# COMMISSION FOR LAWYER DISCIPLINE

## **REPORT**

# TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON ATTORNEY DISCIPLINE

SEPTEMBER 2014

#### Disciplinary Sanctions June 1, 2014, through August 31, 2014

DISBARMENTS		DISTRICT	Number of Complaints Resolved
Becker, Don D.		4	2
Bennett, Robert S.		4	1
Board of Disciplinary Appeals:			
Aldridge, Vincent W.		BODA	1
Cullen, Lawrence P.		BODA	1
Hill, Donald W.		BODA	1
Palacios, Jose Luis		BODA	1
	Total	6	7
RESIGNATIONS IN LIEU of DISCIPLINE		DISTRICT	Number of Complaints Resolved
Berry, W. Scott		6	1
Lauren Oberelea D			
Jones, Charles D.		8	1
Nicolae, Andreea Valentina		8 1	1 1

SUSPENSIONS	DISTRICT	Number of Complaints Resolved
Barnes, George Michael	7	1
Barry, Jeffrey Scott	4	1
Becerra, Jose Angel	12	2
Cantu, Mark A.	12	10
Collin, Omar Orlando	11	1
Cooper, Melody	11	2
Essenburg, Paul A.	6	1
Getz, David Norman	16	1
Gormly, Eric Kevin	6	1
Greiner, Stephen R.	16	1
Hamner, Brian A.	10	1
Hamner, Brian A.	10	1
Keesee, Daniel Collin	9	3
Korman, Dawn M.	8	1
Korman, Dawn M.	8	2
LeFevre, Jacqueline	12	1
Marsala, Dominick J.	14	1
Schulman, Cary William	6	1
Sibley, David	11	1
Smith, Kimberly Dian	1	1
Wakefield, Wells Ted	9	2
Weltin, Timothy Wayne	4	1
Willbern, III, Thomas A.	4	5

#### **Board of Disciplinary Appeals:**

Cullen, Lawrence P.	BODA	1
Delgado, Marco A.	BODA	1
Dolce, Joan Dell Weaver	BODA	2
Robertson, Damon Dean	BODA	1
Siegel, Jessica Lynn	BODA	1
Villalobos, Armando Roberto	BODA	1

Total 29 49

PUBLIC REPRIMANDS		DISTRICT	Number of Complaints Resolved
Brown, Daniel Lucius		10	1
Brown, Lorenzo		6	1
Harris, James Bruce		14	1
Hwang Stephan Dongwhee		6	1
Malonis, Natalie Bush		7	1
Martinez, Jr., Silverio A.		12	1
Stiller, David Marc		5	1
Winfrey, Edward Eugene		7	1
	Total	8	8

#### PRIVATE REPRIMANDS

DISTRICT	SANCTION	Number of Complaints Resolved
1	2	2
2	1	1
3	1	1
4	1	1
6	2	2
8	1	2
10	1	1
11	2	2
17	2	3
Total	13	15
Grievance Referral Program	15	15
GRAND TOTAL:	74	97

#### DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS - CURRENT BAR YEAR

	Total Sanctions	Total Complaints Resolved	
DISBARMENTS	6	7	
RESIGNATIONS	3	3	
SUSPENSIONS	29	49	
PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	8	8	
PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	13	15	
GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	15	74 15	97
	RESIGNATIONS SUSPENSIONS PUBLIC REPRIMANDS PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	DISBARMENTS 6 RESIGNATIONS 3 SUSPENSIONS 29 PUBLIC REPRIMANDS 8 PRIVATE REPRIMANDS 13	Total SanctionsComplaints ResolvedDISBARMENTS67RESIGNATIONS33SUSPENSIONS2949PUBLIC REPRIMANDS88PRIVATE REPRIMANDS1315

<sup>\*</sup>does not reflect year-end figures

#### **DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS - PREVIOUS BAR YEARS**

BAR YEARS		Total Sanctions		Total Complaints Resolved	
2013-2014	DISBARMENTS	21		21	
	RESIGNATIONS	17		55	
	SUSPENSIONS	131		164	
	PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	31		34	
	PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	65		72	
	GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	57	322	57	403
2012-2013	DISBARMENTS	39		51	
	RESIGNATIONS	24		46	
	SUSPENSIONS	122		160	
	PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	37		40	
	PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	89		91	
	GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	56	367	56	444
2011-2012	DISBARMENTS	38		45	
	RESIGNATIONS	27		87	
	SUSPENSIONS	137		174	
	PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	40		41	
	PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	106		115	
	GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	55	403	55	517

2010-2011	DISBARMENTS	28		52	
	RESIGNATIONS	23		101	
	SUSPENSIONS	157		254	
	PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	40		50	
	PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	77		82	
	GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	46	371	46	585
2009-2010	DISBARMENTS	25		33	
	RESIGNATIONS	22		40	
	SUSPENSIONS	111		169	
	PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	37		47	
	PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	81		89	
	GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	39	315	39	417
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2008-2009	DISBARMENTS	32		43	
	RESIGNATIONS	26		104	
	SUSPENSIONS	127		189	
	PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	46		54	
	PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	68		73	
	GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	36	335	36	499
2007-2008	DISBARMENTS	24		63	
	RESIGNATIONS	24		90	
	SUSPENSIONS	121		224	
	PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	28		35	
	PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	69		73	
	GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PROGRAM	33	299	33	518
2006-2007	DISBARMENTS	30			
	RESIGNATIONS	31			
	SUSPENSIONS	110			
	PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	62			
	PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	87	320		

2005-2006	DISBARMENTS	38	
	RESIGNATIONS	17	
	SUSPENSIONS	119	
	PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	62	
	PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	108 34	4
	ORDER FOR REHABILITATION		

#### COMMISSION FOR LAWYER DISCIPLINE REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SEPTEMBER 2014

#### **DISTRICT 01:**

## DALLAS ATTORNEY 08/05/2014-PRIVATE REPRIMAND

RULE 1.01(b)(1)

for neglecting a legal matter entrusted to the lawyer

#### DALLAS ATTORNEY 07/15/2014-PRIVATE REPRIMAND

RULE 8.04(a)(11)

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

## NICOLAE, ANDREEA VALENTINA: #24029746 08/20/2014-RESIGNATION

On August 20, 2014, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation, in lieu of discipline, of **Andreea Valentina Nicolae** [#24029746], 38, of Murphy. At the time of Nicolae's resignation, Synter Resource Group (Synter) contracted with Andreea Valentina Nicolae (Nicolae) on behalf of their freight company clients for collection of unpaid freight bills. Synter advanced Nicolae court costs of \$2,500.00. Nicolae failed to perform legal work on the matters and failed to respond to Synter's requests for status reports. Synter requested that Nicolae return the files and refund unused advanced costs in November 2011. Nicolae failed to return the files or refund unused costs. On October 12, 2012, notice and a copy of the complaint were sent to Nicolae via certified mail, return receipt requested and via First Class U. S. Mail. The notice directed Nicolae to submit a written response within 30 days; however, Nicolae failed to furnish a response to the complaint or assert a privilege or other legal ground for her failure to do so.

Nicolae violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8)

#### SMITH, KIMBERLY DIAN: #24041944 08/05/2014-FULLY PROBATED SUSPENSION 08/15/2015-08/14/2016

On August 5, 2014, **Kimberly Dian Smith** [#24041944], 36, of Texarkana, received a 12-month, fully probated suspension, effective August 15, 2015. An evidentiary panel of the District 1 Grievance Committee found that in representing Complainant in a family law matter, Smith neglected the legal matter entrusted to her by failing to attend the final hearing and by failing to respond to discovery requests. Smith failed to keep Complainant reasonable informed about the status of the family law matter and failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information from Complainant about the legal matter.

Smith violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), and 1.03(a). She was ordered to pay \$759.82 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

#### DISTRICT 02:

#### DALLAS ATTORNEY 06/16/2014-PRIVATE ATTORNEY

RULE 1.01(b)(1)

for neglecting a legal matter entrusted to the lawyer

RULE 1.03(a)

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

#### DISTRICT 03:

#### HOUSTON ATTORNEY 05/12/2014-PRIVATE REPRIMAND

RULE 8.04(a)(8)

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

#### **DISTRICT 04**:

BARRY, JEFFREY SCOTT: #24036193

06/06/2014-PARTIALLY PROBATED SUSPENSION

06/13/2014-06/12/2015: SUSPENSION 06/13/2015-06/12/2016: PROBATION

On June 6, 2014, **Jeffrey Scott Barry** [#24036193], 40, of Houston, accepted a two-year, partially probated suspension, effective June 13, 2014, with the first year actively suspended and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that in representing his client, Barry neglected the legal matter entrusted to him, failed to keep his client reasonably informed about the status of the case and failed to promptly comply with reasonable request for information, and failed to explain the legal matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit his client to make informed decisions regarding the representation. Barry, upon termination of representation, failed to refund advance payments of fee that had not been earned and also violated a prior disciplinary judgment.

Barry violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.03(b), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(7). He was ordered to pay \$3,150.00 in restitution, \$250.00 in attorneys' fees and \$70.00 in direct expenses.

## BECKER, DON D.: #02012888 04/09/2014-DISBARMENT

On April 9, 2014, **Don D. Becker** [#02012888], 59, of Houston, was disbarred. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that in two separate matters, Becker neglected the legal matters entrusted to him, failed to keep his clients reasonably informed about the status of their legal matters, failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information, and upon termination of representation, failed to refund advance payments of fee that had not been earned. Becker also failed to timely furnish to the Chief Disciplinary Counsel's office responses or other information as required by the rules and failed to comply with section 13.01 of the rules relating to the notification of his cessation of practice.

Becker violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), 8.04(a)(8), and 8.04(a)(10). He was ordered to pay \$6,500.00 in restitution and \$1,640.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

### BENNETT, ROBERT S.: #02150500 03/21/2014-DISBARMENT

On March 21, 2014, **Robert S. Bennett** [#02150500], 66, of Houston, was disbarred. The 334<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court, Harris County, found that Bennett committed professional misconduct by violating 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 refunding advance payments of fee that had not been earned] and Rule 3.02 [a lawyer shall not take a position that unreasonably increases the costs or other burdens of the case or that unreasonably delays resolution of the matter].

Bennett was ordered to pay \$27,500.00 in restitution and \$320.00 in direct expenses. Bennett filed a Notice of Appeal.

## HOUSTON ATTORNEY 08/11/2014-PRIVATE REPRIMAND

RULE 1.01(b)(1)

for neglecting a legal matter entrusted to the lawyer

RULE 1.03(a)

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

RULE 8.04(a)(3)

for engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation;

#### WELTIN, TIMOTHY WAYNE: #24008260 06/04/2014-FULLY PROBATED SUSPENSION 06/01/2014-11/30/2015

On June 4, 2014, **Timothy Wayne Weltin** [#24008260], 48, of Houston, agreed to an 18-month, fully probated suspension, effective June 1, 2014. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that in representing his client, Weltin neglected the legal matter entrusted to him, failed to keep his client reasonably informed about the status of his legal matter and failed to comply with reasonable requests for information, failed to hold funds belonging to his client that were in Weltin's possession in connection with the representation separate from his own property, and also failed to promptly deliver to his client funds that he was entitled to receive.

Weltin violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.14(a) and 1.14(b). He was ordered to pay \$500.00 in attorneys' fees.

## WILLBERN, III, THOMAS A.: #21507700 08/26/2014-FULLY PROBATED SUSPENSION 09/01/2014-08/31/2017

On August 26, 2014, **Thomas A. Willbern, III** [#21507700], 63, of Houston, accepted a three-year, fully probated suspension, effective September 1, 2014. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that Willbern violated two counts of Rule 1.01(b)(1) [in representing a client, a lawyer shall not neglect a legal matter], one count of 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], one count of 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], two counts of 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 was not earned], and three counts of Rule 8.04(a)(8) [a lawyer shall not fail to timely furnish to the Chief Disciplinary Counsel's Office a response or other information as required by the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure].

Willbern was ordered to pay \$1,000.00 in restitution and \$2,225.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

#### DISTRICT 05:

#### STILLER, DAVID MARC: #19238500 06/16/2014-PUBLIC REPRIMAND

On June 16, 2014, **David Marc Stiller** [#19238500], 53, of Richmond, received a judgment of public reprimand. An evidentiary panel of the District 5 Grievance Committee found that in representing his client, Stiller neglected the legal matter entrusted to him, failed to keep the client reasonably informed about the status of the legal matter and failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information, and upon termination of representation, Stiller also failed to refund advanced payments of unearned fee that had not been earned.

Stiller violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), and 1.15(d). He was ordered to pay \$750.00 in restitution and \$1,000.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

#### DISTRICT 06:

## BERRY, W. SCOTT: #02244300 08/20/2014-RESIGNATION

On August 20, 2014, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation, in lieu of discipline, of **W. Scott Berry** [#02244300], 58, of Dallas.

At the time of Berry's resignation, there was a case pending against him alleging Berry was a partner at DeHay & Elliston, L.L.P. (the firm). In early 2011, without the knowledge or authorization of any partner of the firm, Berry transferred in excess of \$30,000.00 from the firm's client trust account to himself and/or non-firm related entities. Berry failed to hold funds belonging in whole or in part to clients that were in Berry's possession separate from Berry's own property. Berry engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation by misappropriating client's funds. Berry engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation by misusing a firm credit card for personal expenses and enrolling non-firm employees in the health insurance benefits program paid for by the firm for its employees.

On April 30, 2013, a notice and a copy of the complaint were sent to Berry by certified mail, return receipt requested, and were delivered on May 5, 2013. Berry was directed to provide a written response to the allegations of the State Bar of Texas within thirty days of receipt of the letter. Berry 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. Berry did not in good faith timely assert a privilege or other legal ground for failure to do so.

Berry violated Rules 1.14(a), 8.04(a)(3), and 8.04(a)(8).

#### BROWN, LORENZO: #03151500 06/30/2014-PUBLIC REPRIMAND

On June 30, 2014, **Lorenzo Brown** [#03151500], 62, of De Soto, received a judgment of public reprimand. An evidentiary panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that on or about June 10, 2009, Complainant hired Brown in connection with a personal injury matter resulting from an automobile accident. Brown failed to hold funds belonging to Complainant that were in Brown's possession in connection with the representation separate from Brown's property. Brown failed to promptly deliver to Complainant funds that Complainant was entitled to receive.

Brown violated Rules 1.14(a), and 1.14(b). He was ordered to pay \$3,000.00 in attorneys' fees and \$1,744.10 in direct expenses.

ESSENBURG, PAUL A.: #06671380 07/27/2014-FULLY PROBATED SUSPENSION 07/15/2014-01/15/2015

On July 27, 2014, **Paul A. Essenburg** [#06671380], 54, of Addison, received a six-month, fully probated suspension, effective July 15, 2014. An evidentiary panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that Essenburg engaged in the practice of law when his right to practice had been administratively suspended for failure to comply with Article XII of the State Bar Rules relating to Mandatory Continuing Legal Education.

Essenburg violated Rules 8.04(a)(11). He was ordered to pay \$861.90 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

GORMLY, ERIC KEVIN: #24071309 07/24/2014-PARTIALLY PROBATED SUSPENSION 07/18/2014-08/17/2014: SUSPENION 08/18/2014-01/17/2016: PROBATION

On July 24, 2014, **Eric Kevin Gormly** [#24071309], 59, of Dallas, agreed to an 18-month, partially probated suspension, effective July 18, 2014, with the first month actively served and the remainder probated.

The District 6 Grievance Committee found that in the course of the representation of his clients, Gormly took a position that unreasonably increased the costs or other burdens of the cases or that unreasonably delayed resolution of the matters. In the course of representing his clients, Gormly knowingly made false statements of material fact or law to tribunals. In the course of representing his clients, Gormly made frivolous claims during court proceedings.

Gormly violated Rules 3.01, 3.02, and 3.03(a)(1). He was ordered to pay \$1,338.02 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

## HWANG, STEPHAN DONGWHEE: #24036817 06/25/2014-PUBLIC REPRIMAND

On June 25, 2014, **Stephan Dongwhee Hwang** [#24036817], 44, of Addison, agreed to a judgment of public reprimand.

The District 6 Grievance Committee found that Hwang failed to hold escrow funds belonging to Complainant that were in Hwang's possession separate from Hwang's own property. Hwang failed to promptly deliver to Complainant funds that Complainant was entitled to receive in connection with his real estate matter.

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

## DALLAS ATTORNEY 08/04/2014-PRIVATE REPRIMAND

RULE 1.15(d)

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

#### DALLAS ATTORNEY 04/11/2014-PRIVATE REPRIMAND

#### RULE 8.04(a)(11)

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

SCHULMAN, CARY WILLIAM: #00797390 03/25/2014-ACTIVE SUSPENSION 05/01/2014-04/30/2016

On March 25, 2014, **Cary William Schulman** [#00797390], 47, of Dallas, received a two-year, active suspension, effective May 1, 2014. An evidentiary panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that Schulman was hired to represent Complainant in a claim against the Complainant's homeowners insurance. In representing Complainant, Schulman failed to hold funds belonging to Complainant separate from Schulman's own property and failed to promptly deliver to Complainant funds that Complainant was entitled to receive.

Schulman violated Rules 1.14(a) and 1.14(b). He was ordered to pay \$5,000.00 in restitution, \$3,600.00 in attorney's fees and \$422.83 in direct expenses.

Schulman filed an appeal on April 30, 2014.

#### DISTRICT 07:

BARNES, GEORGE MICHAEL: #01767100 05/29/2014-ACTIVE SUSPENSION 06/01/2014-05/31/2017

On May 29, 2014, **George Michael Barnes** [#01767100], 60, of Fort Worth, received a three-year, active suspension, effective June 1, 2014.

The District 7 Grievance Committee found that in representing Complainant in her family law matter, Barnes neglected the legal matter entrusted to him and frequently failed to carry out completely the obligations owed to Complainant by failing to appear at a court hearing and allowing the case to be dismissed for want of prosecution. Barnes failed to keep Complainant reasonably informed about the status of her matter; failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information from Complainant; failed to explain the family law matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit Complainant to make informed decisions regarding the representation; 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 and did not in good faith timely assert a privilege or other legal ground for failure to do so. Barnes engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation, during the representation of Complainant.

Barnes violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.01(b)(2), 1.03(a), 1.03(b), 8.04(a)(3), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$3,909.96 in attorneys' fees and \$1,100.00 in restitution.

## MALONIS, NATALIE BUSH: #12887450 07/23/2014-PUBLIC REPRIMAND

On July 23, 2014, **Natalie Bush Malonis** [#12887450], 48, of Fort Worth, received an agreed judgment of public reprimand. Malonis neglected complainant's civil matter entrusted to her and failed to keep complainant reasonably informed about the status of his civil dispute. Malonis failed to keep complainant's funds in a separate trust or escrow account. Upon termination of representation, Malonis failed to refund advance payments of fees that had not been earned.

Malonis violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.14(a), and 1.15(d). She was ordered to pay \$5,000.00 in restitution and \$2,000.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

## WINFREY, EDWARD EUGENE: #24033349 06/11/2014-PUBLIC REPRIMAND

On June 11, 2014, **Edward Eugene Winfrey** [#24033349], 49, of Fort Worth, received an agreed judgment of public reprimand. An evidentiary panel of the District 7 Grievance Committee found that in representing the complainant in various legal matters, Winfrey neglected the legal matter entrusted to him by failing to abstract a judgment that the complainant had obtained. Winfrey failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information from the complainant. Upon termination of representation, Winfrey also failed to surrender papers and property to which the complainant was entitled.

Winfrey violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), and 1.15(d). He was ordered to pay \$775.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

#### **DISTRICT 08:**

#### AUSTIN ATTORNEY 06/09/2014-PRIVATE REPRIMAND

#### RULE 1.01(b)(1)

for neglecting a legal matter entrusted to the lawyer

#### RULE 1.03(a)

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

#### RULE 8.04(a)(1)

for violating these Rules, knowingly assisting or inducing another to do so, or doing so through the acts of another, whether or not such violation occurred in the course of a client-lawyer relationship

## JONES, CHARLES D.: #10866500 06/02/2014-RESIGNATION

On June 2, 2014, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation, in lieu of discipline, of **Charles D. Jones** [#10866500], 61 of Waco. At the time of Jones's resignation, a disciplinary matter was pending, in which Jones was hired to represent a complainant and his family in relation to estate planning and other legal matters. Thereafter, Jones misappropriated complainant's money by transferring funds to his own accounts and to accounts of entities controlled by him.

Jones violated Rules 8.04(a)(1), 8.04(a)(2) and 8.04(a)(3) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

KORMAN, DAWN M.: #11682400

03/26/2014-PARTIALLY PROBATED SUSPENSION

04/15/2014-10/14/2014: SUSPENSION 10/15/2014-04/14/2017: PROBATION

On March 26, 2014, **Dawn M. Korman** [#11682400], 55, of Georgetown, received a three-year, partially probated suspension, effective April 15, 2014, with the first six months actively suspended and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 8 Grievance Committee found that Korman agreed to represent Complaint in a divorce case and was paid a \$2,500.00 advanced fee. Korman did not file a notice of appearance or any pleadings on Complainant's behalf. Complainant repeatedly asked for status updates and was unable to obtain a substantive response. Complainant asked for a return of the advanced fee and return of her file but Korman provided neither. Complainant also requested an accounting of the advanced fee but Korman failed to provide one. Korman was directed to furnish a written response to the complaint but failed to do so as directed.

Korman violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.14(b), 1.15(d), 8.04(a)(1), and 8.04(a)(8). She was ordered to pay \$1,350.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses and \$2,500.00 in restitution. She was further ordered to complete six additional hours of CLE in the area of Ethics in 2014, 2015, and 2016, three additional hours of CLE in the area of Law Practice Management in 2014 and to engage the services of a law practice management consultant.

KORMAN, DAWN M.: #11682400 03/26/2014-PARTIALLY PROBATED SUSPENSION 04/15/2014-10/14/2014: SUSPENSION 10/15/2014-04/14/2017: PROBATION

On March 26, 2014, **Dawn M. Korman** [#11682400], 55, of Georgetown, received a three-year, partially probated suspension, effective April 15, 2014, with the first six months actively suspended and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 8 Grievance Committee found that Korman agreed to represent Complaint in a divorce case and was paid a \$2,500.00 advanced fee. Korman did not file a notice of appearance or any pleadings on Complainant's behalf. Complainant repeatedly asked for status updates and was unable to obtain a substantive response. Complainant asked for a return of the advanced fee and return of her file but Korman provided neither. Complainant also requested an accounting of the advanced fee but Korman failed to provide one. Korman was directed to furnish a written response to the complaint but failed to do so as directed.

Korman violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.14(b), 1.15(d), 8.04(a)(1), and 8.04(a)(8). She was ordered to pay \$1,350.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses and \$2,500.00 in restitution. She was further ordered to complete six additional hours of CLE in the area of Ethics in 2014, 2015, and 2016, three additional hours of CLE in the area of Law Practice Management in 2014 and to engage the services of a law practice management consultant.

#### DISTRICT 09:

KEESEE, DANIEL COLLIN: #24076097 07/30/2014-PARTIALLY PROBATED SUSPENSION 08/15/2014-08/14/2015: SUSPENSION 08/15/2015-08/14/2016: PROBATION

On July 30, 2014, **Daniel Collin Keesee** [#24076097], 29, of Austin, received a two-year, partially probated suspension, effective August 15, 2014, with the first year actively suspended and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 9 Grievance Committee found that Keesee committed misconduct in three cases. Keesee neglected the clients' cases, failed to respond to attempts by clients to contact him, and failed to withdraw from the representation of a client when he was discharged. Keesee further failed to furnish written responses to the complaints as directed.

Keesee violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(a)(3), 8.04(a)(1), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$864.61 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

WAKEFIELD, WELLS TED: #24058164 03/10/2014-PARTIALLY PROBATED SUSPENSION 03/07/2014-03/06/2017: SUSPENSION 03/07/2017-03/06/2020: PROBATION

On March 10, 2014, **Wells Ted Wakefield** [#24058164], 37, of Syracuse, Utah, received a six-year, partially probated suspension, effective March 7, 2014, with the first three years actively suspended and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 9 Grievance Committee found that Wakefield committed misconduct in two cases. In the first matter, Wakefield was hired to represent Complainant to file residency applications for Complainant's family and was paid \$10,470.00 for the representation. Wakefield failed to complete the residency applications. Although Wakefield claimed to have filed the applications, he would not provide the application numbers and Complainant later discovered that Wakefield never filed the applications. Complainant requested a refund of unearned fees and Wakefield provided two checks to Complainant. Neither of the checks were on drafts from Wakefield's trust account. One check for \$6,000.00 check was dishonored.

In a second matter, Wakefield was hired to represent Complainant's wife in an immigration matter. Wakefield was paid \$2,000.00 toward the total fee of \$4,490.00. Thereafter, Wakefield did not file a residency application or provide any further legal services. Wakefield relocated to Utah without giving Complainant notice. Complainant attempted to contact Wakefield by telephone and email with no response. After abandoning his client, Wakefield failed to return papers belonging to his client and failed to refund any unearned fees. Wakefield further failed to furnish written responses to the complaints as directed.

Wakefield violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.14(a), 1.15(d), 8.04(a)(1), 8.04(a)(3), and 8.04(a)(8). Wakefield was ordered to pay \$4,980.97 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses and \$8,000.00 in restitution to Complainants.

#### **DISTRICT 10:**

#### BROWN, DANIEL LUCIUS: #03108300 08/06/2014-PUBLIC REPRIMAND

On August 6, 2014, **Daniel Lucius Brown** [#03108300], 60, of San Antonio, accepted a public reprimand. The District 10 Grievance Committee found that Brown failed to hold client's funds separate from his own property.

Brown violated Rule 1.14(a) and was ordered to pay \$800.00 in restitution.

HAMNER, BRIAN A.: #24041050 06/23/2014-FULLY PROBATED SUSPENSION 03/17/2014-03/16/2017

On June 23, 2014, **Brian A. Hamner** [#24041050], 38, of San Antonio, accepted a two-year, fully probated suspension, effective March 17, 2015. The District 10 Grievance Committee found that Hamner neglected a client's matter and failed to communicate with a client.

Hamner violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a) and was ordered to pay \$2,500.00 in restitution.

HAMNER, BRIAN ANTHONY: #24041050 08/11/2014-FULLY PROBATED SUSPENSION 08/11/2014-08/10/2015

On August 11, 2014, **Brian Anthony Hamner** [#24041050], 38, of San Antonio, received a one-year, fully probated suspension, effective August 11, 2014. The District 10 Grievance Committee found that Hamner neglected a client's matter and failed to keep a client reasonably informed.

Hamner violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a) & (b) and was ordered to pay \$1,916.79 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

## SAN ANTONIO ATTORNEY 07/30/2014-PRIVATE REPRIMAND

**RULE 1.03(a)** 

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

#### **DISTRICT 11:**

COLLIN, OMAR ORLANDO: #24048185 06/13/2014-PARTIALLY PROBATED SUSPENSION 06/03/2014-06/02/2016: SUSPENSION 06/03/2016-06/02/2019: PROBATION

On June 13, 2014, **Omar Orlando Collin** [#24048185], 43, of Kingsville, received a five-year, partially probated suspension, effective June 3, 2014, with the first two years actively served and the remainder probated. The District 11 Grievance Committee found that Collin neglected a client's representation, failed to promptly respond to a client's reasonable requests for information, failed to return a client's file, and also failed to refund the unearned portion of a fee.

Collin violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), and 1.15(d) and was ordered to pay \$1,000.00 in restitution and \$1,857.50 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

**COOPER, MELODY: #04780950** 

07/24/2014-PARTIALLY PROBATED SUSPENSION

10/01/2014-12/31/2014: SUSPENSION 01/01/2015-09/30/2016: PROBATION

On July 24, 2014, **Melody Cooper** [#04780950], 53, of Rugby, North Dakota, received a two-year, partially probated suspension, with the first three months actively served and the remainder probated. The District 11 Grievance Committee found that in two representations, Cooper failed to promptly notify third parties of the receipt of funds, failed to promptly deliver funds to parties entitled to receive funds and also failed to hold client's funds in a trust account.

Cooper violated Rules 1.14(a), and 1.14(b), and was ordered to pay \$1,500.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

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#### SAN ANTONIO ATTORNEY 07/10/2014-PRIVATE REPRIMAND

RULE 1.08(a)

a lawyer shall not enter into a business transaction with a client

SIBLEY, DAVID: #18337600 07/11/2014-ACTIVE SUSPENSION 05/15/2015-12/31/2015

On July 11, 2014, **David Sibley** [#18337600], 53, of Gregory, accepted a seven and half month, active suspension, effective May 15, 2015. The District 11 Grievance Committee found that Sibley neglected client's matters, failed to communicate with his client, and failed to return the client's file.

Sibley violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.03(b), and 1.15(d).

#### SAN ANTONIO ATTORNEY 07/23/2014-PRIVATE REPRIMAND

RULE 1.03(a)

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

#### **DISTRICT 12:**

BECERRA, JOSE ANGEL: #24026790 07/10/2014-FULLY PROBATED SUSPENSION 12/01/2014-11/30/2016

On July 10, 2014, **Jose Angel Becerra** [#24026790], 40, of Laredo, accepted a two-year, fully probated suspension, effective December 1, 2014. The District 12 Grievance Committee found that Becerra neglected client's matters, failed to communicate with clients, failed to hold client's funds in a trust account separate from his own property, failed to provide an accounting of client's funds and, upon termination, failed to take steps to the extent reasonably practicable to protect his client's interests.

Becerra violated Rules 1.01(b)(2), 1.03(a)&(b), 1.14(a)&(b), and 1.15(d) and was ordered to pay \$5,000.00 in restitution and \$200.00 attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

CANTU, MARK A.: #03767445 06/25/2014-FULLY PROBATED SUSPENSION 07/01/2014-09/30/2015

On June 25, 2014, **Mark A. Cantu** [#03767445], 53, of McAllen, accepted a 15-month, fully probated suspension, effective July 1, 2014. The 206<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court of Hidalgo County found that Cantu committed professional misconduct by violating 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], 1.03(b) [failing to explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation], and 4.04(b)(1) [Participating in presenting, or threatening to present criminal or disciplinary charges solely to gain an advantage in a civil matter].

Cantu was ordered to pay \$5,000.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

LEFEVRE, JACQUELINE: #24027947 08/01/2014-FULLY PROBATED SUSPENSION 09/01/2014-08/31/2016

On August 1, 2014, **Jacqueline LeFevre** [#24027947], 38, of McAllen, accepted a two-year, fully probated suspension, effective September 1, 2014. The District 12 Grievance Committee found that LeFevre failed to safeguard settlement funds, failed to promptly notify third parties of the receipt of funds, failed to promptly distribute funds to parties entitled to receive them, and also failed to supervise non-lawyer staff.

LeFevre violated Rules 1.14(a) & (b), and 5.03(a) and was ordered to pay \$4,187.55 attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

## MARTINEZ, JR., SILVERIO A.: #201300853 07/10/2014-PUBLIC REPRIMAND

On July 10, 2014, **Silverio A. Martinez, Jr.** [#24037040], 38, of Laredo, accepted a public reprimand. The District 12 Grievance Committee found that Martinez failed to carry out completely the obligations owed to a client and failed to keep a client reasonably informed.

Martinez violated Rules 1.01(b)(2), and 1.03(a)&(b) and agreed to pay \$1,500.00 in restitution, and \$200.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

#### DISTRICT 14:

#### HARRIS, JAMES BRUCE: #24026926 06/09/2014-PUBLIC REPRIMAND

On June 9, 2014, **James Bruce Harris** [#24026926], 44, of Wichita Falls, received an agreed judgment of a public reprimand. An evidentiary panel of the District 14 Grievance Committee found that in representing Complainant in an appeal, Harris neglected the legal matter entrusted to him by failing to file a brief as ordered by the court. In connection with the appeal, Harris knowingly disobeyed an obligation under the standing rules of or a ruling by a tribunal, by failing to respond to a show cause order.

Harris violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), and 3.04(d). He was ordered to pay \$1,221.90 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

#### MARSALA, DOMINICK J.: #24054063 08/11/2014-FULLY PROBATED SUSPENSION 03/01/2015-02/28/2016

On August 11, 2014, **Dominick J. Marsala** [#24054063], 36, of Denton, received a one-year, fully probated suspension, effective March 1, 2015. An evidentiary panel of the District 14 Grievance Committee found that in representing Complainant, Marsala neglected the breach of contract matter entrusted to him by failing to respond to discovery requests, and he failed to keep Complainant reasonably informed about the status of the matter. Marsala failed to explain the breach of contract matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit Complainant to make informed decisions regarding the representation. In addition, Marsala failed to timely furnish a response to the grievance to the Chief Disciplinary Counsel's office or assert any grounds for his failure to do so.

Marsala violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.03(b), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$1,138.90 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

#### **DISTRICT 16:**

GETZ, DAVID NORMAN: #00784123

07/25/2014-PARTIALLY PROBATED SUSPENSION

07/16/2014-10/16/2014: SUSPENSION 10/16/2014-07/16/2016: PROBATION

On July 25, 2014, **David Norman Getz** [#00784123], 56, of Lubbock, received a two-year, partially probated suspension, effective July 25, 2014, with the first three months actively served and the remainder probated. The District 16 Grievance Committee found that Getz accepted employment when he knew he would be a witness.

Getz violated Rule 3.08 and was ordered to pay \$1,650.00 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

**GREINER, STEPHEN R.:** #08440920

08/01/2014-PARTIALLY PROBATED SUSPENSION

09/01/2014-08/31/2015: SUSPENSION 09/01/2015-08/31/2017: PROBATION

On August 1, 2014, **Stephen R. Greiner** [#08440920], 52, of Andrew, agreed to a three-year, partially probated suspension, effective September 1, 2014, with the first year actively served and the remainder probated. The District 16 Grievance Committee found that Greiner neglected a client's matter, failed to keep a client reasonably informed, upon termination failed to return unearned fees, and also failed to respond to the grievance.

Greiner violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), 8.04(a)(1), and 8.04(a)(8) and was ordered to pay \$750.00 in restitution and \$1,564.00 attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

#### **DISTRICT 17:**

## SAN ANTONIO ATTORNEY 08/20/2014-PRIVATE REPRIMAND

RULE 1.14(a)

for 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

#### RULE 1.14(b)

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

#### SAN ANTONIO ATTORNEY 07/24/2014-PRIVATE REPRIMAND

RULE 1.01(b)(2)

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

#### **BOARD OF DISCIPLINARY APPEALS:**

## ALDRIDGE, VINCENT W.: #00793244 07/30/2014-DISBARMENT

On July 30, 2014, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed a final judgment of disbarment of Fresno, Texas attorney **Vincent W. Aldridge** 49, State Bar of Texas Card No. 00793244. On or about July 26, 2011, Aldridge was found guilty of one count of conspiracy to commit mail fraud and wire fraud, ten counts of aiding and abetting wire fraud, one count of conspiracy to engage in monetary transaction in criminally derived property, and six counts of aiding and abetting engaging in monetary transaction in criminally derived property, Intentional Crimes as defined in the TEXAS RULES OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE, in case number Case No. 4:10CR00185-001 styled, *United States of America v. Vincent Wallace Aldridge*, in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Houston Division. Aldridge was sentenced to 63 months in the custody of the United States Bureau of Prisons, followed by supervised release for three years. The court ordered him to pay a fine in the amount of \$1,900.00 and restitution in the amount of \$891,000.00. Because Aldridge appealed the conviction, on September 29, 2011, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed an interlocutory order of suspension On February 12, 2014; the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit issued its mandate as judgment affirming Aldridge's criminal conviction.

#### CULLEN, LAWRENCE P.: #05208700 07/30/2014-DEFAULT ACTIVE SUSPENSION 07/30/2014-04/30/2015

On July 30, 2014, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed a default judgment of suspension of Portland, Oregon attorney **Lawrence P. Cullen**, 67, State Bar of Texas Card No. 05208700. Mr. Cullen was suspended from the practice of law for nine months by the Supreme Court of the State of Oregon on or about November 24, 2009 in *In Re: Complaint as to the Conduct of LAWRENCE P. CULLEN, Accused*, Case Nos. 08-117, 09-01 for violating Oregon Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3 (two counts), 1.4(a) (two counts), 1.15-1(d) and 8.4(a)(3). He is suspended from the practice of law in Texas for nine months, beginning July 30, 2014 and ending April 30, 2015.

## CULLEN, LAWRENCE P.: #05208700 07/30/2014-DEFAULT DISBARMENT

On July 30, 2014, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed a default judgment of disbarment of Portland, Oregon attorney **Lawrence P. Cullen**, 67, State Bar of Texas Card No. 05208700. Mr. Cullen was disbarred by the Supreme Court of the State of Oregon on or about June 27, 2012 in *In Re: Complaint as to the Conduct of LAWRENCE P. CULLEN, Accused*, Case Nos. 10-150, 10-151 for violating Oregon Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3, 1.4(a), 1.15-1(a), 1.15-1 (d), 4.1, 4.4, 5.0, 7.0, 8.1(a)(2), 8.4(a)(2) and 8.4(a)(3).

#### DELGADO, MARCO A.: #00796001 07/30/2014-INTERLOCUTORY ORDER OF SUSPENSION 07/30/2014-UNTIL FURTHER ORDER

On July 30, 2014, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed an interlocutory order of suspension against El Paso attorney **Marco A. Delgado**, 47, State Bar of Texas Card No. 00796001. On or about January 24, 2014, Mr. Delgado was convicted of conspiracy to commit money laundering, an Intentional Crime as defined in the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, and sentenced to incarceration for 240 months in *United States of America v. Marco Antonio Delgad*, Case No. EP-12-CR-2106-DB, in the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, El Paso Division, Delgado has appealed his criminal conviction. The Board retains jurisdiction to enter a final judgment when the criminal appeal is final.

#### DOLCE, JOAN DELL WEAVER: #05957000 06/16/2014-INDEFINITE DISABILITY SUSPENSION 06/16/2014-UNTIL FURTHER ORDER

On June 16, 2014, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed an agreed judgment of indefinite disability suspension against Kerrville attorney **Joan Dell Weaver Dolce**, 70, State Bar of Texas Card No. 05957000, in accordance with Part XII of the TEXAS RULES OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE and Section 8 of the Internal Procedural Rules of the Board of Disciplinary Appeals.

## HILL, DONALD W.: #09628400 07/30/2014-DISBARMENT

On July 30, 2014, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed a final judgment of disbarment of Dallas attorney **Donald W. Hill**, 62, State Bar of Texas Card No. 09628400. On or about March 23, 2010, Hill was found guilty of three counts of conspiracy to commit bribery concerning a local government receiving federal benefits and aiding and abetting, one count of conspiracy to commit extortion; one count of extortion by public officials and aiding and abetting; and one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering, Intentional Crimes as defined in the TEXAS RULES OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE, in case number 3:07-CR-289-M(01), styled, *United States of America v. Donald W. Hill a/k/a Don Hill*, in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas, Dallas Division. Hill was sentenced to 216 months imprisonment in the United States Bureau of Prisons followed by three years of supervised release and ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$112,500 and court costs in the amount of \$600.00. Because Hill appealed the criminal conviction, on October 18, 2010, the Board signed an agreed interlocutory order of suspension during the appeal. On August 26, 2013, the United States Court of Appeal for the Fifth Circuit affirmed his criminal conviction and issued its mandate. On March 10, 2014, the Supreme Court of the United States denied his petition for writ of certiorari.

#### PALACIOS, JOSE LUIS: #24043858 07/30/2014-DISBARMENT

On July 30, 2014, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed a default judgment of disbarment against Mission attorney **Jose Luis Palacios**, 39, State Bar of Texas Card No. 24043858. On March 19, 2014, Palacios was sentenced to 144 months in prison after pleading guilty to possession, with the intent to distribute, 100 kilograms or more of marijuana, an Intentional Crime as defined in the TEXAS RULES OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE, in *United States of America v. Jose Palacios Jr.*, Case No. 7:13CR00994-S1-015 in the United States District Court, Southern District of Texas, Holding Session in McAllen.

#### ROBERTSON, DAMON DEAN: #24005285 07/21/2014-ACTIVE SUSPENSION 07/21/2014-12/05/2015

On July 21, 2014, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed an Agreed Judgment of Suspension against Austin attorney **Damon Dean Robertson**, 40, State Bar of Texas Card No. 24005285. On or about December 10, 2013, Robertson pled guilty to possession of marijuana for sale, an Intentional Crime as defined in the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, and was placed on probation for two years in *The State of Arizona v. Damon Dean Robertson*, Case No. CR-2013-00571, in the Superior Court for the State of Arizona, County of Coconino.

#### SIEGEL, JESSICA LYNN: #24013509 07/30/2014-INTERLOCUTORY ORDER OF SUSPENSION 07/30/2014-UNTIL FURTHER ORDER

On July 30, 2014, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed an interlocutory order of suspension against Houston attorney **Jessica Lynn Siegel**, 48, State Bar of Texas Card No. 24013509. On or about October 31, 2013, Ms. Siegel was convicted of tampering with a governmental record, an Intentional Crime as defined in the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, and sentenced to incarceration for two years, probated for four years in *The State of Texas v. Jessica Sekerka Siegel*, Case No. 12-03-02754-CR, in the 221st District Court of Montgomery County, Texas. Siegel has appealed her criminal conviction. The Board retains jurisdiction to enter a final judgment when the criminal appeal is final.

#### VILLALOBOS, ARMANDO ROBERTO: #00788584 07/30/2014-INTERLOCUTORY ORDER OF SUSPENSION 07/30/2014-UNTIL FURTHER ORDER

On July 30, 2014, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed an interlocutory order of suspension against Brownsville attorney **Armando Roberto Villalobos**, 46, State Bar of Texas Card No. 00788584. On or about February 13, 2014, Mr. Villalobos was convicted of Participating in Conduct and Affairs of a Criminal Enterprise, the Activities which Affected Interstate and Foreign Commerce, through a Pattern of Racketeering Activity – Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization (RICO), and conspiracy, Extortion (Under Color of Official Right) and Aiding and Abetting, Intentional Crimes as defined in the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, and was committed to the custody of the United States Bureau of Prisons to be imprisoned for a total term of 156 months on each count, to be served concurrently. He was ordered upon release from imprisonment to be on supervised release for three years on each count, to be served concurrently, ordered to perform 150 hours of community service, ordered to pay an assessment of \$600.00, a fine of \$30,000.00 and restitution of \$339,000.00 in *United States of America v. Armando Villalobos*, Case No. 1:12CR00374-S1-001 in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, holding session in Brownsville, Texas. Villalobos has appealed his criminal conviction. The Board retains jurisdiction to enter a final judgment when the criminal appeal is final.