

COMMISSION FOR LAWYER DISCIPLINE

REPORT

TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ON
ATTORNEY DISCIPLINE

JUNE 2020

Disciplinary Sanctions
03/01/2020 - 05/31/2020

DISBARMENTS	District	# of Complaints Resolved
Guzman, Arturo A. "Art"	15	2
Hansen, Brenda Gail	7	1
Hartman, Christianson O.	16	1
Mata, Mario A.	9	1
Ponce, Joe Jesse III	10	1
Robertson, Damon Dean	9	1
Robertson, Damon Dean	9	2
Total:	7	9

RESIGNATIONS IN LIEU OF DISCIPLINE	District	# of Complaints Resolved
Ringer, G. David	6	1
Total:	1	1

SUSPENSIONS	District	# of Complaints Resolved
Calvillo, Juana Maria	4	1
Cohen, Sean Michael	10	3
Cooper, Gaylyn Leon	3	2
Craggs, Dennis Warren	4	1
Crampton, Holly Gail	5	1
Davis, Rochelle Dianne	4	1
Davis, Rochelle Dianne	4	1
Davis, Rochelle Dianne	4	1
Davis, Rochelle Dianne	4	1
Dennis, Christopher Eric	13	1
Graham, Claude Robert	9	1
Jacobs, Paul Steven	4	2
Laird, Paul Craig II	6	1
Long, Amy Dalaine	2	1
Mayo, James Keith	2	1

Newark, Robert Clarence III	6	1
Norfleet, Deatria Mechele	7	1
Perry, Nancy L.	9	3
Ramirez, Dennis	12	1
Skinner, Charles Wesley	7	1
Smith, Andrew Christopher	4	1
Stanfield, Shanon Keith	9	1
Tennant, George B. Jr.	4	2
Tennant, George B. Jr.	4	4
Thering, Daniel Robert	1	1
Thering, Daniel Robert	1	3
Thering, Daniel Robert	1	1
Thering, Daniel Robert	1	2
Thering, Daniel Robert	1	1
Thering, Daniel Robert	1	4
Thering, Daniel Robert	1	1
Van Dyke, Jason Lee	14	1
Villarreal, Marc Elliot	11	1
Warren, Taj Adarryl	6	1
Zavaletta, Peter Michael	12	1
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Total:	35	51

<u>PUBLIC REPRIMANDS</u>	<u>District</u>	<u># of Complaints Resolved</u>
Boyd, Kevin W.	9	1
Cantu, Oscar L. Jr.	10	1
Deutsch, Melissa Ann	9	1
Giwa, Gabriel Ibukun	4	1
Hayden, Steven Todd	6	1
Roman, Richard Abram	17	1
Weiss, Paul Martin	10	2
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Total:	7	8

PRIVATE REPRIMANDS

Grievance Comm.	# of Sanctions	# of Complaints Resolved
1	1	1
4	3	3
6	4	4
7	1	1
9	2	2
10	1	1
11	1	2
12	1	1
14	1	1
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Total:	15	16
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Grievance Referral Program	24	24
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Grand Total:	89	109

Disciplinary Actions - Current Bar Year

BAR YEARS	Total Sanctions	Total Complaints Resolved
2019-2020		
DISBARMENTS	21	27
RESIGNATIONS IN LIEU OF DISCIPLINE	9	36
SUSPENSIONS	142	190
PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	39	41
PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	106	115
GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	86	88
Total:	403	497

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	Total Sanctions	Total Complaints Resolved
2017-2018		
DISBARMENTS	21	49
RESIGNATIONS IN LIEU OF DISCIPLINE	23	103
SUSPENSIONS	113	159
PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	25	29
PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	70	74
GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	79	80
Total:	331	494

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	Total Sanctions	Total Complaints Resolved
2010-2011		
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	Total Sanctions	Total Complaints Resolved
2009-2010		
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	Total Sanctions	Total Complaints Resolved
2008-2009		
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
03/18/2020-Agreed Private Reprimand**

Rule 8.04(a)(3)

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

**Thering, Daniel Robert: #24042023
03/18/2020-Fully Probated Suspension
12/15/2026-12/14/2028: PROBATED**

On March 18, 2020, **Daniel Robert Thering** [#24042023], 43, of Austin, received a 24-month, fully probated suspension, effective December 15, 2026. The District 1 Grievance Committee found that Complainant hired Thering after she was involved a motor vehicle accident. Thereafter, Thering failed to keep Complainant reasonably informed about the status of her personal injury matter and failed to promptly comply with Complainant's reasonable requests for information. Upon conclusion of Complainant's matter, Thering failed to provide Complainant with a written statement showing the remittance and the method of its determination. Thering failed to safeguard settlement funds, failed to promptly deliver funds to Complainant, and failed to promptly render a full accounting regarding such funds. Upon termination of representation, Thering failed to surrender papers and property to which Complainant was entitled.

Thering violated Rules 1.03(a), 1.04(d), 1.14(a), 1.14(b), and 1.15(d). He was ordered to pay \$2,000.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses and \$23,016.00 in restitution.

**Thering, Daniel Robert: #24042023
03/18/2020-Partially Probated Suspension
01/15/2023-09/14/2024: SUSPENSION
09/15/2024-01/14/2027: PROBATED**

On March 18, 2020, **Daniel Robert Thering** [#24042023], 43, of Austin, received a 48-month, partially probated suspension, effective January 15, 2023, with the first 20 months actively served and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 1 Grievance Committee found that in the first matter that Complainant retained Thering for representation in a family law matter and paid Thering \$2,250.00, which was deposited into a non-IOLTA. Thering neglected the legal matter and did not perform any legal services for Complainant and the case was dismissed for want of prosecution. Complainant requested a refund of the fee paid which Thering failed to refund and failed to communicate with Complainant about the matter. Further, Thering did not file a response to the grievance. In the second matter, Thering was hired to represent Complainant in a breach of contract case and was paid a \$1,500.00 flat fee. The fee was deposited into a non-IOLTA. Thering failed to reply to Complainant's numerous requests for an update on the case and for action. Thering failed to file the lawsuit as instructed by his client and failed to provide an accounting of Complainant's funds. In the third matter, Complainant retained Thering for representation in a divorce matter and paid Thering a refundable retainer of \$1,500.00, which was deposited into a non-IOLTA. Once the divorce was final, Complainant made numerous requests for an itemized bill, which went unanswered. Thering failed to communicate with

Complainant and failed to provide an accounting of Complainant's funds. Thering failed to respond to the grievance.

Thering violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.01(b)(2), 1.03(a), 1.14(a), 1.14(b), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$1,500.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses and \$2,250.00 in restitution.

Thering, Daniel Robert: #24042023
03/18/2020-Fully Probated Suspension
12/15/2028-06/14/2029: PROBATED

On March 18, 2020, **Daniel Robert Thering** [#24042023], 43, of Austin, received a six-month, fully probated suspension, effective December 15, 2028. The District 1 Grievance Committee found that Thering was hired by Complainant and paid \$1,500.00. Upon termination of the representation, Complainant sent written requests for an accounting, but Thering failed to promptly render same.

Thering violated Rule 1.14(b). He was ordered to pay \$500.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Thering, Daniel Robert: #24042023
03/18/2020-Active Suspension
03/15/2020-03/14/2024: SUSPENSION

On March 18, 2020, **Daniel Robert Thering** [#24042023], 43, of Austin, received a 48-month, active suspension, effective March 15, 2020. The District 1 Grievance Committee found that Thering was retained on a contingency fee basis by Complainant to represent her claims relating to the death of her son. The case was settled at mediation. Prior to mediation, Complainant obtained litigation loans to be paid from settlement proceeds. Thering began making partial distributions of the funds to Complainant from various non-IOLTAs. Upon conclusion of the contingency fee matter, Thering failed to provide Complainant a written settlement statement. Thering failed to pay the loans and failed to promptly notify the loan companies that he had received funds in which they had an interest. Further, Thering failed to promptly deliver the funds to the loan companies, and has failed to provide an accounting of the settlement funds. Thering failed to respond to the grievance.

Thering violated Rules 1.04(d), 1.14(a), 1.14(b), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$1,000.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses and \$19,945.00 in restitution.

Thering, Daniel Robert: #24042023
03/18/2020-Partially Probated Suspension
01/15/2023-09/14/2024: SUSPENSION
09/15/2024-05/14/2026: PROBATED

On March 18, 2020, **Daniel Robert Thering** [#24042023], 43, of Austin, received a 40-month, partially probated suspension, effective January 15, 2023, with the first 20 months actively served and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 1 Grievance Committee found that Complainant hired Thering to represent him in a personal injury claim. Thering failed to communicate with Complainant and failed to keep him advised as to the status of the case. The case settled and Thering failed to notify Complainant that he received the settlement funds, failed to safeguard the funds, failed to disburse the settlement funds to Complainant, failed to pay the Medicare reimbursement lien from the funds and failed to provide Complainant a written settlement statement. Thering failed to respond to the grievance.

Thering violated Rules 1.03(a), 1.04(d), 1.14(a), 1.14(b), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$500.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Thering, Daniel Robert: #24042023
03/18/2020-Active Suspension
03/15/2020-03/14/2024: SUSPENSION

On March 18, 2020, **Daniel Robert Thering** [#24042023], 43, of Austin, received a 48-month, active suspension, effective March 15, 2020. The District 1 Grievance Committee found that in the first matter, Complainant hired Thering to represent him in connection with a personal injury claim. After the case settled, Thering deposited the settlement funds into a non-IOLTA and sent Complainant a partial settlement check, after multiple inquiries by Complainant about the status of the settlement. Upon conclusion of the case, Thering failed to provide Complainant a written settlement statement. Thering failed to communicate with Complainant, failed to safeguard the funds and to promptly deliver them to Complainant. Further, Thering failed to provide an accounting of the settlement funds. In the second matter, Complainant hired Thering to represent her and her husband in connection with a personal injury claim. The case settled and Thering sent Complainant a partial settlement check. Thering failed to communicate with Complainant and failed to provide a written settlement statement. Further, Thering failed to provide an accounting of the settlement funds. In the third matter, Complainant hired Thering to represent her in a personal injury matter. After the case settled, Thering deposited the settlement funds into a non-IOLTA but did not notify Complainant that he had received the funds. Complainant sent numerous emails requesting an update on the settlement funds. Thereafter, Thering sent Complainant a check as a "settlement advance" from another non-IOLTA and represented to Complainant that he was trying to settle post-settlement liens. Thering failed to notify Complainant that her settlement funds were received, failed to promptly deliver the settlement funds to Complainant, failed to safeguard the funds, and failed to account for the settlement funds. Further, Thering misrepresented to Complainant that he was working to settle medical liens and could not disburse the settlement funds, even though Complainant's medical bills had already been paid. Thering did not respond to the grievance. In the fourth matter, Complainant hired Thering to represent him in a personal injury claim. After filing the lawsuit on Complainant's behalf, Thering failed to keep Complainant informed about the status of the legal matter and would not respond to reasonable requests for information.

Further, Thering neglected the legal matter by failing to respond to the discovery requests, failing to notify Complainant of a hearing, and failing to appear at the hearing. Thering failed to release funds received by him to Complainant and has failed to account for the funds. Upon conclusion of the case, Thering failed to provide Complainant a written settlement statement. Thering failed to respond to the grievance.

Thering violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.04(d), 1.14(a), 1.14(b), 8.04(a)(3), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$1,500.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses and \$51,252.00 in restitution.

Thering, Daniel Robert: #24042023
03/18/2020-Partially Probated Suspension
01/15/2023-09/14/2024: SUSPENSION
09/15/2024-05/14/2026: PROBATED

On March 18, 2020, **Daniel Robert Thering** [#24042023], 43, of Austin, received a 40-month, partially probated suspension, effective January 15, 2023, with the first 20 months actively served and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 1 Grievance Committee found that Thering represented Complainant in a civil lawsuit and, after a jury trial, the court entered a judgment against Complainant. Shortly thereafter, Complainant remitted payment of the judgment to Thering and upon receiving funds in which a third party had an interest, Thering failed to safeguard the funds, failed to promptly notify the opposing party, and failed to promptly deliver the funds to the opposing party. Over a period of four months, Thering partially paid the judgment to the opposing party. Further, Thering failed to communicate with Complainant about the legal matter.

Thering violated Rules 1.03(a), 1.14(a), and 1.14(b). He was ordered to pay \$500.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

DISTRICT 2:

Long, Amy Dalaine: #24036984
03/16/2020-Fully Probated Suspension
03/04/2020-03/03/2022: PROBATED

On March 16, 2020, **Amy Dalaine Long** [#2403684], 53, of Tyler, received a 24-month, fully probated suspension, effective March 4, 2020. An evidentiary panel of the District 2 Grievance Committee found that on September 21, 2018, Complainant hired Long to represent him in a modification of child custody case. In representing Complainant, Long neglected the legal matter entrusted to her by failing to provide legal services to help Complainant obtain custody of his child. Long failed to keep Complainant informed about the status of his case. Long also failed to explain to Complainant the process of filing a child custody modification and that she would not be representing him in Colorado to the extent reasonably necessary to permit Complainant to make informed decisions regarding the representation. Further, Long failed to timely respond to the grievance.

Long violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.03(b), and 8.04(a)(8).

Mayo, James Keith: #00794251
03/04/2020-Default Fully Probated Suspension
12/01/2019-11/30/2020: PROBATED

On March 4, 2020, **James Keith Mayo** [#00794251], 51, of Tyler, agreed to a 12-month, fully probated suspension, effective December 1, 2019, and ending on November 30, 2020. An investigatory panel of the District 2 Grievance Committee found that Mayo was hired by beneficiaries of an estate for representation in a probate matter pending in Madison County, Texas. The matter settled and the proceeds from the settlement were paid to Mayo for distribution to the beneficiaries. The settlement checks that Mayo issued to beneficiaries from his IOLTA were returned for insufficient funds. Mayo failed to appropriately safeguard the settlement funds that belonged to the beneficiaries. Mayo failed to promptly deliver to the beneficiaries the settlement funds they were entitled to receive. Mayo also failed to timely furnish a response to the grievance.

Mayo violated Rules 1.14(a), 1.14(d), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$2,737.16 in restitution and \$1,000.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

DISTRICT 3:

Cooper, Gaylyn Leon: #04774700
02/05/2020-Fully Probated Suspension
04/01/2020-03/31/2024: PROBATED

On February 5, 2020, **Gaylyn Leon Cooper** [#04774700], 66, of Beaumont, received a four-year, fully probated suspension, effective April 1, 2020. An evidentiary panel of the District 3 Grievance Committee found that, in one matter, Cooper neglected a legal matter entrusted to him, failed to keep his client reasonably informed about the status of their legal matter and failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information, and failed to explain a legal matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit his client to make informed decisions regarding the representation. In a second matter, Cooper failed to hold funds belonging to his client that was in his possession in connection with the representation separate from his own property. In both matters, Cooper frequently failed to carry out completely the obligations he owed to his clients and, upon termination of representation, failed to refund advance payments of fees that had not been earned.

Cooper violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.01(b)(2), 1.03(a), 1.03(b), 1.14(a), and 1.15(d). He was ordered to pay \$2,350.00 in restitution and \$2,687.50 in attorneys' fees.

DISTRICT 4:

Calvillo, Juana Maria: #24067537

05/06/2020-Agreed Partially Probated Suspension

05/28/2020-06/03/2020: SUSPENSION

06/04/2020-05/27/2021: PROBATED

On May 6, 2020, **Juana Maria Calvillo** [#24067537], 39, of Houston accepted a one-year, partially probated suspension, effective May 28, 2020, with the first week actively served and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that Calvillo neglected a client's legal matter, failed to keep her client reasonably informed, and failed to timely furnish a response to the Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel and did not in good faith timely assert a privilege or other legal ground for failure to do so.

Calvillo violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), and 8.04(a)(8). She was ordered to pay \$2,500.00 in restitution and \$1,000.00 in attorneys' fees.

Craggs, Dennis Warren: #04975000

05/19/2020-Agreed Partially Probated Suspension

12/01/2020-02/01/2021: SUSPENSION

02/02/2021-12/02/2022: PROBATED

On May 19, 2020, **Dennis Warren Craggs** [#04975000], 75, of Houston accepted a two-year, partially probated suspension, effective May 19, 2020. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that Craggs failed to file a response to the grievance.

Craggs violated Rule 8.04(a)(8). He agreed to pay \$500.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Davis, Rochelle Dianne: #24099669

04/01/2020-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension

05/01/2020-10/31/2020: PROBATED

On April 1, 2020, **Rochelle Dianne Davis** [#24099669], 30, of Houston, received a one-year, fully probated suspension, effective May 1, 2020, through October 31, 2020. An investigatory panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that Davis neglected a legal matter entrusted to her, failed to keep her client reasonably informed about the status of the client's legal matter and failed to promptly comply with her reasonable requests for information about the case. Davis also failed to withdraw from representing her client when Davis' physical or mental condition materially impaired her fitness to represent her client and failed to timely furnish to the Chief Disciplinary Counsels office a response or other information as required by the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

Davis violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(a)(2), and 8.04(a)(8).

Davis, Rochelle Dianne: #24099669
03/13/2020-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension
05/01/2020-04/30/2021: PROBATED

On March 13, 2020, **Rochelle Dianne Davis** [#24099669], 30, of Houston, received a one-year, fully probated suspension, effective May 1, 2020, through April 30, 2021. An investigatory panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that Davis neglected a legal matter entrusted to her, failed to keep her client reasonably informed about the status of the client's legal matter and failed to promptly comply with her reasonable requests for information about the case. Davis also failed to withdraw from representing her client when Davis' physical or mental condition materially impaired her fitness to represent her client, and upon termination of representation, Davis failed to refund advance payments of fees that had not been earned.

Davis violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(a)(2), and 1.15(d). She was ordered to pay \$3,000.00 in restitution

Davis, Rochelle Dianne: #24099669
03/13/2020-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension
05/01/2020-04/30/2021: PROBATED

On March 13, 2020, **Rochelle Dianne Davis** [#24099669], 30, of Houston, received a one-year, fully probated suspension, effective May 1, 2020, through April 30, 2021. An investigatory panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that Davis neglected a legal matter entrusted to her, failed to keep her client reasonably informed about the status of the client's legal matter and failed to promptly comply with his reasonable requests for information about the case. Davis also failed to withdraw from representing her client when Davis' physical or mental condition materially impaired her fitness to represent her client, and upon termination of representation, Davis failed to refund advance payments of fees that had not been earned.

Davis violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(a)(2), and 1.15(d). She was ordered to pay \$3,500.00 in restitution.

Davis, Rochelle Dianne: #24099669
03/13/2020-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension
05/01/2020-04/30/2021: PROBATED

On March 13, 2020, **Rochelle Dianne Davis** [#24099669], 30, of Houston, received a one-year, fully probated suspension, effective May 1, 2020, through April 30, 2021. An investigatory panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that Davis neglected a legal matter entrusted to her, failed to keep her client reasonably informed about the status of the client's legal matter and failed to promptly comply with her reasonable requests for information about the case. Davis also failed to withdraw from representing her client when Davis' physical or mental condition materially impaired her fitness to represent her client, and upon termination of representation, Davis failed to refund advance payments of fees that had not been earned.

Davis violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(a)(2), and 1.15(d). She was ordered to pay \$3,000.00 in restitution.

Houston Attorney
05/07/2020-Agreed Private Reprimand

Rule 1.01(b)(1)
Neglecting a legal matter entrusted to the lawyer.

Giwa, Gabriel Ibukun: #07990170
05/05/2020-Agreed Public Reprimand

On May 5, 2020, **Gabriel Ibukun Giwa** [#07990170], 66, of Houston, accepted an agreed judgment of public reprimand. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that Giwa engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation while acting as a notary on a release of lien document, and as well when he filed a document with the clerk's office.

Giwa violated Rule 8.04(a)(3). He was ordered to pay \$1,500.00 in attorneys' fees.

Jacobs, Paul Steven: #10520600
03/12/2020-Agreed Partially Probated Suspension
03/20/2020-09/19/2020: SUSPENSION
09/20/2020-04/19/2022: PROBATED

On March 12, 2020, **Paul Steven Jacobs** [#10520600], 60, of Austin, accepted a 25-month, partially probated suspension, effective March 20, 2020, with the first six months actively suspended and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that Jacobs twice 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.

Jacobs violated Rule 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$2,500.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Houston Attorney
03/23/2020-Agreed Private Reprimand

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

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

Smith, Andrew Christopher: #24063859
12/17/2019-Fully Probated Suspension
01/01/2020-01/01/2023: PROBATED

On December 17, 2019, **Andrew Christopher Smith** [#24063859], 42, of Houston, received a three-year, fully probated suspension, effective January 1, 2020 and ending on January 1, 2023. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that Smith failed to keep his client reasonably informed about the status of the matter and failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information from 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, and engaged in the practice of law when he was on inactive status or when his right to practice had been suspended or terminated.

Smith violated Rules 1.03(a), 8.04(a)(8), and 8.04(a)(11).

Houston Attorney
02/27/2020-Agreed Private Reprimand

Rule 1.01(b)(1)

Neglecting a legal matter entrusted to the lawyer.

Rule 1.01(b)(2)

Failing to carry out completely the obligations owed to a client.

Rule 1.03(a)

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)

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

Tennant, George B. Jr.: #24042016
02/12/2020-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension
02/15/2020-02/14/2023: PROBATED

On February 12, 2020, **George B. Tennant, Jr.** [#24042016], 51, of Pearland, received a three-year, fully probated suspension, effective February 15, 2020. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that while representing a client, Tennant neglected the legal matter entrusted to him and failed to refund advance payments of fees that had not been earned. While representing another client, Tennant failed to surrender papers and property to which his client was entitled and in both matters, he 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.

Tennant violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$700.00 in restitution, \$500.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Tennant, George B. Jr.: #24042016
02/12/2020-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension
02/15/2020-02/14/2023: PROBATED

On February 12, 2020, **George B. Tennant, Jr.** [#24042016], 51, of Pearland, received a three-year, fully probated suspension, effective February 15, 2020. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that, while representing four clients in separate matters, Tennant neglected legal matters entrusted to him, failed to keep clients reasonably informed about the status of their legal matters and failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information, failed to surrender papers and property to which clients were entitled, and failed to refund advance payments of fees that had not been earned. Tennant also engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation and failed to timely furnish to the Chief Disciplinary Counsel's office a response or other information as required by the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

Tennant violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), 8.04(a)(3), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$2,300.00 in restitution and \$500.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

DISTRICT 5:

Crampton, Holly Gail: #05004500
04/17/2020-Partially Probated Suspension
04/06/2020-04/06/2021: SUSPENSION
04/06/2021-04/06/2022: PROBATED

On March 5, 2020, **Holly Gail Crampton** [#05004500], 71, of Santa Fe, received a two-year, partially probated suspension. The 405th Judicial District Court of Galveston County found that Crampton neglected a legal matter entrusted to her; failed to keep the client reasonably informed about the status of the matter and failed to promptly comply with request for information; failed to explain the legal matter to the extent necessary to permit her client to make informed decisions; failed to decline representation or withdraw when the representation resulted in violation of a disciplinary rule; and violated a disciplinary judgment.

Crampton violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.03(b), 1.15(a)(1), and 8.04(a)(7). She was ordered to pay \$6,714.47 in attorneys' fees and expenses. Crampton has filed an appeal.

DISTRICT 6:

**Dallas Attorney
03/23/2020-Agreed Private Reprimand**

Rule 1.02(a)(1)

Subject to paragraphs (b), (c), (d), and (e), (f), and (g), a lawyer shall abide by a client's decisions concerning the objectives and general methods of representation

Rule 1.02(b)

A lawyer may limit the scope, objectives and general methods of the representation if the client consents after consultation.

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.

**Hayden, Steven Todd: #24006245
03/21/2020-Public Reprimand**

On March 21, 2020, **Steven Todd Hayden** [#24006245], 49, of Southlake, agreed to a public reprimand. The District 6 Grievance Committee found that Complainant hired Hayden on March 22, 2018, for a criminal law matter. On or about September 28, 2018, the District Attorney offered Hayden a plea deal of five years' probation to resolve Complainant's case; Hayden did not promptly present this plea offer to Complainant. Hayden finally disclosed the plea deal to Complainant on or about October 26, 2018 and Complainant accepted the plea deal of five years' probation on October 30, 2018. Further, Hayden revealed confidential information to Complainant about another client of Hayden without the client's consent.

Hayden violated Rules 1.03(b) and 1.05(b)(1)(ii). He was ordered to pay attorneys' fees and direct expenses in the sum of \$2,735.00.

**Dallas Attorney
04/14/2020-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.

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.

Laird, Paul Craig II: #11795420
04/14/2020-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension
05/01/2020-04/30/2021: PROBATED

On April 14, 2020, **Paul Craig Laird, II** [#11795420], 60, of Dallas, agreed to a one-year, fully probated suspension, effective May 1, 2020. The District 6 Grievance Committee found that in representing Complainant, Laird neglected the legal matter entrusted to him, failed to abide by Complainant's decisions concerning the objectives and general methods of representation, failed to keep Complainant reasonably informed about the status of her case, and failed to explain the matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit Complainant to make informed decisions regarding the representation.

Laird violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.02(a)(1), 1.03(a), and 1.03(b). He was ordered to pay \$2,500.00 in restitution, and \$500.00 in attorneys' fees and costs.

Dallas Attorney
05/21/2020-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.

Dallas Attorney
03/09/2020-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.

Rule 5.03(a)

With respect to a nonlawyer employed or retained by or associated with a lawyer: A lawyer having direct supervisory authority over the nonlawyer shall make reasonable efforts to ensure that the person's conduct is compatible with the professional obligations of the lawyer.

Newark, Robert Clarence III: #24040097
05/27/2020-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension
06/01/2020-05/31/2021: PROBATED

On May 27, 2020, **Robert Clarence Newark, III** [#24040097], 45, of Dallas, agreed to a 12-month, fully probated suspension, effective June 1, 2020. The District 6 Grievance Committee found that on March 6, 2019, Newark was retained by Complainant to represent her in a civil matter. In representing Complainant, Newark neglected the legal matter entrusted to him by failing to adequately prepare for trial and by allowing a default judgment to be rendered against Complainant. Newark failed to keep Complainant reasonably informed about the status of her legal matter. Newark engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation when he made misrepresentations regarding the status of Complainant's legal matter.

Newark violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), and 8.04(a)(3). He was ordered to pay \$675.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Ringer, G. David: #16935700
04/14/2020-Resignation in lieu of Discipline

On April 14, 2020, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation, in lieu of discipline, of **G. David Ringer** [#16935700], 66, of Dallas. At the time of Keene's resignation, there was one pending matter against him alleging Ringer served as a volunteer, Chairman of the Board, and President of Solar Soccer Club (the Club) from the mid-1990s to early 2010. In those capacities, Ringer ran many aspects of the Club's management, administrative, and financial affairs.

From 2005 to 2010, Ringer wrote and signed checks on the Club's checking account to his law firm totaling over \$960,000, all without the knowledge or authorization of any officer, board member, or member of the Club. Ringer was not hired to provide, and did not provide, legal services to the Club from 2005 to 2010. Ringer obtained loans for the Club and executed promissory notes on the Club's behalf with various third-parties unrelated to the Club, all without the knowledge or authorization of any officer, board member, or member of the Club.

On June 7, 2011, Ringer was indicted in Dallas County on two felony counts based on this conduct: theft and misapplication of fiduciary property. On January 10, 2020, Ringer plead guilty to a first degree felony - misapplication of fiduciary property, sentenced to 10 years community supervision, and ordered to pay \$698,584 in restitution.

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

Warren, Taj Adarryl: #24060802
05/5/2020-Agreed Partially Probated Suspension
05/15/2020-11/14/2021: SUSPENSION
11/15/2021-05/14/2023: PROBATED

On May 5, 2020, **Taj Addaryl Warren** [#24060802], 42, of Dallas, agreed to a 36-month, partially probated suspension, effective May 15, 2020, with the first 18 months actively served and the remainder probated. An investigatory panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that Warren neglected the legal matter by not timely serving the defendant in a civil suit that he filed on the client's behalf. Warren failed to properly communicate with the client. Warren failed to safeguard the retainer paid to Warren for future legal services, failed to return client's case file, refund any unearned fees. Further, Warren failed to notify the court and client of his suspension by June 1, 2019 as required by a previous disciplinary judgment, and failed to comply with TRDP 13.01 relating to notification of an attorney's cessation of practice.

Warren violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(b), 1.14(a), 1.15(d), 8.04(a)(7), and 8.04(a)(10). He was ordered to pay \$500.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses and \$4,500.00 in restitution.

DISTRICT 7:

Dallas Attorney
02/28/2020-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.

Hansen, Brenda Gail: #24010087
04/02/2020-Disbarment
03/02/2020-Effective

On April 2, 2020, **Brenda Gail Hansen** [#24010087], 66, of Arlington, was disbarred, effective March 2, 2020. The District 7 Grievance Committee found that in May 2018, Complainant hired Hansen for representation in a family law matter. Hansen neglected the legal matter entrusted to her by failing to perform any legal services on behalf of Complainant. Hansen failed to keep Complainant reasonably updated as to the status of her legal matter and failed to promptly respond to reasonable requests for information from Complainant. Upon termination of representation, Hansen failed to refund advance payments of a fee that had not been earned. Hansen failed to timely furnish to the Chief Disciplinary Counsel's office a response or other information as required and did not in good faith timely assert a privilege or other legal ground for failure to do so.

Hansen violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(d) and 8.04(a)(8). She was ordered to pay attorneys' fees and direct expenses in the sum of \$1,760.00 and restitution in the sum of \$1,900.00.

Norfleet, Deatria Mechele: #15078100
02/12/2020-Fully Probated Suspension
02/15/2020-05/14/2020: PROBATED

On February 12, 2020, **Deatria Mechele Norfleet** [#15078100], 59, of Arlington, received a three-month, fully probated suspension, effective February 12, 2020. An evidentiary panel of the District 7 Grievance Committee found that on June 6, 2018, Norfleet was hired to represent Complainant's son on a criminal matter. Complainant paid an advanced legal fee of \$3,750.00. Norfleet failed to keep the funds in a separate trust account. Norfleet associated with outside counsel to handle Complainant's son's criminal representation. Norfleet agreed to split the fee paid by Complainant with the outside counsel. However, neither Complainant nor Complainant's son agreed to the fee splitting arrangement. Norfleet failed to explain the criminal matter to Complainant's son to the extent reasonably necessary to permit Complainant's son to make informed decisions regarding the representation. Upon request by Complainant, Norfleet failed to refund advance payments of the fee that had not been earned.

Norfleet, violated Rules 1.03(b), 1.04(f)(2), 1.14(a), and 1.15(d). She was ordered to pay \$2,000.00 in restitution and \$500.00 in attorneys' fees and costs.

Skinner, Charles Wesley: #24068425
03/09/2020-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension
02/15/2020-06/14/2020: PROBATED

On March 9, 2020, **Charles Wesley Skinner** [#24068425], 41, of Waxahachie, received a four-month, fully probated suspension, effective February 15, 2020. An investigatory panel of the District 7 Grievance Committee found that in or about May 2017, Complainant hired Skinner to probate her deceased father's estate. Skinner failed to hold the estate funds that were in Skinner's possession in connection with the representation separate from Skinner's own property and Skinner failed to keep complete records of the estate's funds and other estate property. Skinner failed to promptly deliver to Complainant the estate funds and other estate property that Complainant was entitled to receive. Upon request by Complainant, Skinner failed to promptly render a full accounting regarding such funds and property. Skinner failed to keep the estate funds separate from his own property until there is an accounting and severance of their interest. Upon termination of representation, Skinner failed to surrender the estate funds and property to which Complainant was entitled to receive.

Skinner violated Rules 1.14(a), 1.14(b), 1.14(c), and 1.15(d). He was ordered to pay \$1,000.00 in attorneys' fees and costs.

DISTRICT 9:

Boyd, Kevin W.: #02774020
02/05/2020-Agreed Public Reprimand

On February 5, 2020, **Kevin W. Boyd** [#02774020], 65, of Austin, agreed to a public reprimand. An investigatory panel of the District 9 Grievance Committee found that in July of 2013, Complainant hired Boyd to represent him in an immigration matter, which included a removal proceeding. Complainant paid Boyd a total of \$2,064.00 for the representation. During the representation, Boyd failed to appear at Complainant's removal hearing on September 23, 2015, because Boyd's legal assistant failed to calendar the hearing after receiving notice. Subsequently, the Court issued an Order for Complainant's Removal. In addition, Boyd's legal assistant failed to inform Boyd of Complainant's removal when Boyd's office first received the removal order in October of 2015. Instead, Boyd's legal assistant fabricated a document indicating Complainant's matter was reset to November 29, 2019, and sent a copy of said document to Complainant. Boyd's failure to supervise his legal assistant enabled her to send Complainant the fabricated reset notice, which precluded Complainant from obtaining the relief for which he initially retained Boyd.

Boyd violated Rule 5.03(a) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct, Article X, Section 9, State Bar Rules. Boyd was ordered to pay \$225.00 in attorneys' fees and expenses and \$2,064.00 in restitution.

Austin Attorney
03/23/2020-Agreed Private Reprimand

Rule 1.04(a)

Entering into an arrangement for, charging or collecting an illegal fee or unconscionable fee.

Rule 1.15(d)

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
04/15/2020-Agreed Private Reprimand

Rule 1.09(a)(2)

Without prior consent, a lawyer who personally has formerly represented a client in a matter shall not thereafter represent another person in a matter adverse to the former client: if the representation in reasonable probability will involve a violation of Rule 1.05.

Deutsch, Melissa Ann: #24063946
02/24/2020-Agreed Public Reprimand

On February 24, 2020, **Melissa Ann Deutsch** [#24063946], 38, of Austin, received a public reprimand. An evidentiary panel of the District 9 Grievance Committee found that Complainant paid Deutsch \$3,000.00 to represent a special needs trust in the partition of certain real property. Complainant is the trustee of the trust. After June of 2014, Deutsch performed no legal work on the case except for filing a motion to retain in 2016, which was granted. During the representation, Deutsch frequently failed to respond to telephone calls and emails wherein Complainant requested information regarding the status of the case. On or before March of 2016, Deutsch closed her law practice without notice to Complainant. Subsequently, Deutsch told Complainant that she would provide Complainant with her file and an invoice, and refund any unused fees. However, Deutsch failed to provide the file, invoice, or refund until after receiving notice of the grievance a year later.

Deutsch violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.14(b), and 1.15(d) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct, Article X, Section 9, State Bar Rules. Deutsch was ordered to pay \$766.76 in attorneys' fees and expenses.

Graham, Claude Robert: #24064208
02/12/2020-Partially Probated Suspension
02/15/2020-08/14/2020: SUSPENSION
08/15/2020-02/14/2021: PROBATED

On February 12, 2020, **Claude Robert Graham** [#24064208], 70, of Chesapeake, Virginia, received a one-year, partially probated suspension, [six months active and six months probated], from an evidentiary panel of the District 9 Grievance Committee. The panel found that Graham was suspended from the practice of law in the State of Texas, from November 6, 2014 to October 31, 2017, and failed to inform in writing any of his clients, opposing attorneys, and all courts, in which he had pending cases, of his suspension. As a result, Graham violated the terms of his prior disciplinary judgment of suspension signed on October 24, 2014.

Graham violated Rule 8.04(a)(7) and was ordered to pay \$23,662.50 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Mata, Mario A.: #13184400
03/10/2020-Disbarment

On March 10, 2020, **Mario A. Mata** [#13184400], 65, of Austin, was disbarred by an evidentiary panel of the District 9 Grievance Committee. The panel found that on or about October 23, 2005, Mata set up an offshore trust for Complainant. On August 9, 2013, Complainant deposited \$270,000 from Complainant's mother's testamentary trust into Mata's IOLTA. Mata was to transfer the \$270,000 from his IOLTA into the Bank Ventobel account, which held the assets for Complainant's trust. When Complainant received his January 2014 bank statement, he noticed that Mata never deposited the money into the Bank Ventobel account. Complainant then hired an attorney who wrote letters to Mata on October 13, 2015, and February 9, 2016, asking for the return of the \$270,000.00. Mata failed to return the funds.

Mata violated Rule 1.14(b) and was ordered to pay \$270,000.00 in restitution and \$11,818.57 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Perry, Nancy L.: #24041680
03/29/2020-Agreed Partially Probated Suspension
04/01/2020-04/30/2020: SUSPENSION
05/01/2020-03/30/2021: PROBATED

On March 29, 2020, **Nancy L. Perry** [#24041680], 53, of Round Rock, accepted a one-year, partially probated suspension, with one month active, effective April 1, 2020, related to three disciplinary cases. In the first matter, a client hired Perry on February 18, 2015, to represent her interests as a creditor in a bankruptcy case. On January 22, 2016, the client terminated Perry's services by letter. The letter requested that Perry provide the client with her case file. Perry failed to provide the case file and failed file a written response to this grievance.

In a second matter, a client hired Perry on August 27, 2016, to represent her in an uncontested divorce. The client paid an advance fee to Perry in the amount of \$1,500.00. Perry prepared and filed a petition for divorce on August 29, 2016. Subsequently, on September 1, 2016, Perry's license to practice law was administratively suspended due to her failure to pay dues to the State Bar of Texas. Perry failed to notify the client that she was no longer eligible to practice law. While still under an administrative suspension, Perry sent an email to the client on October 25, 2016, advising her that she would begin to draft a divorce decree the following weekend. Thereafter, the client received no further communication from Perry. Perry failed to complete the work she was hired to do and did not return any unearned fees to Complainant. Perry also failed to file a written response to the grievance.

In a third matter, a client hired Perry in December 2016, to represent her as the petitioner in a divorce. The client paid Perry an advanced fee of \$4,000.00 for the representation. Thereafter, Perry failed to file the divorce petition or complete any substantive work on behalf of the client. At the time that Perry accepted the advanced fee and agreed to represent the client, Perry was not authorized to practice law because she was administratively suspended. Perry also failed file a written response to the grievance.

Perry violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), 8.04(a)(8), and 8.04(a)(11) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct, Article X, Section 9, State Bar Rules. Perry was ordered to pay \$4,9503.00 in restitution and \$120.57 in attorneys' fees and expenses.

Robertson, Damon Dean: #24005285
02/05/2020-Disbarment

On February 5, 2020, **Damon Dean Robertson** [#24005285], 45, of Austin, was disbarred by an evidentiary panel of the District 9 Grievance Committee related to two disciplinary matters. In the first case, the panel found that Robertson was hired to represent a client in a divorce matter. A divorce decree was signed wherein the client was awarded funds from the sale of property as well as from a 401(k). The awarded funds were transferred to Robertson to be held in trust. Robertson failed to deliver the funds to his client, failed to hold the funds separate from his own property, and disbursed funds to persons who were not entitled to receive them. He further neglected the legal matter, failed to carry out the obligations he owed to his client, committed a criminal act and engaged in dishonesty, fraud, deceit, and/or misrepresentation.

In the second case, Robertson was hired to represent a client in two business litigation matters. The panel found that Robertson neglected these matters by failing to respond to discovery and motions, and failing to attend hearings. Robertson further failed to carry out the obligations owed to his client, failed to communicate with his client, and failed to explain the matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit his client to make informed decisions. Robertson also failed to file written responses to these two disciplinary matters as directed.

Robertson violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.01(b)(2), 1.03(a), 1.14(a), 1.14(b), 1.14(c), 8.04(a)(2), 8.04(a)(3) and 8.04(a)(8) and was ordered to pay \$55,981.56 in restitution and \$4,046.75 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Robertson, Damon Dean: #24005285
02/05/2020-Disbarment

On February 5, 2020, **Damon Dean Robertson** [#24005285], 45, of Austin, was disbarred by an evidentiary panel of the District 9 Grievance Committee. The panel found that Robertson was hired to assist his client with probating an estate, an IRS lien, a business foreclosure, and an oil and gas lease. Robertson neglected these matters, failed to communicate with his client, failed to render an accounting of the work performed, and failed to return the client's file or any unearned fees. Robertson further failed to file a written response to this grievance as directed.

Robertson violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.14(b), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8) and was ordered to pay \$11,532.00 in restitution and \$3,779.70 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Stanfield, Shanon Keith: #24056738
04/28/2020-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension
06/01/2020-05/31/2022: PROBATED

On April 28, 2020, **Shanon Keith Stanfield** [#24056738], 36, of Austin, accepted a two-year, fully probated suspension, effective June 1, 2020. An evidentiary panel of the District 9 Grievance Committee found that while representing a client in civil litigation matters, Stanfield neglected the cases, failed to communicate with his client, and failed provide his client with any updates concerning the matters. Stanfield further failed to file a written response to this complaint as directed.

Stanfield violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), and 8.04(a)(8) and was ordered to pay \$975.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

DISTRICT 10:

Cantu, Oscar L. Jr.: #03767448
03/02/2020-Agreed Public Reprimand

On March 2, 2020, **Oscar L. Cantu, Jr.** [#03767448], 56, of San Antonio, accepted a public reprimand. An evidentiary panel of the District 10 Grievance Committee found that his representation of a client against former clients created conflicts of interest.

Cantu violated Rules 1.06(d), 1.07(a)(1),(b)&(c), and 1.09(a)(2)&(3), and agreed to pay \$1,250.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Cohen, Sean Michael: #24101637
02/26/2020-Agreed Partially Probated Suspension
03/01/2020-08/31/2020: SUSPENSION
09/01/2020-02/28/2023: PROBATED

On February 26, 2020, **Sean Michael Cohen** [#24101637], 31, of San Antonio, agreed to a 36-month, partially probated suspension, effective March 1, 2020, with the first six months actively served and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 10 Grievance Committee found that Cohen neglected client's matters, failed to communicate with clients and failed to respond to grievances timely.

Cohen violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), and 8.04(a)(8), and agreed to pay \$800.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

Ponce, Joe Jesse III: #24014329
02/18/2020-Disbarment

On February 18, 2020, **Joe Jesse Ponce**, [#24014329], 61, of San Antonio, was disbarred. The 285th District Court of Bexar County found that Ponce violated Rules 1.03(a)&(b) [communication with a client]; 1.08(b) [business transaction with a client]; 1.15(d) [protect client interest upon withdrawal] and 8.04(a)(3) [conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation].

Ponce was ordered to pay \$872.42 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

San Antonio Attorney
03/04/2020-Agreed Private Reprimand

Rule 1.01(b)(1)
Neglecting a legal matter entrusted to the lawyer.

Rule 1.14(a)
Failing to hold funds and other property belonging in whole or part to clients or third persons in a lawyer's possession separate from the lawyer's own property.

Weiss, Paul Martin: #24034732
05/01/2020-Agreed Public Reprimand

On May 1, 2020, **Paul Martin Weiss** [#24034732], 59, of San Antonio, accepted a public reprimand. An investigatory panel of the District 10 Grievance Committee found that Weiss neglected a client's matters, failed to respond to client's request for information, upon termination of representation, failed to return unearned fees and failed to respond to grievances timely.

Weiss violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), & 8.04(a)(8), and agreed to pay \$2,050.00 in restitution, and \$800.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

DISTRICT 11:

San Antonio Attorney
03/20/2020-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.

Rule 8.04(a)(8)
A lawyer shall not fail to timely furnish to the Chief Disciplinary Counsel's office or a district grievance committee a response or other information as required by the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, unless he or she in good faith timely asserts a privilege or other legal ground for failure to do so.

Villarreal, Marc Elliot: #00791856
03/04/2020-Agreed Partially Probated Suspension
05/14/2020-05/13/2021: SUSPENSION
05/14/2021-05/14/2025: PROBATED

On March 4, 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. The 148th District Court of Nueces County found that Villarreal violated Rules 1.14(a)&(b) [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 was ordered to pay \$14,000.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

DISTRICT 12:

Ramirez, Dennis: #24037327
04/30/2020-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension
04/01/2020-03/31/2021: PROBATED

On April 30, 2020, **Dennis Ramirez** [#24037327], 43, of Donna, agreed to a one-year, fully probated suspension, effective April 1, 2020. An evidentiary panel of the District 12 Grievance Committee found that Ramirez failed to hold client's funds separate from his own property and failed to deliver funds to parties entitled to receive the funds promptly.

Ramirez violated Rules 1.14(a)&(b) and was ordered to pay \$1,000.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

San Antonio Attorney
05/06/2020-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.

Zavaletta, Peter Michael: #22251600
05/08/2020-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension
06/01/2020-05/31/2022: PROBATED

On May 8, 2020, **Peter Michael Zavaletta** [#22251600], 59, of Corpus Christi, agreed to a two-year, fully probated suspension, effective June 1, 2020. An investigatory panel of the District 11 Grievance Committee found that Zavaletta neglected a client's matter, failed to keep a client reasonably informed, failed to return unearned fees and failed to protect a client's interest.

Zavaletta violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(a)(1), and 1.15(d), was ordered to pay \$10,000.00 in restitution and \$900.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

DISTRICT 13:

Dennis, Christopher Eric: #90001539
05/19/2020-Indefinite Disability Suspension

On May 19, 2020, **Christopher Eric Dennis** [#90001539], 48, of Levelland, agreed to a judgment of indefinite disability suspension, effective immediately. The Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed an agreed judgment of indefinite disability suspension based on Dennis' agreement that he suffers from a disability that result in his inability to practice law.

DISTRICT 14:

Dallas Attorney
03/04/2020-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.

Van Dyke, Jason Lee: #24057426
04/30/2020-Agreed Partially Probated Suspension
05/01/2020-10/31/2020: SUSPENSION
11/01/2020-10/31/2021: PROBATED

On April 30, 2020, **Jason Lee Van Dyke** [#24057426], 40, of Decatur, agreed to an 18-month, partially probated suspension, effective May 1, 2020, with the first six months actively served and the remainder probated. The 271st District Court of Wise County found that Van Dyke committed Professional Misconduct by violating Rules 8.04(a)(2) [A lawyer shall not commit a serious crime or commit any other criminal act that reflects adversely on the lawyers honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a lawyer in other respects] and 8.04(a)(3) [A lawyer shall not engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation].

Van Dyke was ordered to pay attorneys' fees and direct expenses in the sum of \$6,400.00.

DISTRICT 15:

Guzman, Arturo A. "Art": #08654525
02/26/2020-Default Disbarment

On February 26, 2020, **Arturo A. Guzman** [#08654525], 56, of San Marcos, was disbarred. The District 15 Grievance Committee found that Guzman failed to keep client reasonably informed, failed to safeguard client's funds and failed to respond to grievance timely.

Guzman violated Rules 1.03(a), 1.14(a)&(b), and 8.04(a)(8) and was ordered to pay \$46,097.12 in restitution and \$4,738.36 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

DISTRICT 16:

Hartman, Christianson O.: #24056682
02/06/2020-Disbarment

On February 6, 2020, **Christianson O. Hartman** [#24056682], 39, of Sweetwater, was disbarred. An evidentiary panel of the District 16 Grievance Committee found Hartman failed to hold client or third person's funds separate from his own property, misrepresented facts and failed to disclose information to a tribunal when disclosure was necessary to avoid assisting a criminal or fraudulent act, engaged in conduct involving a serious crime, and engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit and misrepresentation.

Hartman violated Rules 1.14(a)&(c), 3.03(a)(1)&(2), and 8.04(a)(2)&(3), and is ordered to pay \$15,100.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

DISTRICT 17:

Roman, Richard Abram: #00789595
03/04/2020-Agreed Public Reprimand

On March 4, 2020, **Richard Abram Roman** [#00789595], 56, of El Paso, accepted a public reprimand. An investigatory panel of the District 17 Grievance Committee found that Roman neglected a client's matter.

Roman violated Rule 1.01(b)(1), and agreed to pay \$375.00 in restitution, and \$800.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.