

► Contact the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel at (512) 453-5535, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals at (512) 475-1578 or txboda.org, or the State Commission on Judicial Conduct at (512) 463-5533.

JUDICIAL ACTIONS

To read the entire public sanctions, go to scjc.texas.gov.

On March 3, 2016, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct issued a public warning and order of additional education to **Ben E. Brady**, justice of the peace of Precinct 3, Place 1 in Maxwell, Caldwell County. Brady violated Canons 2A and 3B(2) of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct and Article V, section 1-a(6)A of the Texas Constitution.

On February 25 2016, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct issued a public reprimand and order of additional education to **Mike Herrera**, 383rd Judicial District Court judge in El Paso, El Paso County. Herrera vio-

lated Canons 2A, 2B, 3B(1), 3B(2), and 3B(5) of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct and Article V, section 1-a(6)A of the Texas Constitution.

On February 29, 2016, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct issued a public warning and order of additional education to **Skeet Lee Jones**, county judge in Mentone, Loving County. Jones violated Canons 2A and 3B(2) of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct and Article V, section 1-a(6)A of the Texas Constitution.

On February 29, 2016, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct issued a public reprimand to **Bradley Wayne Stringer**, former justice of the peace of Precinct 3, Place 1 in Huntington, Angelina County. Stringer violated

Canons 2A, 3B(2), and 3B(4) of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct and Article V, section 1-a(6)A of the Texas Constitution.

RESIGNATIONS

On March 22, 2016, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation in lieu of discipline of **Carrie Beth Crisp** [#24074093], 34, of San Marcos. At the time of her resignation, there was one disciplinary matter pending, alleging Crisp accepted or continued employment beyond her competence, continued the representation when her own interest adversely limited her ability to represent her client, neglected the client matter and made false statements to the client about the work that had been performed, and failed to return the client

ATTORNEY GRIEVANCES

DON'T REPRESENT YOURSELF!

How often do you advise clients to represent themselves when accused of wrongdoing?

Why give yourself different advice?

CONSULTATION OR REPRESENTATION

STEVEN L. LEE

OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE

11 years experience with the State Bar of Texas as Assistant and Deputy General Counsel as well as Acting General Counsel

LAW OFFICE OF STEVEN L. LEE, P.C.

1411 WEST AVENUE, SUITE 100
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701

(512) 215-2355

Representing Lawyers & Law Students Since 1991

STATEWIDE REPRESENTATION



HASLEY SCARANO, L.L.P.
ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS

OUR TRIAL TEAM HAS THE
EXPERIENCE AND
UNPARALLELED SUCCESS TO GET
THE RIGHT RESULTS.

JENNIFER A. HASLEY

BOARD CERTIFIED, CIVIL TRIAL LAW
TEXAS BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION
20 YEARS TRIAL EXPERIENCE
INCLUDING AS
ASSISTANT DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL
STATE BAR OF TEXAS

GREGORY M. HASLEY

20 YEARS TRIAL EXPERIENCE
FORMER VICE-CHAIR OF THE
TEXAS DISCIPLINARY RULES OF
PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT COMMITTEE

VICTOR R. SCARANO

BOARD CERTIFIED, FORENSIC PSYCHIATRY
24 YEARS TRIAL EXPERIENCE
INCLUDING AS A MEMBER OF THE
DISABILITY ISSUES COMMITTEE AND
TEXAS LAWYERS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

STATEWIDE PRACTICE
ETHICS, GRIEVANCE DEFENSE,
DISCIPLINARY APPEALS, AND
LEGAL MALPRACTICE

5252 WESTCHESTER, SUITE 125
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77005

713.667.6900 / 713.667.6904 FAX

info@hasleyscarano.com

www.hasleyscarano.com

STATE BAR GRIEVANCE DEFENSE

LEGAL MALPRACTICE

*Over 30 Years
Experience*

WAYNE H. PARIS

Two Riverway, Suite 1080
Houston, Texas 77056

(713) 951-9100

Statewide Representation

file.

Crisp violated Rules 1.01(a), 1.01(b)(1), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(3).

On March 22, 2016, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation in lieu of discipline of **Jennie R. Mathis** [#00793647], 57, of Arlington. At the time of Mathis's resignation, there were two pending matters. In the first matter, in May 2014, the complainant hired Mathis in a family law matter. Mathis neglected the case and failed to communicate. In the second matter, in 2006, the complainant hired Mathis in connection with a divorce. A final divorce decree was signed in 2010. Mathis failed to prepare and file a final order awarding the house to the complainant. Finally, Mathis failed to respond to the notice of complaint.

On March 22, 2016, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation in lieu of discipline of **Anirudh**

D. Sarwal [#24002895], 42, of Austin. At the time of Sarwal's resignation, a judgment in a criminal case had been entered in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas, Dallas Division, wherein Sarwal pled guilty to conspiracy to commit bank fraud and was committed to the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons to be imprisoned for a total term of 57 months and ordered upon release from imprisonment to be on supervised release for a term of two years. Sarwal was further ordered to pay an assessment in the amount of \$100 and restitution in the amount of \$13,461,604.31. This conviction would subject Sarwal to compulsory discipline.

On February 16, 2016, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation in lieu of discipline of **Jose William Vega** [#24034826], 50, of Houston. At the time of Vega's resignation, there were 38 disciplinary pro-

ceedings pending, which among them alleged that Vega neglected legal matters entrusted to him, failed to carry out completely the obligations owed to his clients, failed to communicate and failed to keep clients reasonably informed about their legal matters, failed to timely return unearned fees, failed to respond to grievances filed against him, and failed to properly supervise nonlawyer staff.

Vega violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.01(b)(2), 1.03(a), 1.03(b), 1.15(d), 5.03(a), 5.03(b), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$27,133 in restitution and \$11,357 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

SUSPENSIONS

On November 10, 2015, **Garry Philip Cantrell** [#00789200], 57, of Dallas, received a two-year active suspension effective November 10, 2015. The 193rd Judicial District Court of Dallas County found that Cantrell violated Rules 1.04(d) [a contingent fee agree-

*Will you REPRESENT YOURSELF?
Socrates did and how did that
turn out for him?*



**GRIEVANCE
& LEGAL
MALPRACTICE
DEFENSE**

BRUCE A. CAMPBELL

OVER 25 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN
DISCIPLINARY MATTERS AND
LEGAL MALPRACTICE DEFENSE

STATEWIDE PRACTICE

CAMPBELL & ASSOCIATES LAW FIRM, PC
4201 SPRING VALLEY RD.
SUITE 1250
DALLAS, TX 75244

972-277-8585(O)
972-277-8586(F)
INFO@CLLEGAL.COM
CLLEGAL.COM

**When your client becomes
your adversary...**

It's time to hire
Gaines West

**State Bar of Texas
Grievance Oversight Committee**
Appointed by the Texas Supreme Court
*Chair, 2006-2010
Member, 2004-2010*

**Texas Board of
Disciplinary Appeals**
Appointed by the Texas Supreme Court
*Chairman, 2001-2003
Vice Chairman, 1994-1996, 1998-2000
Member, 1992-1996, 1997-2003*

**State Bar of Texas
Disciplinary Rules of Professional
Conduct Committee**
Member, 1993-1996

**Disciplinary
Review Committee**
Member, 1991-1992

*Texas Bar Foundation, Fellow
State Bar of Texas, Member
Brazos County Bar Association, Member*



**EXPERIENCE,
DEPTH-OF-STAFF,
DIPLOMACY,
TENACITY**



Representing Attorneys

Principal Office - 979.694.7000
1515 Emerald Plaza • College Station, TX 77845

Austin - 512.501.3617
1106 West Avenue • Austin, TX 78701
www.westwebblaw.com

**NED
BARNETT**



**CRIMINAL
DEFENSE**

*Defending Texans
Since 1994*

Former Assistant United States Attorney
Former Assistant District Attorney
Founding Member of the National College
of DUI Defense of Counsel Williams
Kherkher Hart Boundas, LLP

Law Offices of Ned Barnett

8441 Gulf Freeway, Suite 600
Houston, Texas 77017

713-222-6767

www.nedbarnettlaw.com

**Board Certified in Criminal Law by the
Texas Board of Legal Specialization**

TLIEmployees



Craig Spirduso,
Vice President - Claims

Because of our remarkable staff, Texas Lawyers' Insurance Exchange has been voted best professional liability insurance company in Texas four years in a row by Texas Lawyer magazine. Those same noteworthy employees and over 36 years in the business are why TLIE is also a Preferred Provider of the State Bar of Texas. Not to mention, we have returned over \$41,550,000 to our policyholders. See why our employees make the difference.

512.480.9074 / 1.800.252.9332
INFO@TLIE.ORG / WWW.TLIE.ORG

@TLIE_ facebook.com/TLIE01



ment shall be in writing and shall state the method by which the fee is to be determined], 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 and promptly deliver to the client or third person any funds or other property that the client or third person is entitled to receive], 3.01 [a lawyer shall not bring or defend a proceeding, or assert or controvert an issue therein, unless the lawyer reasonably believes that there is a basis for doing so that is not frivolous], and 4.04(b)(2) [a lawyer shall not present civil charges against a complainant, a witness, or a potential witness in a bar disciplinary proceeding solely to prevent participation by the complainant, witness, or potential witness therein].

Cantrell was ordered to pay \$15,211.57 in restitution, \$4,821.50 in attorneys' fees, and \$530.45 in direct expenses.

On February 18, 2016, **Keith F. Ellis** [#00790642], 59, of Vidor, received an 18-month partially probated suspension effective March 13, 2016, with the first six months actively suspended and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 3 Grievance Committee found that Ellis neglected a probate matter, failed to keep his client reasonably informed about the status of the probate matter, and failed to promptly comply with his client's reasonable requests for information. Upon his termination, the respondent failed to refund advance payments of fees that had not been earned. The respondent also failed to respond to the grievance.

Ellis violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$2,500 in restitution and \$1,770 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On March 2, 2016, **Robert E. Fitzgerald** [#07088700], 65, of Dallas, received a five-year partially probated suspension effective February 1, 2016, with the first two years actively suspended and the remainder probated.

An evidentiary panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that in representing the complainant, Fitzgerald neglected the legal matter entrusted to him. Fitzgerald also failed to keep the complainant reasonably informed about the status of her case and promptly comply with her reasonable requests for information. Furthermore, Fitzgerald misrepresented information to the complainant about her case.

Fitzgerald violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), and 8.04(a)(3). He was ordered to pay \$1,722.50 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On January 26, 2016, **Bretton Craig Gerard** [#07813050], 56, of Richardson, received a two-year fully probated suspension effective February 1, 2016. In February 2013, the complainant requested representation in a bankruptcy matter and gave property to Gerard to hold toward a retainer. Thereafter, Gerard failed to hold the property separate from his own property. Gerard failed to deliver the property to the complainant upon request and failed to promptly render a full accounting of the property.

Gerard violated Rules 1.14(a) and 1.14(b). He was ordered to pay \$9,800 in restitution and \$3,570 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On March 10, 2016, **Kevin M. Hall** [#24041041], 45, of Houston, accepted a one-year fully probated suspension effective March 15, 2016. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that Hall neglected a legal matter, failed to keep his client reasonably informed about the status of her case, and failed to promptly comply with his client's reasonable requests for information. Upon the termination of his representation, Hall failed to surrender papers and property to which his client was entitled and failed to timely respond to the grievance.

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

On March 11, 2016, **Kevin M. Hall**

[#24041041], 45, of Houston, accepted a one-year fully probated suspension effective March 15, 2016. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that Hall neglected a legal matter, failed to keep his client reasonably informed about the status of his case, and failed to promptly comply with his client's reasonable requests for information. Hall further failed to timely respond to the grievance.

Hall violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$1,000 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On February 21, 2016, **Robert M. Jones** [#10951000], 71, of Duncanville, received a two-year active suspension effective March 1, 2016. The 68th Judicial District Court of Dallas County found that Jones violated Rules 1.01(b)(1) [prohibiting a lawyer from neglecting a legal matter entrusted to the lawyer], and 1.03(a) [requiring a

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

Jones was ordered to pay \$2,494.50 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On March 28, 2016, **George Gregory Lake** [#24081565], 29, of Marshall, received a 36-month partially probated suspension effective March 23, 2016, with the first 18 months actively suspended and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 1 Grievance Committee found that in representing the complainant in connection with a criminal law matter, Lake neglected the legal matter entrusted to him by failing to provide legal services. Lake failed to keep the complainant reasonably informed about the status of his criminal matter, failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information from the complainant about his criminal matter,

and, upon termination of the representation, failed to refund advance payments of fees that had not been earned.

Lake violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$2,000 in restitution and \$1,137.25 in attorneys' fees.

Lake had until April 27, 2016, to file an appeal.

On February 24, 2016, **Douglas Matthew McMaster** [#13786020], 53, of Brownsville, accepted a 27-month fully probated suspension effective March 1, 2016. The District 12 Grievance Committee found that McMaster neglected client legal matters, failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information, and failed to respond to one grievance.

McMaster violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$600 in restitution and \$1,000 in attorneys' fees. **TBJ**



Fastest smartest malpractice insurance. Period.

800.906.9654
GilsbarPRO.com