

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

RESIGNATIONS

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

Bosworth violated Rules 1.14(a), 1.14(b), and 8.04(a)(3).

SUSPENSIONS

On April 6, 2017, **W. Thomas Finley** [#07025500], 69, of Dallas, received an

18-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 Finley failed to promptly deliver to the complainant the settlement funds that the complainant was entitled to receive; failed to promptly render a full accounting regarding such funds, despite the complainant's requests for said information; and failed to hold funds belonging to the complainant separate from Finley's own property. He also failed to keep the complainant reasonably informed about the status of his civil matter and failed to promptly comply with the complainant's reasonable requests for information.

Finley violated Rules 1.03(a), 1.14(a), and 1.14(b). He was ordered to pay \$4,500 in restitution and \$5,000 in attorneys'

fees and direct expenses.

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

Galvan violated Rule 8.04(a)(7). He was ordered to pay \$982.50 in attorneys' fees and \$200 in direct expenses.

On June 6, 2017, **David Allan Krueger** [#24025940], 49, of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, agreed to a 48-month partially probated suspension effective April 15, 2018, with the first 24 months actively served and the remainder probated. The 429th District Court of Collin County found that the parties agreed that Krueger committed professional misconduct by failing to keep a client reasonably informed about the status of a matter and promptly comply with reasonable requests for information; failing to hold funds and other property belonging in whole or in part to clients or third persons that were in Krueger's possession separate from his own property; failing to promptly notify and deliver to the client or third person any funds or other property that the client or third person is entitled to receive, and upon request, failing to promptly render a full accounting regarding such property; upon termination of representation, failing to 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 fees that have not been earned; and engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation.

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Krueger violated Rules 1.03(a), 1.08(a), 1.14(a), 1.14(b), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(3). He was ordered to pay \$40,000 in restitution and \$4,500 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On May 15, 2017, **Michael Kerry Russell** [#17420700], 64, of Arlington, received a two-year fully probated suspension. An evidentiary panel of the District 7 Grievance Committee found that in two separate cases, Russell failed to keep his clients reasonably informed about the status of the case, failed to promptly comply with the clients' reasonable requests for information, and neglected the clients' legal matter.

Russell violated Rules 1.01(b)(1) and 1.03(a). He was ordered to pay \$2,700 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On June 21, 2017, **Joe Steven Sharp** [#24028929], 56, of Amarillo, received a nine-month active suspension effective September 1, 2016. The 181st District Court of Randall County found that upon the conclusion of his client's contingent fee matter, Sharp failed to provide his client with an accounting. In addition, Sharp failed to hold funds belonging in whole or in part to his client that were in Sharp's possession in connection with the representation separate from his own property.

Sharp violated Rules 1.04(d) and 1.14(a). He was ordered to pay \$4,000 in restitution and \$2,463.37 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On May 18, 2017, **D. Kristine Skocpol-Saleh** [#24066713], 42, of Hamilton, received a four-year partially probated suspension effective May 8, 2017, with the first 18 months actively served and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 8 Grievance Committee found that Skocpol-Saleh failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information from her client, failed to appear at two separate hearings in the case, and then failed to appear for a status conference. The court then issued an order to appear and show cause why monetary sanctions should not be imposed

against Skocpol-Saleh and/or why she should not be disciplined for failing to represent her client at three hearings. As a result of the show cause hearing, the court issued an order requiring disgorgement of attorneys' fees and imposing restrictions on Skocpol-Saleh's continued practice in the bankruptcy courts.

Skocpol-Saleh violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), and 3.04(d). She was ordered to pay \$4,313.46 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On May 30, 2017, **Robert Ernest Williams II** [#24085659], 35, of Houston, accepted a three-month fully probated suspension effective June 1, 2017. An evidentiary panel of the District 11 Grievance Committee found that Williams failed to keep a client reasonably informed, failed to return the unearned portion of a fee in a timely fashion, and failed to respond to the grievance.

Williams violated Rules 1.03(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8).

On June 1, 2017, **Burt Lee Burnett** [#00787171], 50, of Abilene, received a one-year active suspension effective June 1, 2017. An evidentiary panel of the District 14 Grievance Committee found that Burnett failed to hold funds belonging in whole or in part to a client that were in Burnett's possession in connection with a representation separate from his own property.

Burnett violated Rule 1.14(a). He was ordered to pay \$2,755.01 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On July 13, 2017, **Ray Fisher** [#07057400], 64, of Austin, received a four-year partially probated suspension effective September 1, 2017, with the first six months actively served and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 9 Grievance Committee found that Fisher failed to

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return a file or any unearned fees.

Fisher violated Rules 1.01(b)(1) and 1.15(d). He was ordered to pay \$2,500 in restitution and \$941.92 in attorneys' fees and expenses.

On July 20, 2017, **Paul Steven Jacobs** [#10520600], 58, of Houston, accepted an 18-month partially probated suspension, effective October 15, 2017, with the first three months actively served and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that Jacobs failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information from clients about their legal matters and failed to explain the status of their legal matters to the extent reasonably necessary to permit them to make informed decisions regarding their representation.

Jacobs violated Rules 1.03(a) and 1.03(b). He was ordered to pay \$100 in restitution and \$3,326.43 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

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On May 30, 2017, **Wade Travis Kricken** [#24034527], 41, of Prosper, received a one-year fully probated suspension effective June 1, 2017. An evidentiary panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that Kricken filed frivolous actions on behalf of debtors in bankruptcy court without the debtors' knowledge or consent, knowingly made false statements of material fact to a third person, and used means that had no substantial purpose other than to delay a third person.

Kricken violated Rules 3.01, 4.01(a), and 4.04(a). He was ordered to pay \$3,222.50 in attorneys' fees and \$380.50 in direct expenses.

On July 20, 2017, **James Edward Lucas** [#24011140], 54, of Corpus Christi, accepted a six-month fully probated suspension, effective July 1, 2017. An evidentiary panel of the District 11 Grievance Committee found that Lucas neglected a client's

matter, failed to keep a client reasonably informed, and failed to respond to the grievance.

Lucas violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$1,000 in restitution and \$400 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On May 16, 2017, **Todd Brantley Turner** [#24029873], 43, of Dallas, received a two-year partially probated suspension effective July 1, 2017, with the first year actively served and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that Turner failed to keep his clients reasonably informed and promptly comply with their requests for information about the status of their legal matters, failed to reduce the contingency fee agreement entered into with his clients relative to their personal injury matter to writing, failed to safeguard client funds, failed to promptly deliver to a client and medical provider those funds to which they were entitled to receive, and engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation.

Turner violated Rules 1.03(a), 1.04(d), 1.14(a), 1.14(b), and 8.04(a)(3). He was ordered to pay \$12,331.52 and \$4,193 in restitution.

PRIVATE REPRIMANDS

Listed here is a breakdown of Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct violations for 15 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 (2).

1.01(b)(2)—for failing to carry out completely the obligations owed to a client (1).

1.02(a)(1)—for failing to abide by a client's decisions concerning the objectives and general methods of representation (2).

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 (10).

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1.03(b)—for failing to explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding representation (2).

1.09(a)(3)—Without prior consent, a lawyer who personally had formerly represented a client in a matter shall not thereafter represent another person in a matter adverse to the former client: if it is the same or a substantially related matter (1).

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 (1).

1.15(b)(1)—A lawyer shall not withdraw from representing a client unless withdrawal can be accomplished without material adverse effect on the interests of the client (1).

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 fees that have not been earned. The lawyer may retain papers relating to the client to the extent permitted by other law only if such retention will prejudice the client in the subject matter of the representation (1).

3.02—In the course of litigation, 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 (1).

8.04(a)(8)—for failing to timely furnish to a district grievance committee a response or other information as required unless he or she timely asserts a privilege or other legal ground for failure to do so (3). **TBJ**

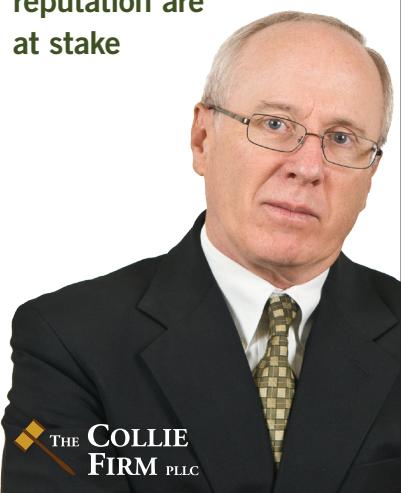
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