a Motion for Default Judgment and notice of hearing, and provided notice to Dawson. Dawson failed to file any responsive pleading. A default judgement was entered against Complainant on January 12, 2017. Dawson was sent a Notice of Entry of Judgment by Default on February 8, 2017. Thereafter, in communications with Complainant, Dawson misrepresented the status of the defamation case by not advising Complainant about the Motion for Default Judgment hearing or the judgment. Dawson violated Rules 1.01(a), 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(b), and 8.04(a)(3). Dawson was ordered to pay \$926.50 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Austin Attorney
12/06/2019-Agreed Private Reprimand

Rule 8.04(a)(8)

For failing to timely furnish a district grievance committee a response or other information as required unless he/she timely asserts a privilege or other legal ground for failure to do so.

Rambhotla, Kaushik: #24079175
01/22/2020-Agreed Partially Probated Suspension
01/15/2020-07/14/2020: SUSPENSION
07/15/2020-07/14/2023: PROBATED

On January 22, 2020, **Kaushik Rambhotla** [#24079175], 37, of San Antonio, accepted a 42-month, partially probated suspension, with six months active, effective January 15, 2020, related to two disciplinary cases. In the first case, an investigatory panel of the District 9 Grievance Committee found that on or about September 2, 2016, Rambhotla was paid \$6,250.64 to represent a client in a divorce matter. On April 27, 2018, the client terminated the representation because Rambhotla had not finalized the divorce. The client requested that Rambhotla provide an invoice, return any unearned fees, and return her file. Rambhotla failed to comply with the client's request. In a second case, Rambhotla was hired to represent an executor with the probating of her mother's estate. The client sought the return of property improperly taken from the estate by a prior executor. Rambhotla failed to sufficiently explain what information the client needed in order to take the legal action necessary to recover the property. The client requested the return of her file, but Rambhotla failed to comply with the request. Rambhotla further failed to furnish a written response to the complaints as directed. Rambhotla violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(b), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8). Rambhotla was ordered to pay \$1,000.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

DISTRICT 10:

San Antonio Attorney
02/10/2020-Agreed Private Reprimand

Rule 4.04(a)

In representing a client, for using 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 right of such a person.

Rule 4.04(b)(1)

For presenting, participating in presenting or threatening to present criminal or disciplinary charges solely to gain an advantage in a civil matter.

**San Antonio Attorney
01/27/2020-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.

**San Antonio Attorney
11/27/2019-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.

**Martin, Dennis R.: #13059400
12/20/2019-Agreed Active Suspension
01/01/2020-01/30/2020: SUSPENSION**

On December 20, 2019, **Dennis R. Martin** [#13059400], 70, of Bexar, accepted a 30-day, active suspension, effective January 1, 2019. An investigatory panel of the District 10 Grievance Committee found that Martin failed to refund unearned fees, failed to comply with the terms of a prior disciplinary judgment and failed to respond to a grievance timely. Martin violated Rules 1.15(d) and 8.04(a)(7)&(8), and agreed to pay \$600.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

**Ponce, Joe Jesse III: #24014329
11/22/2019-Agreed Active Suspension
11/22/2019-10/21/2020: SUSPENSION**

On November 22, 2019, the 37th Judicial District Court of Bexar County revoked the disciplinary probation of San Antonio attorney **Joe Jesse Ponce, III**, 61, State Bar of Texas Card No. 24014329 and suspended him from the practice of law for 11 months, effective November 22, 2019 and ending October 21, 2020. The Court found that Mr. Ponce materially violated the terms and conditions of his July 6, 2017, Judgment of Partially Probated Suspension.

**San Antonio Attorney
02/11/2020-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.

**San Antonio Attorney
02/06/2020-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.

**Taylor, Jessica Spangler: #24013546
12/12/2019-Agreed Public Reprimand**

On December 12, 2019, **Jessica Spangler Taylor** [#24013546], 48, of San Antonio, accepted a public reprimand. An investigatory panel of the District 10 Grievance Committee found that Taylor failed to hold client's funds separate from her own property and failed to deliver funds to parties entitled to receive the funds promptly. Taylor violated Rule 1.14(a)&(b) and was ordered to pay \$1,000.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

**San Antonio Attorney
01/27/2020-Agreed Private Reprimand**

8.04(a)(11)
For engaging 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.

DISTRICT 11:

**San Antonio Attorney
12/11/2019-Agreed Private Reprimand**

Rule 1.06(a)

For representing opposing parties to the same litigation.

**Villarreal, Marc Elliot: #00791856
02/18/2020-Agreed Partially Probated Suspension
05/14/2020-05/13/2021: SUSPENSION
05/14/2021-05/13/2025: PROBATED**

On February 18, 2020, **Marc Elliot Villarreal**, [#00791856], 51, of Corpus Christi, agreed to a five-year, partially probated suspension, effective May 14, 2020, with the first 12 months actively served and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 11 Grievance Committee found that Villarreal failed to hold funds related to a representation separate from his own property and failed to deliver funds to parties entitled to receive the funds promptly. Villarreal violated Rules 1.14(a)&(b) and agreed to pay \$10,000.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

DISTRICT 12:

**Aguirre, Javier: #24044732
02/06/2020-Agreed Public Reprimand**

On February 6, 2020, **Javier Aguirre** [#24044732], 37, of Brownsville, accepted a public reprimand. An evidentiary panel of the District 12 Grievance Committee found that Aguirre failed to supervise the conduct of his non-lawyer employee. Aguirre violated Rule 5.03(a) and agreed to pay \$1,000.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

**Saenz, David: #17514700
02/04/2020-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension
03/01/2020-08/31/2020: PROBATED**

On February 4, 2020, **David Saenz** [#17514700], 69, of McAllen, agreed to a six-month, fully probated suspension, effective March 1, 2020. An evidentiary panel of the District 12 Grievance Committee found that Saenz failed to supervise the conduct of his non-lawyer employee. Saenz violated Rule 5.03(a) and was ordered to pay \$2,120.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Saenz, David: #17514700
02/04/2020-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension
03/01/2020-08/31/2020: PROBATED

On February 4, 2020, **David Saenz** [#17514700], 69, of McAllen, agreed to a six-month, fully probated suspension, effective March 1, 2020. An investigatory panel of the District 12 Grievance Committee found that Saenz failed to supervise the conduct of his non-lawyer employee. Saenz violated Rule 5.

San Antonio Attorney
02/11/2020-Agreed Private Reprimand

Rule 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.

Villarreal, Everto A. Jr.: #20582200
02/06/2020-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension
02/14/2020-08/13/2021: PROBATED

On February 6, 2020, **Everto A. Villarreal Jr.** [#20582200], 71, of Edinburg, agreed to an 18-month, fully probated suspension, effective February 14, 2020. An evidentiary panel of the District 12 Grievance Committee found that Villarreal neglected a client's matter, failed to keep a client reasonably informed, failed to return the client's file and failed to respond to the grievance. Villarreal violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8).

DISTRICT 13:

Barker, Tametha D'Lyn: #24044113
11/18/2019-Default Active Suspension
11/18/2019-11/17/2022: SUSPENSION

On November 18, 2019, **Tametha D'Lyn Barker** [#24044113], 42, of Amarillo, received a three-year, active suspension, effective November 18, 2019, through November 17, 2022. An evidentiary panel of the District 13 Grievance Committee found that Barker neglected a legal matter entrusted to her and failed to keep her client reasonably informed about the status of the client's legal matter and failed to promptly comply with her client's reasonable requests for information about the case. Barker failed to respond to the grievance. Barker violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), and 8.04(a)(8). She was ordered to pay \$920.00 in attorneys' fees and \$456.33 in direct expenses.

Barker, Tametha D'Lyn: #24044113
11/18/2019-Default Active Suspension
11/18/2019-11/17/2022: SUSPENSION

On November 18, 2019, **Tametha D'Lyn Barker** [#24044113], 42, of Amarillo, received a three-year, active suspension, effective November 18, 2019, through November 17, 2022. An evidentiary panel of the District 13 Grievance Committee found that Barker neglected a legal matter entrusted to her and failed to keep her client reasonably informed about the status of the client's legal matter and failed to promptly comply with her client's reasonable requests for information about the case. Barker failed to respond to the grievance. Barker violated Rules 5.01(b)(1), 5.03(a), and 5.04(a)(8). She was ordered to pay \$560.00 in attorneys' fees and \$456.33 in direct expenses.

Spriggs, Ronald T.: #00792853
01/17/2020-Fully Probated Suspension
01/13/2020-01/12/2022: PROBATED

On January 17, 2020, **Ronald T. Spriggs** [#00792853], 61, of Amarillo, received a two-year, fully probated suspension (January 13, 2020, through January 12, 2022). An evidentiary panel of the District 13 Grievance Committee found that Spriggs, while representing a client in a criminal proceeding, took a position that unreasonably increased the costs or other burdens of the case or that unreasonably delayed resolution of the matter. Spriggs engaged in conduct intended to disrupt the proceeding. Spriggs violated Rules 3.02 and 3.04(c)(5). He was ordered to pay \$2,000.00 in attorneys' fees and \$250.00 in direct expenses.

Warner, Michael "Mike" A.: #20872700
12/06/2019-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension
11/15/2019-05/14/2020: PROBATED

On December 6, 2019, **Michael A. Warner** [#20872700], 57, of Amarillo, agreed to a six-month, fully probated suspension, effective November 15, 2019. The District 13 Grievance Committee found that in October 2015, Complainant hired Warner for representation in a breach of contract case. In connection with Complainant's legal matter, Warner knowingly made a false statement of material fact or law to a tribunal. Warner engaged in conduct involving dishonesty or misrepresentation. Warner violated Rules 3.03(a)(1), and 5.04(a)(3). He was ordered to pay \$1,350.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

**Dallas Attorney
12/06/2019-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.

DISTRICT 14:

**Ghanayem, Majd M.: #24078556
12/19/2019-Fully Probated Suspension
12/09/2019-12/08/2022: PROBATED**

On December 19, 2019, **Majd M. Ghanayem** [#24078556], 34, of Abilene, received a 36-month, fully probated suspension, effective December 9, 2019. The District 14 Grievance Committee found that on November 19, 2013, Complainant hired Ghanayem to represent her father in a divorce filed in Jones County, Texas. In representing Complainant's father, Ghanayem neglected the legal matter entrusted to him. Ghanayem failed to keep Complainant reasonably informed about the status of her father's divorce matter and failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information from Complainant about the status of her father's divorce matter. Upon termination of representation, Ghanayem failed to surrender papers and property which Complainant was entitled. Ghanayem engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation by submitting a fabricated email to the State Bar of Texas in his response to Complainant's grievance. Ghanayem violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(d) and 8.04(a)(3). He was ordered to pay \$8,148.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses and \$3,500.00 in restitution.

**Ghanayem, Majd M.: #24078556
12/19/2019-Disbarment**

On December 19, 2019, **Majd M. Ghanayem** [#24078556], 34, of Abilene, was disbarred, effective December 9, 2019. The District 14 Grievance Committee found that in 2015, Complainant hired Ghanayem to file an involuntary relinquishment of parental rights action against the biological father of her son. In representing Complainant, Ghanayem neglected the legal matter entrusted to him by failing to file a petition for an involuntary relinquishment of parental rights until March 2017. Ghanayem failed to keep Complainant reasonably informed about the status of her matter and failed to promptly respond to reasonable requests for information. Ghanayem engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresented by misrepresenting the status of the matter to Complainant and by providing Complainant with a fraudulent order and forged signature of a Judge. Ghanayem violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), and 8.04(a)(3).

Ghanayem, Majd M.: #24078556
12/19/2019-Fully Probated Suspension
12/09/2019-12/08/2025: PROBATED

On December 19, 2019, **Majd M. Ghanayem** [#24078556], 34, of Abilene, received a 72-month, fully probated suspension, effective December 9, 2019. The District 14 Grievance Committee found that on September 3, 2013, Complainant hired Ghanayem for representation in her personal injury matter. Ghanayem failed to keep Complainant reasonably informed about the status of her personal injury matter and failed to promptly respond to reasonable requests for information. Upon receiving funds in which Complainant had an interest, Ghanayem failed to promptly notify Complainant and failed to promptly deliver funds that Complainant was entitled to receive. Ghanayem violated Rules 1.03(a) and 1.14(b). He was ordered to pay \$1,672.50 in attorneys' fees, \$300.00 in direct expenses and \$10,669.24 in restitution.

Ghanayem, Majd M.: #24078556
12/19/2019-Partially Probated Suspension
12/09/2019-06/08/2020: SUSPENSION
06/09/2020-12/08/2025: PROBATED

On December 19, 2019, **Majd M. Ghanayem** [#24078556], 34, of Abilene, received a 72-month, partially probated suspension, effective December 9, 2019, with the first six months actively served and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 14 Grievance Committee found that on January 21, 2014, Complainant hired Ghanayem to represent her and her son in a personal injury matter. Ghanayem failed to abide by Complainant's decision whether to accept an offer of settlement of Complainant's matter and settled Complainant's case without Complainant's knowledge or consent. Ghanayem failed to keep Complainant reasonably informed about the status of her personal injury matter and failed to respond to reasonable requests for information. Upon receiving funds in which Complainant had an interest, Ghanayem failed to promptly notify Complainant and failed to promptly deliver funds to which Complainant was entitled. Ghanayem engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation by misrepresenting the status of the case to Complainant and by submitting a settlement release to the insurance company that contained Complainant's forged signature. Ghanayem violated Rules 1.02(a)(2), 1.03(a), 1.14(b) and 8.04(a)(3). He was ordered to pay attorneys' fees in the amount of \$2,160.00, \$300.00 in direct expenses and \$10,000.00 in restitution.

Commented [LMP1]:

Keene, James W.: #11165600
12/10/2019-Resignation in lieu of Discipline

On December 10, 2019, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation, in lieu of discipline, of **James W. Keene** [#11165600], 59, of Stephenville. At the time of Keene's resignation, there was one pending matter against him alleging Keene did knowingly offer to another person, for the purpose of engaging in sexual conduct with that person, an offer of a benefit being in the form of rendition of professional services, such conduct being a violation of Texas Penal Code §43.02 - Prostitution. On April 4, 2019, Keene was criminally charged for the above-described conduct. Alleged Rule Violated: 8.04(a)(2).

Seymour, Aaron Christian: #24094943
12/16/2019-Agreed Public Reprimand

On December 16, 2019, **Aaron Christian Seymour** [#24094943], 34, of New Braunfels, entered into an agreed judgment of public reprimand. An investigatory panel found that Seymour neglected a legal matter entrusted to him, failed to keep his client reasonably informed about the status of her legal matter, and failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information. Upon termination of representation, Seymour failed to refund advance payments of the fee that had not been earned. Seymour failed to respond to the grievance. Seymour violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$2,640.00 in restitution and \$500.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

DISTRICT 16:

Murray, Patrick Cameron: #24094862
01/29/2020-Agreed Partially Probated Suspension
02/01/2020-06/01/2020: SUSPENSION
06/01/2020-01/31/2023: PROBATED

On January 29, 2020, **Patrick Cameron Murray** [#24094862], 32, of Lubbock, agreed to a three-year, partially probated suspension, effective February 1, 2020, with the first four months actively served and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 16 Grievance Committee found that Murray neglected a client's matters, failed to communicate with clients, failed to return the unearned portion of a fee and failed to respond to grievances. Murray violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a)&(b), 1.15(d); 8.04(a)(8), was ordered to pay \$7,963.00 in restitution and \$1,800.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

DISTRICT 17:

Contreras, Richard: #04714000
02/20/2020-Agreed Public Reprimand

On February 20, 2020, **Richard Contreras** [#04714000], 63, of El Paso, accepted a public reprimand. An evidentiary panel of the District 17 Grievance Committee found that Contreras represented a client in a matter and thereafter represented another person in a matter adverse to the former client when it was the same or a substantially related matter. Contreras violated Rules 1.06(b)(2) and 1.09, and agreed to pay \$800.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Sanchez, Roberto Lazaro: #24053061
12/13/2019-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension
10/15/2020-10/14/2021: PROBATED

On December 13, 2019, **Roberto Lazaro Sanchez** [#24053061], 41, of El Paso, agreed to a one-year, fully probated suspension, effective October 15, 2020. An investigatory panel of the District 17 Grievance Committee found that Sanchez failed to supervise the conduct of his non-lawyer employee and assisted another in violating the disciplinary rules. Sanchez violated Rules 5.03(a), 8.04(a)(1) and was ordered to pay \$1,000.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Board of Disciplinary Appeals

Brannan, Kirk Lawrence: #24038779
02/04/2020-Disbarment

On February 4, 2020, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed a final judgment of disbarment of Lake Jackson, attorney **Kirk Lawrence Brannan** 66, State Bar of Texas Card No. 24038779. Although duly cited, Mr. Brannan did not appear at the hearing. On April 5, 2019 Brannan pled guilty to Bank Fraud in violation of 18 USC § 1343, an Intentional Crime as defined in the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, in the case styled, United States of America v. Kirk Lawrence Brannan, Cause No. 4:15-CR-00080-001 in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Houston Division. Mr. Brannan was sentenced to prison for 36 months, followed by supervised release for three years and ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$5,317,350.00. Brannan appealed his conviction and he was suspended during the pendency of his appeal on July 29, 2019. The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals dismissed his appeal and issued its mandate on August 9, 2019.

Carter, George R.: #00785388
02/04/2020-Active Suspension
02/01/2020-01/31/2024: SUSPENSION

On February 4, 2020, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed a judgment of suspension against Henderson, NV attorney **George R. Carter**, 72, State Bar of Texas Card No. 00785388. On or about May 18, 2017, an Order of Suspension was entered in the Supreme Court of the State of Nevada, in a matter styled: In the Matter of Discipline of George R. Carter, Bar No. 169, in Case No. 709070 suspending him from the practice of law for four years for violating RPC 1.15 (safekeeping property) by improperly distributing client funds to a nonlawyer, and RPC 5.4 (professional independence) and RPC 5.5 (unauthorized practice of law) by allowing a nonlawyer to perform legal services under his auspices. Carter is suspended from the practice of law in Texas beginning February 1, 2020 and ending January 31, 2024.

Delgado, Judge Rodolfo: #05645550
02/04/2020-Interlocutory Suspension

On February 4, 2020, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed an Interlocutory Order of Suspension against McAllen, TX attorney **Rodolfo Delgado**, 66, State Bar of Texas Card No. 05645550. Although duly cited, Mr. Delgado did not appear at the hearing. 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, and Delgado was found guilty of Conspiracy; three counts of Federal Program Bribery; three counts of Travel Act; and Obstruction of Justice. He was sentenced to a total term of 60 months in the Federal Bureau of Prisons followed by supervised release for two years. Delgado has appealed his criminal conviction. The Board retains jurisdiction to enter a final judgment when the criminal appeal is final.

Do, David Benjamin: #24102864
02/13/2020-Resignation in lieu of Discipline

On February 13, 2020, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation, in lieu of discipline, of **David Benjamin Do** [#24102864], 29, of Arlington. At the time of Do's resignation, an Order of Deferred Adjudication had been entered in the Criminal District Court No. 1 of Tarrant County, Texas, wherein Do pled guilty to Online Solicit of a Minor Sexual Conduct, a Second Degree Felony, and was placed on Deferred Adjudication Community Supervision for ten years. The order also requires Do to register as a sex offender and to pay a fine of \$1,000.00. This conviction would subject Do to compulsory discipline.

Horton, Benjamin Richard: #24053273
12/12/2019-Agreed Active Suspension
01/01/2020-12/31/2022: SUSPENSION

On December 12, 2019, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed an agreed judgment of suspension against North Salt Lake, UT attorney **Benjamin Richard Horton**, 43, State Bar of Texas Card No. 24053273. On or about September 15, 2016, an Order of Discipline: Suspension was filed in the Third Judicial District Court in and for Salt Lake County, State of Utah, in a matter styled, In the Matter of the Discipline of: Benjamin R. Horton, #11452, Respondent, Civil No. 140905954, suspending Horton from the practice of law for three years beginning October 15, 2016 for violations of the Utah Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3 (diligence); 1.4(a) (communication); 1.5(a) (fees); 1.8(h)(1) (conflict of interest); 5.3(a) (responsibilities regarding non-lawyer assistants); 5.4 (professional independence of a lawyer); 7.1 (communication concerning a lawyer's services); 8.1(b) (bar admission and disciplinary matters); 8.4(c) (fraud, deceit or misrepresentation). Horton is suspended from the practice of law for three years, beginning January 1, 2020.

Molina, Abigail Dennyse: #24074740
11/14/2019-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension
12/01/2019-11/30/2022: PROBATED

On November 14, 2019, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed an agreed judgment of fully probated suspension against Springfield, OR attorney **Abigail Dennyse Molina**, 43, State Bar of Texas Card No. 24074740. On July 29, 2019, an Order Approving Stipulation for Discipline was entered in the Supreme Court of the State of Oregon, in a matter styled, In re the Conduct of: Abigail Molina, Bar No. 176383, Respondent, Cause No. 18-156, placing Molina on probation for one year for violations of the Oregon Rules of Professional Conduct 1.15-1(a) (failing to hold funds belonging to a client separate from her own and failing to account for those funds) and 1.15-1(c) (converting client's funds). Molina is suspended from the practice of law for six months fully probated, beginning December 1, 2019.

Ponce, Joe Jesse III: #24014329
12/18/2019-Revocation of Probation – Suspended From the Practice of Law
12/18/2019-08/18/2022: SUSPENSION

On December 18, 2019, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals revoked the probation of San Antonio attorney **Joe Jesse Ponce III**, 61, State Bar of Texas Card No. 24014329. The Board found that Mr. Ponce materially violated the terms and conditions of the judgment of partially probated suspension signed by the District 10 State Bar of Texas grievance committee on May 18, 2019 that suspended him from the practice of law for 36 months. The first four months was an active suspension and for the remaining 32 months, the suspension was probated. The Board revoked his probation and suspended him from the practice of law for 32 months, beginning December 18, 2019 and ending August 18, 2022.