

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.

REINSTATEMENTS

Eric Paul Gifford [#00796628], 51, of Anna, filed a petition in the 416th District Court of Collin County for reinstatement as a member of the State Bar of Texas.

Larry Don Goodwyn [#08188150], 59, of Allen, filed a petition in the 296th District Court of Collin County for reinstatement as a member of the State Bar of Texas.

DISBARMENTS

On April 10, 2018, **D. Kristine Skocpol-Saleh** [#24066713], 43, of Hamilton, was disbarred. An evidentiary panel of the District 8 Grievance Committee found that on or about January 6, 2015, Skocpol-Saleh was paid \$500 to represent a complainant to draft and file an affidavit with the

Texas Tomorrow Fund so the complainant could obtain money from the account. Skocpol-Saleh failed to prepare or file the affidavit. The complainant made repeated attempts to contact Skocpol-Saleh by text, email, and telephone but Skocpol-Saleh failed to respond. The complainant terminated the representation and requested a refund of unearned fees, but Skocpol-Saleh refused to return any fees. Skocpol-Saleh further failed to furnish a written response to the complaint as directed.

Skocpol-Saleh violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct and Article X Section 9 of the State Bar Rules. She was ordered to pay \$500 in restitution and \$2,569.96 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

SUSPENSIONS

On May 15, 2018, **Rosendo Almaraz Jr.** [#24010645], 44, of McAllen, agreed to a one-year fully probated suspension effective May 15, 2018. The 206th District Court of Hidalgo County found that Almaraz violated Rule 5.03(a) [A lawyer having direct supervisory authority over the non-lawyer shall make reasonable efforts to ensure that the person's conduct is compatible with the professional obligations of the lawyer].

Almaraz violated Rule 5.03(a). He was ordered to pay \$2,500 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On May 29, 2018, **Jeanne Louise Blomster** [#02501850], 53, of San Antonio, accepted a one-year fully probated suspension effective July 1, 2018. An evidentiary panel of the District 10 Grievance Committee found

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

that Blomster failed to keep a client's funds in a trust account.

Blomster violated Rules 1.14(a) and 1.14(b). She was ordered to pay \$800 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On April 25, 2018, **Keith Best Dunbar** [#24010802], 53, of Texarkana, received a 12-month fully probated suspension effective May 1, 2018. An evidentiary panel of the District 1 Grievance Committee found that Dunbar failed to hold funds belonging to a third party, which were in Dunbar's possession in connection with the representation, separate from Dunbar's own property. Dunbar failed to promptly render a full accounting regarding such funds.

Dunbar violated Rules 1.14(a) and 1.14(b). He was ordered to pay \$3,079.84 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On May 2, 2018, **Floyd L. Lamrouex** [#11854900], 57, of San Antonio, agreed to an eight-month fully probated suspension effective June 15, 2018. An evidentiary panel of the District 10 Grievance

Committee found that Lamrouex failed to keep a client reasonably informed and failed to respond to two grievances.

Lamrouex violated Rules 1.03(a) and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$800 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On April 30, 2018, **Sylvia Griffith Sanders** [#17608510], 81, of Austin, accepted a three-year fully probated suspension effective June 1, 2018. An evidentiary panel of the District 9 Grievance Committee found that Sanders was appointed to represent a defendant in two misdemeanor cases. The defendant was incarcerated and Sanders was to resolve the misdemeanor cases by plea in absentia. The respondent attempted to present the plea in Travis County Court at Law No. 7; however, court staff discovered the defendant had not signed two required documents. The presiding judge refused to accept the plea without the defendant's signature. Sanders obtained the necessary forms, signed the defendant's name on the affidavit and certification, and presented

the documents to a different court, Travis County Court at Law No. 9.

Sanders violated Rules 3.03(a)(1) and 8.04(a)(3). She was ordered to pay \$1,809.10 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On April 30, 2018, **Tony L. Schaffer** [#17720880], 56, of Austin, accepted a three-month fully probated suspension effective May 1, 2018. An evidentiary panel of the District 9 Grievance Committee found that a complainant hired Schaffer to represent her in a contested probate matter. A lawsuit was filed against the complainant with a notice of lis pendens against the complainant's homestead. An agreement was reached that released the lis pendens on the condition that the complainant place \$15,000 in Schaffer's IOLTA account until the probate dispute was resolved. The \$15,000 was wired to Schaffer's IOLTA account on behalf of the complainant and later the parties signed a settlement agreement authorizing Schaffer to release the escrowed \$15,000.

*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

ATTORNEY GRIEVANCE & CRIMINAL DEFENSE FEDERAL AND STATE



JIM BURNHAM

Former Chairman of the State Bar
District 6 Grievance Committee

Former President of the Dallas Bar
Association

Former Dallas Assistant District
Attorney

Dallas Bar Association Trial Lawyer
of the Year

Fellow of the American College of
Trial Lawyers

Law Offices of Jim Burnham
6116 N. Central Expy. Ste. 515
Dallas, Texas 75206
www.jburnhamlaw.com
jim@jburnhamlaw.com
Office: (214) 750-6616

Representing Attorneys **Gaines West**

State-wide Practice

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
Austin Bar Association, Member



**WEST • WEBB
ALLBRITTON
& GENTRY**

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

Austin – By Appointment – 512.501.3617

1012 Rio Grande St. • Austin, TX 78701

westwebblaw.com

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Because Schaffer maintained that the complainant had agreed to allow him to put the \$15,000 toward his outstanding attorneys' fees, Schaffer wired only \$3,965 to the complainant. The complainant denies that she ever agreed to allow Schaffer to use any of the \$15,000. The complainant made numerous requests for Schaffer to deliver the remaining escrow funds to her. Schaffer failed to respond to requests and did not deliver the remainder of the escrowed funds, in the amount of \$11,035, to the complainant.

Schaffer violated Rules 1.03(a) and 1.14(b). He was ordered to pay \$11,000 in restitution and \$1,809.10 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On April 19, 2018, **Douglas Matthew McMaster** [#13786020], 55, of Brownsville, agreed to a three-year partially probated suspension effective July 31, 2018, with the first two months actively served and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 12 Grievance Committee found that McMaster failed to return the unearned portion of

a fee to two clients.

McMaster violated Rule 1.15(d). He was ordered to pay \$5,150 in restitution and \$800 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On May 10, 2018, **Tamer Farouk Morsi** [#24041530], 45, of San Antonio, agreed to a four-year partially probated suspension effective November 30, 2018, with the first three months actively served and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 10 Grievance Committee found that Morsi failed to provide a full accounting of funds to his client in a timely fashion and failed to refund the unearned portion of the fees.

Morsi violated Rules 1.14(b) and 1.15(d). He was ordered to pay \$2,750 in restitution and \$400 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On May 10, 2018, **Tamer Farouk Morsi** [#24041530], 45, of San Antonio, agreed to a two-year partially probated suspension effective August 31, 2018, with the first three months actively served

and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 10 Grievance Committee found that Morsi neglected a client's matter, failed to keep a client reasonably informed, failed to refund the unearned portion of fees, and failed to respond to the grievance.

Morsi violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), and 8.4(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$2,500 in restitution and \$400 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On March 28, 2018, **Daniella Nicole Tiller** [#24073601], 36, of Houston received a 24-month partially probated suspension effective April 2, 2018, with the first 180 days actively served and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that Tiller neglected the legal matter entrusted to her, failed to keep her client reasonably informed, failed to timely furnish a response to the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel as required by the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, and engaged in the practice of law while she was

NED BARNETT



CRIMINAL DEFENSE

Defending Texans Since 1994

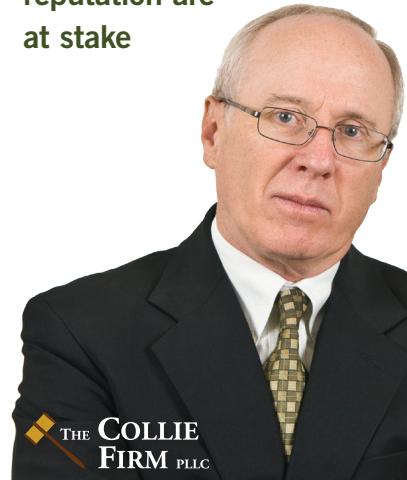
Former Assistant United States Attorney
Former Assistant District Attorney
Founding Member of the National College of DUI Defense
of Counsel Williams Kherkher Hart Boundas, LLP

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

GRIEVANCE DEFENSE

When your license, livelihood, and reputation are at stake



THE COLLIE FIRM PLLC

GRiffin W. COLLIE
2514 BOLL STREET
DALLAS, TEXAS 75204
214.484.4323 PHONE
www.grievancedefensetexas.com



administratively suspended.

Tiller violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 8.04(a)(8), and 8.04(a)(11). She was ordered to pay \$1,325 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

PUBLIC REPRIMANDS

On March 19, 2018, **Melynda G. Pearson** [#00787534], 49, of Texarkana, received a judgment of public reprimand. An evidentiary panel of the District 1 Grievance Committee found that Pearson failed to timely furnish to the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel a response and failed to timely assert a privilege or other legal ground for failure to do so.

Pearson violated Rule 8.04(a)(8). She was ordered to pay \$1,410 in attorneys' fees and \$632 in direct expenses.

On May 24, 2018, **Vernard Solomon** [#18835000], 74, of Marshall, received an agreed judgment of public reprimand. An evidentiary panel of the District 1 Grievance Committee found that Solomon failed to keep his client reasonably informed about the status of the client's legal matter and failed to promptly comply with the client's reasonable requests for information about the case. Solomon also failed to explain the legal matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation and failed to furnish a timely response to the grievance.

Solomon violated Rules 1.03(a), 1.03(b), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$900 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On March 29, 2018, **Sharon Lynn Wilson** [#24070862], 39, of Denton, received a judgment of public reprimand. An evidentiary panel of the District 14 Grievance Committee found that in representing a client, Wilson neglected the legal matter entrusted to her, failed to keep the client reasonably informed about the status of her legal matter, failed to promptly comply with the client's reasonable requests for information, failed to withdraw from the representation upon being discharged, failed to return the client's file and any unearned fees, and failed to respond to the client's grievance.

Wilson violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(a)(3), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8).

She was ordered to pay \$1,000 in restitution and \$1,500 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

PRIVATE REPRIMANDS

Listed here is a breakdown of Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct violations for three attorneys, with the number in parentheses indicating the frequency of the 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 (1).

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

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 (1). **TBJ**

Cyber
coverage
now included
with our
malpractice
policy.

OVER 38 YEARS SUPPORTING TEXAS LAWYERS



TLIE.org / info@tlie.org / (512) 480-9074