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REINSTATEMENT

Earl Ray Andrews, Sr. [#01242000], 70, of Scurry, has filed a petition for reinstatement in the 86th District Court of Kaufman County for reinstatement as a member of the State Bar of Texas.

RESIGNATIONS

On Aug. 23, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation, in lieu of discipline, of **Alice DeGregori Morales** [#05641900], 46, of Bellaire. The Court

found that on Feb. 17, a judgment of conviction by court was entered in the 338th District Court of Harris County in Houston, wherein Morales pleaded guilty to manufacturing and delivery of a controlled substance, PG I 4-200 grams, and was sentenced to five years confinement in the institutional division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. She was ordered to pay court costs in the amount of \$410, which would subject her to compulsory discipline.

On Sept. 3, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation, in lieu of discipline, of **Hal Rachal, Jr.** [#16449000], 69, of Dallas. Rachal prepared a will and trust, naming himself the sole executor and sole trustee, and received appointments as such after the death of the testatrix. Rachal misappropriated funds from the trust. Rachal failed to keep funds belonging to the trust separate from his own property and breached his fiduciary duty. Rachal neglected his duty as executor of the estate.

After Rachal received notice of a hearing on a motion for temporary restraining order against him, he withdrew funds from an account belonging to the trust that was expressly identified in the motion. After the TRO was granted, but before the bank was served with the TRO, Rachal withdrew funds from an account that was to be frozen.

Rachal violated Rules 1.01(b)(1); 1.14(a), (b), and (c); 3.04(d); and 8.04(a)(1) and (a)(3).

SUSPENSIONS

On Aug. 5, **William Gary Nellis** [#90001643], 40, of Dallas, agreed to a

two-year, fully probated suspension effective Sept. 1. An evidentiary panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that Nellis entered into an arrangement for, charged, or collected an unconscionable fee from the complainant. Upon termination of representation, Nellis failed to refund advance payments of fee that had not been earned.

Nellis violated Rules 1.04(a) and 1.15(d). He was ordered to pay \$4,000 in attorney's fees and \$75,000 in restitution.

On May 24, **Ronald D. Cross** [#00787305], 42, of Dallas, received an 11-year, partially probated suspension effective June 10, with the first three years suspended and the remainder probated. In representing five complainants, Cross neglected the legal matters entrusted to him; frequently failed to carry out completely the obligations owed to the complainants; failed to keep the complainants reasonably informed about the status of their legal matters, to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information, to explain the legal matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit one complainant to make informed decisions regarding the representation, and to promptly deliver to one complainant funds that the complainant was entitled to receive; engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation; and violated a disciplinary judgment. Cross failed to timely furnish to the Chief Disciplinary Counsel's office responses as required by the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure and did not in good faith assert a privilege or other legal ground for such failure.

Cross violated Rules 1.01(b)(1) and (b)(2); 1.03(a) and (b); 1.14(b); and 8.04(a)(1), (a)(3), (a)(7), and (a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$7,793.84 in attorney's fees and expenses.

On June 22, Cross received an 11-year, partially probated suspension effective June 10, with the first three years suspended and the remainder probated.

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The complainant hired Cross to represent him in a family law matter. Upon termination of representation, Cross failed to promptly refund an advance payment of a fee that had not been earned.

Cross violated Rule 1.15(d).

On June 16, **Alberto Francisco Lopez** [#24050950], 38, of Mission, accepted a one-year, fully probated suspension effective May 1. The District 12 Grievance Committee found that Lopez failed to respond to his client's requests for information and failed to timely respond to two grievances.

Lopez violated Rules 1.03(a) and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$2,000 in attorney's fees and expenses and \$750 in restitution.

On June 28, **Danny Lee Simmons** [#24048801], 51, of Lubbock, agreed to a three-year, partially probated suspension effective May 19, with the first six months actively served and the remainder probated. The District 16-1 Grievance Committee found that Simmons neglected his client's case and failed to keep his client reasonably informed, to return an unearned fee, and to respond to the grievance.

Simmons violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$900 in attorney's fees and direct expenses and \$2,000 in restitution.

On June 28, Simmons agreed to a three-year, partially probated suspension effective May 19, with the first six months actively served and the remainder probated. The District 16-1 Grievance Committee found that Simmons neglected his client's case and failed to keep his client reasonably informed, to return an unearned fee, and to respond to the grievance.

Simmons violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$500 in attorney's fees and direct expenses and \$600 in restitution.

On July 12, **Everardo Abrego** [#00828200], 58, of Pharr, agreed to a one-year, partially probated suspension effective Sept. 24, with the first nine months actively served and the remainder probated. The District 12-3 Grievance Committee found that Abrego failed to keep his client informed and to hold client funds separate from his own property.

Abrego violated Rules 1.03(a) and 1.14(a). He was ordered to pay \$800 in attorney's fees and direct expenses.

On July 8, **Robert E. Hughes, Jr.** [#00790932], 41, of San Antonio, accepted a one-year, fully probated suspension effective July 8. The District 10-1 Grievance Committee found that in connection with two complaints, Hughes neglected the representations and failed to keep the clients reasonably informed and to respond to reasonable requests for information.

Hughes violated Rules 1.01(b)(1) and 1.03(b). He was ordered to pay \$1,000 in attorney's fees and expenses.

On May 20, **Shane M. Brooks** [#24031765], 35, of Austin, received a five-year, partially probated suspension effective May 6, with the first two years actively suspended and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 9 Grievance Committee found that in the first of nine separate matters, Brooks knowingly disobeyed a ruling by a tribunal, was found in contempt of court for doing so, and failed to timely comply with the terms of the contempt order and to respond to the complaint filed against him.

In six other matters, Brooks neglected his clients' criminal and/or civil cases and failed to respond to requests for information.

In another matter, Brooks neglected his client's criminal cases and failed to respond to requests for information and to respond to the complaint.

In another matter, Brooks neglected his client's criminal case and failed to

respond to requests for information and to return the client's file upon request.

Brooks violated Rules 1.01(b)(1) and (b)(2), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), 3.04(d), and 8.04(a)(1) and (a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$13,627 in attorney's fees and expenses and \$12,750 in restitution.

On May 3, **Demetrius J. Davis** [#24029274], 48, of McAllen, received an 18-month, partially probated suspension effective May 1, with the first six months actively served and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 10 Grievance Committee found that in a personal injury matter, Davis failed to respond to his client's requests for information, to inform the client when he relocated his office from Austin to San Antonio, to surrender the

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client file and papers to the client's subsequent counsel, and to timely respond to the grievance; and engaged in the practice of law while under an administrative suspension.

In the second matter, Davis failed to timely respond to a second grievance. Davis has appealed this judgment.

Davis violated Rules 1.03(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8) and (a)(11). He was ordered to pay \$5,678.96 in attorney's fees and expenses.

On Sept. 7, **William B. Harrison** [#09125100], 56, of Edinburg received a five-year, active suspension effective Sept. 1. The 151st District Court of Harris County found that Harrison neglected a legal matter; failed to keep his

client reasonably informed, to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information, and to have a written contingency fee agreement; and terminated his representation of the client but failed to withdraw from representation in the first of two complaints. The Court further found that Harrison falsified evidence and knowingly used evidence that he knew to be false, delayed the resolution of a legal matter, committed a criminal act, and engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, deceit, or misrepresentation.

Harrison violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.02(a)(2), 1.03(a) and (b), 1.04(d), 1.15(a)(3), 3.02, 3.03(a)(5), 3.04(b), and 8.04(a)(2) and (a)(3). He was ordered to pay \$21,868.20 in attorney's fees and costs.

On Sept. 10, **Kevin C. Loudon** [#24049812], 53, of Houston, agreed to a two-year, partially probated suspension effective Aug. 20, with the first three months actively served and the remainder probated. The District 10 Grievance Committee found that Loudon neglected the representation of a client and failed to keep his client reasonably informed.

Loudon violated Rules 1.01(b)(1) and 1.03(a).

On Sept. 14, Loudon agreed to a two-year, partially probated suspension effective Aug. 20, with the first three months actively served and the remainder probated. The District 11 Grievance Committee found that Loudon failed to keep client funds separate from his own and failed to timely disburse settlement funds.

Loudon violated Rules 1.14(a) and 1.14(b).

REPRIMANDS

On May 10, **Alfredo A. Soza** [#00785018], 44, of Odessa, received a public reprimand. An evidentiary panel of the District 15-5 Grievance Commit-

tee found that Soza neglected the representation of a client and disobeyed a court order.

Soza violated Rules 1.01(b)(1) and 3.04(d). He was ordered to pay \$440.80 in attorney's fees and expenses.

On May 25, **Jose Salvador Tellez** [#19764760], 56, of Laredo, received a public reprimand. The District 12 Grievance Committee found that Tellez failed to communicate with his client.

Tellez violated Rule 1.03(a). He was ordered to pay \$2,900 in attorney's fees and expenses.

Editor's Note: **Jose Tellez** [#24038076], 34, of Laredo, is not the attorney referred to in this disciplinary action.

On June 1, **Nancy Jackson** [#24004717], 39, of Colleyville, received a public reprimand. An evidentiary panel of the District 7 Grievance Committee found that Jackson neglected the legal matter entrusted to her and frequently failed to carry out completely the obligations owed to the complainant. Jackson also failed to keep the complainant reasonably informed about the status of the case and failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information from the complainant about the case.

Jackson violated Rules 1.01(b)(1) and (b)(2) and 1.03(a). She was ordered to pay \$1,401.30 in attorney's fees and costs.

On June 8, **Reid Allen Nelson** [#00794362], 42, of Boerne, received a public reprimand. An evidentiary panel of the District 10 Grievance Committee found that, in a civil matter, Nelson failed to file a lawsuit on behalf of his client. The panel further found that Nelson was served with notice of the complaint but that he failed to furnish a response to the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel.

Nelson violated Rules 1.01(b)(1) and 8.04(a)(8). Nelson was ordered to pay \$4,965.46 in attorney's fees and expenses.

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On June 17, **Cynthia Stagner** [#19004800], 54, of Sherman, received a public reprimand. An evidentiary panel of the District 1 Grievance Committee found that Stagner failed to keep the complainant reasonably informed about the status of her child custody matter and failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information from the complainant. Upon termination of representation, Stagner failed to refund advance payments of a fee that had not been earned.

Stagner violated Rules 1.03(a) and 1.15(d). She was ordered to pay \$1,200 in attorney's fees and \$1,200 in restitution.

On June 21, **Okey Obi Dike** [#00783968], 51, of Houston, accepted a public reprimand. The 165th District Court of Harris County found that in representing a client, Dike neglected the legal matter entrusted to him and failed to promptly comply with the client's reasonable requests for information.

Dike violated Rules 1.01(b)(1) and 1.03(a). He agreed to pay \$1,500 in attorney's fees and costs and \$525 in restitution.

On June 25, **Lott J. Brooks III** [#03070750], 54, of Houston, accepted a public reprimand. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that Brooks failed to keep his client reasonably informed about the status of his matter and that Brooks failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information from his client.

Brooks violated Rule 1.03(a). He agreed to pay \$3,000 in attorney's fees and costs.

On June 25, **Eric Dean Perkins** [#15785060], 51, of Corpus Christi, accepted a public reprimand. An evidentiary panel of the District 11 Grievance Committee found that Perkins failed to refund an unearned fee.

Perkins violated Rule 1.15(d). He

agreed to pay \$2,500 in attorney's fees and expenses and \$10,000 in restitution.

On July 22, **Lisa Goddard-Gikas** [#24045949], 56, of Georgetown, accepted a public reprimand. An evidentiary panel of the District 8 Grievance Committee found that on Feb. 25, 2008, the complainant hired Goddard-Gikas to file a petition for divorce on his behalf. The complainant paid Goddard-Gikas \$3,000 in legal fees. The complainant also wanted to terminate his parental rights. Goddard-Gikas did not file the original petition for divorce until Aug. 12, 2008, and did not include the termination request. Eight months later, Goddard-Gikas filed an amended petition that included a plea to terminate the complainant's parental rights. The complainant attempted to contact Goddard-Gikas numerous times regarding the status of his case, but Goddard-Gikas failed to respond. Goddard-Gikas billed the complainant for \$2,424 and did not return \$576 in unearned fees.

Goddard-Gikas violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), and 3.02. She was ordered to pay \$1,902.33 in attorney's fees and expenses and \$576 in restitution.

On July 27, **Michael Chelvam** [#24055296], 28, of Katy, accepted a public reprimand. The 129th District Court of Harris County found that Chelvam placed an advertisement in the Yellow Pages, but failed to submit the advertisement to the State Bar Advertising Review Committee for approval as was required.

Chelvam violated Rule 7.07(a). He was ordered to pay \$1,500 in attorney's fees and costs.

On Aug. 6, **Michael Landon Teague** [#24048833], 40, of Missouri City, accepted a public reprimand. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that Teague neglected

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a legal matter entrusted to him and failed to reasonably inform his client about the status of the legal matter, to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information from his client, and to reduce the contingent fee agreement entered into with his client to writing.

Teague violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), and 1.04(d). He was ordered to pay \$450 in attorney's fees.

On July 28, **Brian Anthony Hamner** [#24041050], 34, of San Antonio, accepted a public reprimand. The District 10 Grievance Committee found that in connection with three family law representations, Hamner neglected client matters and failed to keep his clients reasonably informed.

Hamner violated Rules 1.01(b)(1) and 1.03(a). He agreed to pay \$1,400 in attorney's fees and expenses.

On Sept. 9, **James Jude Sullivan** [#24003025], 46, of Austin, received a public reprimand. An evidentiary panel of the District 9 Grievance Committee found that in a civil matter, Sullivan neglected a client's case in that he failed to obtain a signed judgment for more than a year and he failed to respond to the client's requests for information.

Sullivan violated Rules 1.01(b)(1) and 1.03(a). He was ordered to pay \$1,067.24 in attorney's fees and expenses.

On Aug. 23, **William B. Harrison** [#09125100], 56, of Edinburg, accepted a public reprimand. The 206th District Court of Hidalgo County found that Harrison neglected a legal matter; failed to keep his client reasonably informed about the status of a matter, to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information, and to take reasonable steps to protect his client's interest upon withdrawing from a case; and knowingly disobeyed a ruling by a tribunal.

Harrison violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a) and (b), 1.15(d), and 3.04(d). He was ordered to pay \$750 in attorney's fees and expenses.

(two); 1.03(a) — failing to keep a client reasonably informed about the status of a matter and promptly comply with reasonable requests for information (10); 1.03(b) — failing to explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation (three); 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 (one); 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 (one); 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 that belongs to the client (two); 3.04(d) — knowingly disobeying an obligation under the standing rules or of a ruling by a tribunal (one); 5.05(a) — for practicing law in a jurisdiction where doing so violates the regulation of the legal profession in that jurisdiction (one); and 8.04(a)(1) — violating the TDRPC, counseling or assisting another to violate the Rules, or violating the Rules through the acts of another (one). ❖

PRIVATE REPRIMANDS

Listed below is the breakdown of rule violations for 16 attorneys, with the number of attorneys violating each rule in parentheses. Please note that an attorney may be reprimanded for more than one rule violation. Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct (TDRPC): 1.01(a) — accepting or continuing employment in a legal matter that the lawyer knew or should have known was beyond lawyer's competence (two); 1.01(b)(1) — neglecting a legal matter entrusted to the lawyer (four); 1.01(b)(2) — failing to carry out completely the obligations owed to a client

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