

COMMISSION FOR LAWYER DISCIPLINE

REPORT

TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
ON  
ATTORNEY DISCIPLINE

SEPTEMBER 2017

**Disciplinary Sanctions**  
**06/01/2017 - 08/31/2017**

DISBARMENTS	District	# of Complaints Resolved
<b>Board of Disciplinary Appeals:</b>		
Daniels, L. Mickle	BODA	1
Guajardo, T. Anthony	BODA	1
Total:	2	2
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RESIGNATIONS IN LIEU OF DISCIPLINE	District	# of Complaints Resolved
Bendel, Kenneth Emeke	9	4
Bosworth, David Alan	10	1
Mitchell, James L.	10	1
Total:	3	6
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SUSPENSIONS	District	# of Complaints Resolved
Baker, Timothy Edward	1	2
Burnett, Burt Lee	14	3
Finley, W. Thomas	6	1
Fisher, Ray	9	1
Galvan, Ray Jr.	6	1
Hulsey, William N. III	9	2
Hwang, Stephan Dongwhoo	6	1
Jacobs, Paul Steven	4	1
Knight, David W.	14	1
Krenek, Julie Lynn Bulthuis	1	2
Kricken, Wade Travis	6	1
Krueger, David Allan Allan	1	1
Lucas, James Edward	11	1
Ponce, Joe Jesse III	10	1
Russell, Michael Kerry	7	2
Sharp, Joe Steven	13	1
Skocpol-Saleh, D. Kristine	8	1

Tipton, Francisco Steven	12	2
Turner, Todd Brantley	6	1
Vaughn, Andrew David	1	3
Williams, Robert Earnest II	11	1

**Board of Disciplinary Appeals:**

Knight, David W.	BODA	1
Patterson, Gina Dawn	BODA	1
<b>Total:</b>		<b>23</b>
		<b>32</b>

**PRIVATE REPRIMANDS**

Grievance Comm.	# of Sanctions	# of Complaints Resolved
1	1	1
3	2	2
4	3	3
5	1	1
6	1	1
7	1	2
10	5	5
12	2	2
16	1	1
17	1	1
<b>Total:</b>		<b>19</b>
Grievance Referral Program		18
<b>Grand Total:</b>		<b>77</b>

### Disciplinary Actions - Current Bar Year

BAR YEARS 2017-2018	Total Sanctions	Total Complaints Resolved
DISBARMENTS	2	2
RESIGNATIONS IN LIEU OF DISCIPLINE	3	6
SUSPENSIONS	23	32
PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	18	19
GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	18	18
Total:	64	77

\*does not reflect year-end figures

### Disciplinary Actions - Previous Bar Years

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

BAR YEARS 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	50
RESIGNATIONS IN LIEU OF DISCIPLINE	19	56
SUSPENSIONS	112	146
PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	32	36
PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	66	72
GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	64	72
Total:	320	432

BAR YEARS  
2013-2014

	Total Sanctions	Total Complaints Resolved
DISBARMENTS	23	42
RESIGNATIONS IN LIEU OF DISCIPLINE	17	58
SUSPENSIONS	130	169
PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	31	35
PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	63	70
GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	57	57
Total:	321	431

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:

**Baker, Timothy Edward: #24050247**  
**08/01/2017-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension**  
**08/01/2017-07/31/2018: PROBATED**

On August 1, 2017, **Timothy Edward Baker** [#24050247], 49, of Allen, agreed to a 12-month, fully probated suspension, effective August 1, 2017. The District 1 Grievance Committee found that in April 2012, Complainant hired Baker to represent him in a real estate matter. In representing Complainant, Baker failed to abide by Complainant's decisions concerning the objectives and general methods of representation. During Baker's representation of Complainant, Baker failed to keep Complainant reasonably informed about the status of Complainant's legal matter and failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information. In the second matter, in March 2013, Complainant hired Baker for representation in a civil action. In representing Complainant, Baker neglected the legal matter entrusted to him by failing to provide legal services including, but not limited, to, Baker's failure to respond to requests for admissions. During Baker's representation of Complainant, Baker failed to keep Complainant reasonably informed about the status of Complainant's legal matter and failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information. Upon termination of representation, Baker failed to surrender papers and property to which Complainant was entitled.

Baker violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.02(a)(1), 1.03(a), and 1.15(d). He was ordered to pay \$250.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

**Krenek, Julie Lynn Bulthuis: #24065574**  
**08/11/2017-Agreed Active Suspension**  
**08/15/2017-08/14/2019: SUSPENSION**

On August 11, 2017, **Julie Lynn Bulthuis Krenek** [#24065574], 48, of McKinney, agreed to a 24-month, active suspension, effective August 15, 2017. The District 1 Grievance Committee found that in the first matter in September 2016, Complainant hired Krenek to represent him in a family law matter. In representing Complainant, Krenek neglected the legal matter entrusted to her by failing to appear at the Final Trial setting on behalf of Complainant. In the second matter, on February 17, 2016, Complainant hired Krenek to represent him in a family law matter. In representing Complainant, Krenek failed to keep Complainant reasonably informed about the status of his legal matter and failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information from Complainant. Krenek violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), and 1.03(a). She was ordered to pay \$500.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.



**Krueger, David Allan: #24025940**  
**06/06/2017-Agreed Partially Probated Suspension**  
**04/15/2018-04/14/2020: SUSPENSION**  
**04/15/2020-04/14/2022: PROBATED**

On June 6, 2017, David Allan Krueger [#24025940], 49, of Oklahoma, agreed to a 48-month, partially probated suspension, effective April 15, 2018, with the first 24 months actively suspended and the remainder probated. The 429th District Court of Collin County found that the parties agreed that Krueger committed professional misconduct by violating Rules 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], 1.08(a) [A lawyer shall not enter into a business transaction with a client], 1.14(a) [A lawyer shall hold funds and other property belonging in whole or in part to clients or third persons that are in a lawyer's possession in connection with a representation separate from the lawyer's own property. Such funds shall be kept in a separate account, designated as a "trust" or "escrow" account, maintained in the state where the lawyer's office is situated, or elsewhere with the consent of the client or third person. Other client property shall be identified as such and appropriately safeguarded. Complete records of such account funds and other property shall be kept by the lawyer and shall be preserved for a period of five years after termination of the representation], 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 ], 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 ] and 8.04(a)(3) [A lawyer shall not engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation]. Krueger was ordered to pay attorneys' fees and direct expenses in the sum of \$4,500.00 and restitution in the sum of \$40,000.00.

**Dallas Attorney**  
**07/14/2017-Agreed Private Reprimand**

Rule 1.01(b)(1)

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

Rule 1.03(a)

A lawyer shall keep a client reasonably informed about the status of a matter and promptly comply with reasonable requests for information.

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.

**Vaughn, Andrew David: #24056764**  
**08/22/2017-Agreed Partially Probated Suspension**  
**09/15/2017-10/14/2017: SUSPENSION**  
**10/15/2017-09/14/2018: PROBATED**

On August 22, 2017, **Andrew David Vaughn** [#24056764], 37, of Canton, received a 12-month, partially probated suspension, effective September 15, 2017, with the first month actively served and the remainder probated. Vaughn neglected the legal matters entrusted to him in three cases; failed to keep his clients reasonably informed about the status of their legal matter; failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information from his clients; upon termination of representation failed to surrender papers and property to which his clients were entitled and refund advance payment of fees that had not been earned; and failed to respond to the grievance. Vaughn violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$2,200.00 in the first case, \$1,804.00 in the second case and \$950.00 in the third case. Vaughn was also ordered to pay \$1,800.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

DISTRICT 3:

**Houston Attorney**  
**05/02/2017-Private Reprimand**

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

**Houston Attorney**  
**07/12/2017-Agreed Private Reprimand**

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

DISTRICT 4:

**Houston Attorney**  
**08/02/2017-Agreed Private Reprimand**

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

**Jacobs, Paul Steven: #10520600**  
**07/20/2017-Agreed Partially Probated Suspension**  
**10/15/2017-01/14/2018: SUSPENSION**  
**01/15/2018-04/14/2019: PROBATED**

On July 20, 2017, **Paul Steven Jacobs** [#10520600], 58, of Houston, accepted an 18-month, partially probated suspension, effective October 15, 2017, with the first three months actively served and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that Jacobs failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information from clients about their legal matter, and failed to explain the status of their legal matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit them to make informed decisions regarding the representation. Jacobs violated Rules 1.03(a) and 1.03(b). He was ordered to pay \$100.00 in restitution and \$3,326.43 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

**Houston Attorney**  
**07/17/2017-Agreed Private Reprimand**

Rule 1.09(a)(3)

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 it is the same or a substantially related matter.

**Houston Attorney**  
**07/13/2017-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 5:

**Houston Attorney**  
**07/17/2017-Agreed Private Reprimand**

Rule 1.02(a)(1)

for failing to abide by a client's decisions concerning the objectives and general methods of 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

DISTRICT 6:

**Dallas Attorney**

**06/26/2017-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 1.03(b)

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

Rule 1.15(d)

Upon termination of representation a lawyer shall take steps to the extent reasonably practicable to protect a client's interests, such as giving reasonable notice to the client, allowing time for employment of other counsel, surrendering papers and property to which the client is entitled and refunding any advance payments of fee that has not been earned. The lawyer may retain papers relating to the client to the extent permitted by other law only if such retention will not prejudice the client in the subject matter of the representation.

**Finley, W. Thomas: #07025500**

**05/04/2017-Partially Probated Suspension**

**05/01/2017-06/30/2017: SUSPENSION**

**07/01/2017-10/30/2018: PROBATED**

On May 4, 2017, **W. Thomas Finley** [#07025500], 69, of Dallas, received an 18-month, partially probated suspension, with the first two months actively suspended and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that on April 15, 2014, Complainant hired Finley to represent him in a civil matter. Thereafter, upon receiving settlement funds to which Complainant had an interest, Finley failed to promptly deliver to Complainant the settlement funds that Complainant was entitled to receive. Finley also failed to promptly render a full accounting regarding such funds, despite Complainant's requests for said information. Finley failed to hold funds belonging to Complainant that were in Finley's possession in connection with the representation separate from Finley's own property. Finley also failed to keep Complainant reasonably informed about the status of his civil matter and failed to promptly comply with Complainant's reasonable requests for information. Finley violated Rules 1.03(a), 1.14(a), and 1.14(b). He was ordered to pay \$4,500.00 in restitution and \$5,000.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

**Galvan, Ray Jr.: #07599300**  
**05/12/2017-Partially Probated Suspension**  
**06/01/2017-06/30/2017: SUSPENSION**  
**07/01/2017-05/31/2019: PROBATED**

On May 12, 2017, **Ray Galvan, Jr.** [#07599300], 54, of Dallas, received a 24-month, partially probated suspension, effective June 1, 2017, with the first month actively suspended and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that Galvan violated a previous disciplinary judgment by failing to pay attorneys' fees and direct expenses due and owing to the State Bar of Texas. Galvan violated Rule 8.04(a)(7). He was ordered to pay \$982.50 in attorneys' fees and \$200.00 in direct expenses.

**Hwang, Stephan Dongwee: #24036817**  
**06/26/2017-Partially Probated Suspension**  
**06/15/2017-12/14/2017: SUSPENSION**  
**12/15/2017-06/14/2019: PROBATED**

On June 26, 2017, **Stephan Dongwee Hwang** [#24036817], 47, of Lewisville, received a 24-month, partially probated suspension, effective June 15, 2017, with the first six months actively served and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that Hwang failed to hold escrow funds belonging to Complainant that were in Hwang's possession in connection with the representation separate from Hwang's own property; failed to keep funds belonging to Complainant in a separate trust or escrow account; failed to promptly deliver to Complainant funds that Complainant was entitled to receive; failed to disburse funds in his account only to those persons entitled to receive the funds by virtue of the representation or by law. Hwang violated Rules 1.14(a), 1.14(b), and 1.14(c). He was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$20,000 and \$8,283.25 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

**Kricken, Wade Travis: #24034527**  
**05/30/2017-Fully Probated Suspension**  
**06/01/2017-05/31/2018: PROBATED**

On May 30, 2017, **Wade Travis Kricken** [#24034527], 41, of Prosper, received a one-year, fully probated suspension, effective June 1, 2017. An evidentiary panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that Kricken filed frivolous actions on behalf of debtors in bankruptcy court without the debtors' knowledge or consent, knowingly made false statements of material fact to a third person, and used means that had no substantial purpose other than to delay a third person. Kricken violated Rules 3.01, 4.01(a), and 4.04(a). He was ordered to pay \$3,222.50 in attorneys' fees and \$380.50 in direct expenses.

**Turner, Todd Brantley: #24029873**  
**05/16/2017-Partially Probated Suspension**  
**07/01/2017-06/30/2018: SUSPENSION**  
**07/01/2018-06/30/2019: PROBATED**

On May 16, 2017, **Todd Brantley Turner** [#24029873], 43, of Dallas, received a two-year, partially probated suspension, effective July 1, 2017, with the first year active and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that Turner failed to keep his clients

reasonably informed and promptly comply with their requests for information about the status of their legal matters, failed to reduce the contingency fee agreement entered into with his clients relative to their personal injury matter to writing, failed to safeguard client funds, failed to promptly deliver to a client and medical provider those funds to which they were entitled to receive, and engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation. Turner violated Rules 1.03(a), 1.04(d), 1.14(a), 1.14(b), and 8.04(a)(3). He was ordered to pay restitution in the amounts of \$12,331.52 and \$4,193.00.

DISTRICT 7:

**Dallas Attorney**  
**05/08/2017-Private Reprimand**

**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.

**Russell, Michael Kerry: #17420700**  
**05/15/2017-Fully Probated Suspension**  
**05/15/2017-05/14/2019: PROBATED**

On May 15, 2017, **Michael Kerry Russell** [#17420700], 64, of Arlington, received a two-year, fully probated suspension. An evidentiary panel of the District 7 Grievance Committee found that in two separate cases, Russell failed to keep his clients reasonably informed about the status of the case, failed to promptly comply with the clients' reasonable requests for information, and neglected the clients' legal matter. Russell violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), and 1.03(a). He was ordered to pay \$2,700.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

DISTRICT 8:

**Skocpol-Saleh, D. Kristine: #24066713**  
**05/17/2017-Partially Probated Suspension**  
**05/08/2017-11/07/2018: SUSPENSION**  
**11/08/2018-05/07/2021: PROBATED**

On May 17, 2017, **D. Kristine Skocpol-Saleh** [#24066713], 42, of Hamilton, received a four-year, partially probated suspension, with 18 months active. An evidentiary panel of the District 8 Grievance Committee found that Skocpol-Saleh was hired to file a Chapter 13 bankruptcy proceeding. Skocpol-Saleh filed a voluntary petition in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of Texas. During the course of the representation, Skocpol-Saleh failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information from her client. When Skocpol-Saleh failed to appear at two separate hearings in the case, the judge ordered her to appear for a Status Conference. Skocpol-Saleh again failed to appear. The Court then issued an Order to Appear and Show Cause why monetary sanctions should not be imposed against Skocpol-Saleh and/or why she should not be disciplined for failing to represent her client at three hearings. As a result of the show cause hearing, the Court issued an order requiring disgorgement of attorney's fees and imposing restrictions on Skocpol-Saleh's continued practice in the bankruptcy courts.

Skocpol-Saleh violated Rules: 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), and 3.04(d) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct, Article X, Section 9, State Bar Rules. Skocpol-Saleh was ordered to pay \$4,313.46 in attorneys' fees and expenses.

DISTRICT 9:

**Bendel, Kenneth Emeke: #24074835**  
**08/25/2017-Resignation in lieu of Discipline**

On August 25, 2017, the Supreme Court of Texas, accepted the resignation, in lieu of discipline, of **Kenneth Emeke Bendel** [#24074835], 31, of Sacramento, California. At the time of Bendel's resignation, four disciplinary cases were pending against him. In one case, Bendel neglected his client's immigration matter, failed to keep the client informed about the status of the case and when terminated, failed to return the client's file and unearned fees. In a second case, Bendel neglected his client's immigration matter and failed to explain the matter to the extent necessary to allow the client to make an informed decision about the representation. In two additional cases, Bendel neglected his client's immigration matters. Bendel violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.03(b), and 1.15(d).

**Fisher, Ray: #07057400**  
**07/13/2017-Agreed Partially Probated Suspension**  
**09/01/2017-02/28/2018: SUSPENSION**  
**03/01/2018-08/31/2021: PROBATED**

On July 13, 2017, **Ray Fisher** [#07057400], 64, of Austin, received a four-year, partially probated suspension, with six months active and the remainder probated, effective September 1, 2017. An evidentiary panel of the District 9 Grievance Committee found that Fisher was hired in July of 2013 to file a Chapter 7 bankruptcy for Complainant. After paying \$2,500.00 for the representation and sending Fisher documents regarding Complainant's debt obligations, Complainant never heard from Fisher again. In November of 2015, Complainant hired another attorney on an unrelated matter and learned that the bankruptcy was never filed. On Complainant's behalf, Complainant's new attorney requested Complainant's file and unearned fees from Fisher on December 15, 2015. Respondent failed to return the file or any unearned fees. Fisher violated Rules: 1.01(b)(1) and 1.15(d) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct, Article X, Section 9, State Bar Rules. Fisher was ordered to pay \$2,500.00 in restitution and \$941.92 in attorneys' fees and expenses.

**Hulsey, William N. III: #10261150**  
**08/30/2017-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension**  
**08/30/2017-02/29/2020: PROBATED**

On August 30, 2017, **William N. Hulsey, III** [#10261150], 62, of Austin, received a 30-month, fully probated suspension. An evidentiary panel of the District 9 Grievance Committee found that in one matter Complainant and Hulsey were law partners from January 1, 2014, through January 21, 2015. When Complainant and Hulsey terminated their professional relationship, some of the firm's clients chose to have Complainant continue to represent them. In 2015, Hulsey charged each client a \$225.00 fee for the administrative costs of transferring the file, in contravention of the fee agreements they signed with Hulsey and Complainant's law firm. Further, Hulsey returned unearned fees to clients using checks that were drawn on Hulsey's firm's operating account rather than on his firm's trust account. Hulsey received

advanced fees for legal services from clients but failed to hold the advanced fees in a separate trust account until the fees were earned. In another matter, Complainant hired Hulseley to represent her interests in obtaining patents in several foreign countries. Hulseley was to engage foreign patent law firms, coordinate filings with those firms, and pay to the foreign firms the legal fees and filing fees incurred in procuring the foreign patents from the funds provided by Complainant. Pursuant to Hulseley's instructions, Complainant wired a total of \$41,480.00 in advanced fees to Hulseley's operating account. Although Hulseley was holding certain funds, tendered by Complainant, for the express purpose of paying foreign attorneys' legal fees and filing fees, Hulseley failed to hold the advanced fees in a separate trust account. Hulseley also failed to promptly deliver funds to foreign attorneys after receiving invoices for legal fees and expenses. When Complainant terminated Hulseley's representation, Hulseley failed to timely provide Complainant with all documents in Complainant's file as requested. Hulseley violated Rules 1.14(a), 1.14(b) and 1.15(d) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct, Article X, Section 9, State Bar Rules. Hulseley was ordered to pay \$6,700.00 in attorneys' fees and expenses.

DISTRICT 10:

**San Antonio Attorney  
07/12/2017-Agreed Private Reprimand**

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.

**Bosworth, David Alan: #02687350  
06/20/2017-Resignation in lieu of Discipline**

On June 20, 2017, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation, in lieu of discipline, of **David Alan Bosworth** [#02687350], 64, of San Antonio. At the time of his resignation, Bosworth had one grievance pending alleging Bosworth failed to hold funds that were to be held in trust separate from his own property, failed to promptly deliver funds to the person entitled to receive funds, failed to produce a complete accounting when requested and engaged in conduct involving fraud, deceit or misrepresentation. Bosworth violated Rules 1.14(a), 1.14(b), & 8.04(a)(3).

**San Antonio Attorney  
07/12/2017-Agreed Private Reprimand**

Rule 1.14(b)

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.

**San Antonio Attorney  
07/10/2017-Agreed Private Reprimand**

Rule 1.15(b)(1)

A lawyer shall not withdraw from representing a client unless withdrawal can be accomplished without material adverse effect on the interests of the client.



**San Antonio Attorney  
08/15/2017-Agreed Private Reprimand**

**Rule 8.04(a)(8)**

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

**Mitchell, James L.: #14214100  
08/25/2017-Resignation in lieu of Discipline**

On August 25, 2017, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation, in lieu of discipline, of **James L. Mitchell** [#14214100], 65, of Boerne. At the time of his resignation, Mitchell had five grievances pending alleging Mitchell neglected clients' matters, failed to communicate with clients, failed to return unearned fees, misrepresented facts to clients, failed to return a client's file, and failed to respond to grievances.

Mitchell violated Rules 1.01(b)(1)&(2), 1.03(a)&(b), 1.14(a), 1.15(d), 8.01(a), and 8.04(a)(3)&(8).

**Ponce, Joe Jesse III: #24014329  
07/06/2017-Partially Probated Suspension  
12/15/2017-01/14/2018: SUSPENSION  
01/15/2018-12/14/2019: PROBATED**

On July 6, 2017, **Joe Jesse Ponce III** [#24014329], 59, of San Antonio, received a two-year, partially probated suspension, effective December 15, 2017, with the first month actively served and the remainder probated. The 37th Judicial District Court of Bexar County found that Ponce committed professional misconduct by violating Rule 8.04(a)(7) [violating a disciplinary judgment] Ponce was ordered to pay \$7,065.00 in restitution and \$6,727.97 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

**San Antonio Attorney  
05/31/2017-Agreed Private Reprimand**

**Rule 1.01(b)(2)**

for failing to carry out completely the obligations owed to a client

**Rule 1.03(a)**

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

**Rule 8.04(a)(8)**

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

DISTRICT 11:

**Lucas, James Edward: #24011140**  
**07/20/2017-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension**  
**07/01/2017-01/01/2018: PROBATED**

On July 20, 2017, **James Edward Lucas** [#24011140], 54, of Corpus Christi, accepted a six-month, fully probated suspension, effective July 1, 2017. The District 11 Grievance Committee found that Lucas neglected a client's matter, failed to keep a client reasonably informed and failed to respond to the grievance.

Lucas violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), and 8.04(a)(8), was ordered to pay \$1,000.00 in restitution and \$400.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

**Williams, Robert Earnest II: #24085659**  
**05/30/2017-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension**  
**06/01/2017-08/31/2017: PROBATED**

On May 30, 2017, **Robert E. Williams, II** [#24085659], 35, of Houston, accepted a three-month, fully probated suspension, effective June 1, 2017. The District 11 Grievance Committee found that Williams failed to keep a client reasonably informed, failed to return the unearned portion of a fee timely and failed to respond to the grievance. Williams violated Rules 1.03(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8).

DISTRICT 12:

**San Antonio Attorney**  
**07/27/2017-Agreed Private Reprimand**

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

Rule 1.02(a)(1)  
for failing to abide by a client's decisions concerning the objectives and general methods of representation

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.

**San Antonio Attorney**  
**07/10/2017-Agreed Private Reprimand**

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.

**Tipton, Francisco Steven: #24088756**  
**08/12/2017-Agreed Fully Probated Suspension**  
**09/01/2017-08/30/2019: PROBATED**

On August 12, 2017, **Francisco Steven Tipton** [#24088756], 42, of McAllen, accepted a two-year, fully probated suspension, effective September 1, 2017. The District 12 Grievance Committee found that Tipton neglected a client's matter, fail to keep clients reasonably informed, failed to hold client's funds separate from his own property, failed to refund an unearned fee and failed to comply with the requisite filing requirements of the Advertising Review Committee. Tipton violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(b), 1.14(a)&(b), 1.15(d), and 7.07(c), and agreed to pay \$5,350.00 in restitution.

DISTRICT 13:

**Sharp, Joe Steven: #24028929**  
**06/21/2017-Agreed Active Suspension**  
**09/01/2016-05/31/2017: SUSPENSION**

On June 21, 2017, **Joe Steven Sharp** [#24028929], 56, of Amarillo, received a nine-month, active suspension, effective September 1, 2016. The 181st District Court of Randall County found that upon the conclusion of his client's contingent fee matter, Sharp failed to provide his client with an accounting. In addition, Sharp failed to hold funds belonging in whole or in part to his client that were in Sharp's possession in connection with the representation separate from the his own property. Sharp violated Rules 1.04(d) and 1.14(a). He was ordered to pay \$2,463.37 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses and \$4,000.00 in restitution.

DISTRICT 14:

**Burnett, Burt Lee: #00787171**  
**06/01/2017-Active Suspension**  
**06/01/2017-05/31/2018: SUSPENSION**

On June 1, 2017, **Burt Lee Burnett** [#00787171], 50, of Abilene, received a one-year, active suspension, effective June 1, 2017. An evidentiary panel of the District 14 Grievance Committee found that Burnett failed to hold funds belonging in whole or in part to a client that were in Burnett's possession in connection with a representation separate from the his own property. Burnett violated Rule 1.14(a). He was ordered to pay \$2,755.01 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

**Knight, David W.: #11597325**  
**06/29/2017-Default Active Suspension**  
**06/12/2017-05/31/2018: SUSPENSION**

On June 29, 2017, **David W. Knight** [#11597325], 62, of Wichita Falls, received an 11-month and 19 day, active suspension, effective June 12, 2017. An evidentiary panel of the District 14 Grievance Committee found that Knight failed to keep his client reasonably informed about the status of her matter and promptly comply with her reasonable requests for information. Knight violated Rule 1.03(a). He was ordered to pay \$500.00 in attorneys' fees and \$735.00 direct expenses.

