

## DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

► 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.

### BODA

On May 1, 2017, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed an agreed judgment of public reprimand against Baton Rouge, Louisiana, attorney **Louis Jerome Stanley** [#00797734], 68. Stanley was publicly reprimanded by the Supreme Court of Louisiana in a matter styled, *In re: Louis Jerome Stanley*, Case No. 14-DB-042, for failing to keep the client reasonably informed about the proceeds of a lawsuit, failing to promptly deliver to the client funds she was entitled to receive, and violating a rule of professional conduct. In accordance with the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, Stanley will receive a public reprimand in Texas. BODA Cause No. 58337.

On May 1, 2017, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed a default judgment of public reprimand against Shreveport, Louisiana, attorney **Charles Marvin Bradshaw II** [#00790354], 53. Although properly cited and noticed, Bradshaw did not answer or appear. Bradshaw was publicly reprimanded by the Supreme Court of Louisiana in a matter styled, *In re: Charles Marvin Bradshaw II*, Case No. 2013-B-0356, for neglecting a client's matter, failing to communicate with the client, and engaging in conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice. In accordance with the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, Bradshaw will receive a public reprimand in Texas. BODA Cause No. 58731.

On May 3, 2017, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed a judgment of disbarment against Houston attorney **Ikechukwu Nweze** [#00792725], 64. On July 7, 2016, Nweze pled guilty to insurance fraud and to engaging in organized criminal activity in violation of the Texas Penal Code sec. 35.02(b)(5) and Texas Penal Code 71.02, intentional crimes as defined in the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, in the case styled, *The State of Texas v. Ikechukwu Nweze*, Cause Nos. 143642101010 and 1436422, in the 176th Judicial District Court of Harris County. Orders of deferred adjudication were entered in both causes by the 185th Judicial District Court of Harris County, and Nweze was placed on community supervision for four years and ordered to surrender his law license. BODA Cause No. 58338.

On May 2, 2017, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed a judgment of disbarment against Leander attorney

ney **Carolyn Barnes** [#01761550], 60. On or about June 11, 2013, Barnes was convicted of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon while using or exhibiting a firearm, a second-degree felony, an intentional crime as defined in the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, and sentenced to serve three years in prison in *The State of Texas v. Carolyn Barnes*, Case No. 10-63-K368, in the 368th Judicial District Court of Williamson County. Barnes appealed her criminal conviction. On August 28, 2013, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed an interlocutory order of suspension pending the appeal of her criminal conviction. Barnes appealed BODA's interlocutory order to the Supreme Court of Texas and it was affirmed on June 20, 2014 (Tex. Sup. Ct. No. 13-0753; rehearing denied August 15, 2014). The 3rd Court of Appeals of Texas affirmed her criminal conviction on February 9, 2017, and issued its mandate (Cause No. 03-13-00434-CR). Her conviction is final, and she is disbarred. BODA Cause No. 52457.

On May 1, 2017, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed an agreed judgment of indefinite disability suspension against Dallas attorney **Matthew Alan Sharp** [#24004403], 42, 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. BODA Cause No. 57786.

On May 8, 2017, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed a judgment of disbarment against Kingsville attorney **Alfred L. Isassi** [#24010124], 44. On October 13, 2015, Isassi was convicted by a jury of tampering with a governmental record in violation of

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STATEWIDE REPRESENTATION

Texas Penal Code sec. 37.10, an intentional crime as defined in the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, in the case styled, *The State of Texas v. Alfred Lee Isassi*, Cause No. 15-CRF-0182, in the 105th Judicial District Court of Kleberg County. Isassi was sentenced to two years in a state jail facility, probated for four years, ordered to perform 800 hours of community service, and removed as Kleberg County Court at Law judge. On December 4, 2015, the judgment was amended and the sentence reduced to one year in the Kleberg County Jail, probated for two years. He was ordered to resign as County Court at Law judge and ordered to perform 100 hours of community service. On September 30, 2016, the 105th Judicial District Court of Kleberg County terminated Isassi's probation, set aside the guilty verdict, and dismissed the indictment. BODA's opinion and judgment may be found at txboda.org. BODA Cause No. 57699.

On May 8, 2017, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed an order dismissing compulsory discipline of Edinburg attorney **Jacques Evan Trevino** [#00797571], 49. On August 10, 2015, Trevino pled no contest to misapplication of fiduciary property in violation of Texas Penal Code sec. 32.45(c)(5), an intentional crime as defined in the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, in the case styled, *The State of Texas v. Jacques Trevino*, Cause No. CR-4374-13-1, in the 398th Judicial District Court of Hidalgo County. The court entered an order of deferred adjudication, placing him on community supervision for 10 years. Trevino was also ordered to pay a fine of \$500 and restitution in the amount of \$91,667, perform 160 hours of community service, and be confined and treated in a substance abuse treatment center for a term between 90 days and one year. On May 2, 2017, the Supreme

Court of Texas accepted Trevino's resignation in lieu of discipline by Misc. Docket No. 17-9042 and canceled his license to practice law. BODA Cause No. 57320.

On May 8, 2017, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed an order dismissing compulsory discipline against Marble Falls attorney **Barlow Smith** [#18536020], 87. On September 22, 2015, Smith pled guilty to fraud delivery of a controlled substance/prescription schedule III/IV/V in violation of Texas Penal Code sec. 481.129(c)(1), an intentional crime as defined in the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, in the case styled, *The State of Texas v. Barlow Smith*, Cause No. 42272, in the 424th Judicial District Court of Burnet County. Smith was sentenced to five years in prison. The sentence was probated, and Smith was placed on community supervision for 10 years. On May 2, 2017, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted Smith's resignation in lieu of discipline by Misc. Docket No. 17-9037 and canceled his license to practice law. BODA Cause No. 58072.

On May 11, 2017, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed an order dismissing compulsory discipline of The Woodlands attorney **Percy L. Isgitt** [#10433000], 73. On February 25, 2015, Isgitt pled nolo contendre to misapplication of fiduciary property over \$200,000, a first-degree felony, in violation of the Texas Penal Code, an intentional crime as defined in the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, in the case styled, *The State of Texas v. Percy Lawayne Isgitt*, Cause No. 145944801010, in the 174th Judicial District Court of Harris County. The court entered an order of deferred adjudication, placing Isgitt on community supervision for 10 years. Isgitt was also ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$275,395 to the victim. On May 2, 2017, the Supreme Court

of Texas accepted Isgitt's resignation in lieu of discipline by Misc. Docket No. 17-9041 and canceled his license to practice law. BODA Cause No. 58740.

## SUSPENSIONS

On March 29, 2017, **Richard R. Alamia** [#00964200], 70, of Edinburg, accepted a two-year fully probated suspension effective July 1, 2017. An evidentiary panel of the District 12 Grievance Committee found that Alamia failed to return an unearned fee.

Alamia violated Rule 1.15(d). He was ordered to pay \$300 in restitution and \$1,500 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On April 6, 2017, **Brian Anthony Hamner** [#24041050], 41, of San



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Antonio, received a six-year partially probated suspension effective March 31, 2017, with the first four years actively served and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 10 Grievance Committee found that Hamner neglected a client's matter, failed to refund unearned fees, engaged in conduct involving misrepresentation, violated a prior disciplinary judgment, and failed to respond to a grievance.

Hamner violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.15(d), 8.04(a)(3), 8.04(a)(8), and 8.04(a)(7). He was ordered to pay \$6,850 in restitution and \$800 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On April 12, 2017, **Jacqueline M. Houlette** [#00787718], 53, of Houston, accepted an 18-month fully probated suspension effective May 1, 2017.

An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that Houlette failed to hold funds and other property belonging in whole or in part to her client separate from her own property in a separate account, failed to promptly deliver funds to a third party that had an interest upon receiving funds, and failed to timely furnish a response to the Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel as required by the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

Houlette violated Rules 1.14(a), 1.14(b), and 8.04(a)(8). She was ordered to pay \$1,500 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On March 11, 2017, **William Eric Hulett** [#00796797], 51, of Grapevine, received a five-year active suspension effective March 2, 2017. An evidentiary

panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that in two separate matters in March 2013 and April 2014, Hulett neglected a matter entrusted to him by allowing a complainant's divorce case to be dismissed for want of prosecution. During his representation of the complainant, Hulett failed to keep the complainant reasonably informed about the status of her divorce and failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information.

Hulett violated Rules 1.01(b)(1) and 1.03(a). He was ordered to pay \$3,000 in restitution, \$1,732.50 in attorneys' fees, and \$200 in direct expenses.

On April 21, 2017, **Jacqueline LeFevre** [#24027947], 41, of La Joya, agreed to a 27-month partially probated suspension effective May 1, 2017, with the first three months actively served and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 12 Grievance Committee found that LeFevre engaged in the practice of law while her law license was administratively suspended.

LeFevre violated Rule 8.04(a)(11). She was ordered to pay \$800 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On March 7, 2017, **Jenna Page** [#24033478], 46, of Annandale, Virginia, received a one-year partially probated suspension effective April 1, 2017, with the first month actively served and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that a complainant was performing document review on a contract basis. From December 21, 2013, to March 8, 2014, Page engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation, by submitting time sheets and being paid for work that was not authorized and was not required.

Page violated Rule 8.04(a)(3). She was ordered to pay \$1,728 in attorneys'

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fees and direct expenses.

On April 13, 2017, **William Earl Price** [#24003330], 53, of Dallas, agreed to a 12-month partially probated suspension, with the first three months actively served and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that Price neglected the legal matter entrusted to him, failed to keep his client reasonably informed about the status of his legal matters, and failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information from his client about his legal matters. Price failed to timely furnish to the Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel 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 his failure to do so.

Price violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$1,500 in restitution and \$99.65 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On April 13, 2017, **William Earl Price** [#24003330], 53, of Dallas, agreed to a 12-month partially probated suspension, with the first two months actively served and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that Price failed to keep his client reasonably informed and promptly comply with reasonable requests about the status of his legal matter. Upon termination of representation, Price failed to surrender papers and property to which the client was entitled. The panel also found that Price failed to timely furnish to the Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel 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 his failure to do so.

Price violated Rules 1.03(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$99.65 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On March 30, 2017, **David Mark Skelton** [#00794645], 47, of Lubbock, accepted a two-year active suspension effective April 3, 2017. An evidentiary panel of the District 16 Grievance Committee found that Skelton neglected a client's matter, failed to communicate with a client, failed to hold a client's funds in a trust account, failed to return the unearned portion of the fee, failed to provide an accounting to the client, and misrepresented facts in his response to the grievance.

Skelton violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.14(a), 1.14(b), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(3). He was ordered to pay \$2,500 in restitution and \$400 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

## PUBLIC REPRIMANDS

On April 10, 2017, **Jorge A. Cantu** [#03767370], 54, of Houston, received an agreed judgment of public reprimand. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that in connection with three immigration cases in which a non-lawyer used Cantu's name to practice law, Cantu knowingly failed to disclose that fact to the tribunals when it was necessary to avoid assisting fraudulent acts.

Cantu violated Rule 3.03(a)(2). He was ordered to pay \$3,242.35 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On March 27, 2017, **Juan Carlos Penaflor** [#24060403], 35, of Dallas, received a public reprimand. The 193rd Judicial District Court of Dallas County found that Penaflor relied on the advice of learned counsel that it was permissible

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to practice law in a law firm with a non-lawyer as a corporate director or officer thereof, and that even though Penaflor reasonably relied upon advice of counsel related to the law firm's formation, that the corporate composition form of such firm violated Rule 5.04(d)(2) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

Penaflor violated Rule 5.04(d)(2). He was ordered to pay \$1,500 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On April 12, 2017, **Lonnie Woods** [#21958075], 65, of Arlington, entered into an agreed judgment of public reprimand. The 17th Judicial District Court of Tarrant County found that Woods neglected a legal matter entrusted to him, failed to keep his client reasonably informed about the status of his legal matter, and failed to promptly comply with his client's

reasonable requests for information.

Woods violated Rules 1.01(b)(1) and 1.03(a). He was ordered to pay \$2,500 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

## PRIVATE REPRIMANDS

Listed here is a breakdown of Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct violations for 10 attorneys, with the number in parentheses indicating the frequency of violation. Please note that an attorney may be reprimanded for more than one rule violation.

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

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 (4).

1.03(b)—for failing to explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding representation (1).

1.04(d)—for entering into a contingent fee agreement prohibited by paragraph (e) or other law, and/or failing to enter into a written contingency fee agreement that states the method by which the fee is to be determined (1).

1.06(b)(1)—for representing a person where the representation of that person involves a substantially related matter in which that person's interests are materially and directly adverse to the interests of another client (1).

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 (3).

5.08(a)—A lawyer shall not willfully, in connection with an adjudicatory proceeding, except as provided in paragraph (b), manifest, by words or conduct, bias or prejudice based on race, color, national origin, religion, disability, age, sex, or sexual orientation toward any person involved in that proceeding in any capacity (1). **TBJ**

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