

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

Mikel Peter Eggert [#24030354], 45, of Austin, filed a petition in the 425th Judicial District Court of Williamson County for reinstatement as a member of the State Bar of Texas.

Monica Yvette Sutton [#798535], 49, of Missouri City, filed a petition in the 400th Judicial District Court of Fort Bend County for reinstatement as a member of the State Bar of Texas.

RESIGNATIONS

On November 8, 2018, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation, in lieu of discipline, of **Ronald W. Danforth** [#05352970], 55, of McKinney. At the time of Danforth's resignation, there were two pending matters against him. On September 1, 2017, Danforth

was suspended from the practice of law for failure to pay required fees after receiving mailed and emailed notices regarding his delinquency. Despite having a suspended law license, Danforth contacted the Denton County District Attorney on September 5, 2017, and September 6, 2017, to request discovery on behalf of his client in Case No. F17-628-211 pending in Denton County, Texas. In the second matter, in July 2017, Danforth represented a client in Cause No. 04-TR17-02294 pending in Collin County. The client provided funds to Danforth to settle the case and Danforth failed to safeguard the client's funds. Danforth also failed to return or refund the funds to the client.

Danforth violated Rules 1.14(a), 1.14(b), and 8.04(a)(11).

On November 8, 2018, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation, in lieu of discipline, of **Tamer Farouk Morsi** [#24041530], 45, of San Antonio. At the time of the resignation, there were six disciplinary actions pending alleging Morsi neglected clients' matters, failed to communicate with clients, violated trust account rules, failed to return unearned fees, violated a prior disciplinary judgment, and failed to respond to grievances.

Morsi violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.03(b), 1.14(a), 1.14(b), 1.14(c), 1.15(d), 3.04(d), 8.04(a)(7), and 8.04(a)(8).

On November 8, 2018, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation, in lieu of discipline, of **J. Esequiel Ramos Jr.** [#16508030], 59, of Corpus Christi. At the time of the resignation, there were three disciplinary actions pending alleging Ramos neglected clients' matters, failed to communicate with clients, accepted employment in legal matters beyond his competence, failed to supervise his non-lawyer staff, permitted the conduct of a non-lawyer to be in violation of disciplinary rules, violated trust account rules, and shared legal fees with a non-lawyer.

Ramos violated Rules 1.01(a), 1.03(a), 1.03(b), 1.14(a), 1.15(d), 5.03(a), and 5.04(a).

SUSPENSIONS

On November 16, 2018, **Charles Earl Blevins** [#24077261], 37, of Lubbock, agreed to a six-month fully probated suspension effective December 1, 2018. An evidentiary panel of the District 16 Grievance Committee found that Blevins neglected a client's matter, failed to keep a client reasonably informed, and failed to return the unearned portion of a fee.

Blevins violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), and 1.15(d). He was ordered to pay \$1,600 in restitution and \$400 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On August 20, 2018, **Simeon Olumide**

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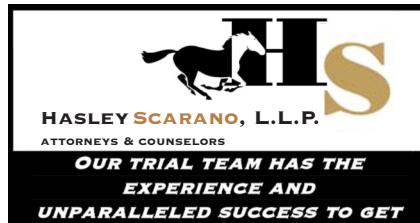
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Coker [#24049013], 42, of Dallas, received a 36-month active suspension effective October 1, 2018. The 191st District Court of Dallas County found that Coker committed professional misconduct by violating Rules 1.01(b)(1) [In representing a client, a lawyer shall not neglect a legal matter entrusted to the lawyer], 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], and 3.04(d) [A lawyer shall not knowingly disobey, or advise the client to disobey, an obligation under the standing rules of or a ruling by a tribunal except for an open refusal based either on an assertion that no valid obligation exists or on the client's willingness to accept any sanctions arising from such disobedience].

Coker was ordered to pay \$5,012.31 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses. He filed an appeal on November 15, 2018.

On October 23, 2018, **Afton Jane Izen** [#10443400], 69, of Houston, received a 24-month partially probated suspension effective November 1, 2018, with the first six months actively served and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that Izen failed to keep her client reasonably informed about the status of the case and failed to explain matters to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation. Upon termination of the representation, Izen failed to take steps to the extent reasonably practicable to protect her client's interests, such as surrendering the client file.

Izen violated Rules 1.03(a), 1.03(b), and 1.15(d). She was ordered to pay \$3,475 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On November 26, 2018, **Jenna Jae Martin** [#24074655], 33, of Abilene, agreed to a 12-month fully probated suspension effective December 1, 2018.

An evidentiary panel of the District 14 Grievance Committee found that during the course of representing complainants she neglected the legal matters entrusted to her, failed to keep the complainants reasonably informed about the status of their cases, and failed to promptly comply with the complainants' reasonable requests for information. Upon termination of representation, Martin failed to surrender papers and property to which the complainants were entitled. Martin also frequently failed to carry out completely the obligations she owed to one complainant by failing to set a hearing on a motion filed on the complainant's behalf.

Martin violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.01(b)(2), 1.03(a), and 1.15(d). She was ordered to pay \$2,901 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On November 26, 2018, **Jenna Jae Martin** [#24074655], 33, of Abilene, agreed to a 12-month fully probated

suspension effective December 1, 2018. An evidentiary panel of the District 14 Grievance Committee found that on February 17, 2017, a complainant hired Martin to represent her and her husband in an adoption matter. In representing the complainant, Martin neglected the legal matter entrusted to her, failed to keep the complainant reasonably informed about the status of her case, and failed to promptly comply with the complainant's reasonable requests for information about her case. Upon termination of representation, Martin failed to surrender papers and property to which the complainant was entitled. Martin also failed to respond to the grievance that the complainant filed against her.

Martin violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8). She was ordered to pay \$949.50 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On November 20, 2018, **Robert A.**

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DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

McAllister Jr. [#13320700], 69, of Houston, received a six-month fully probated suspension effective December 1, 2018. The 55th District Court of Harris County found that McAllister violated Rule 5.04(a) [prohibiting a lawyer from sharing or promising to share legal fees with a non-lawyer].

McAllister was ordered to pay \$3,000 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On October 11, 2018, **Stuart R. Oliphint** [#00789526], 59, of Fort Worth, received a 12-month fully probated suspension effective November 1, 2018. An evidentiary panel of the District 7 Grievance Committee found that in 2010, a complainant retained Oliphint to represent her in an uncontested divorce. In representing the complainant, Oliphint frequently failed to carry out completely the obligations he owed to the complainant by failing to obtain the divorce for the

complainant. Oliphint failed to keep the complainant reasonably informed about the status of her case and failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information from the complainant. Further, Oliphint failed to timely furnish to the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel a response or other information as required or timely assert a privilege or other legal ground for failure to do so.

Oliphint violated Rules 1.01(b)(2), 1.03(a), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$1,500 in restitution and \$750 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On November 14, 2018, **Kirby Jerome Portley** [#24085865], 34, of Austin, agreed to a one-year fully probated suspension effective November 15, 2018. An evidentiary panel of the District 10 Grievance Committee found that Portley dismissed clients' lawsuit without the clients' consent, failed to keep

the clients reasonably informed, and failed to promptly respond to reasonable requests for information from clients.

Portley violated Rules 1.02(a)(2), 1.03(a), and 1.03(b). He was ordered to pay \$1,600 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 nine 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 (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 (3).

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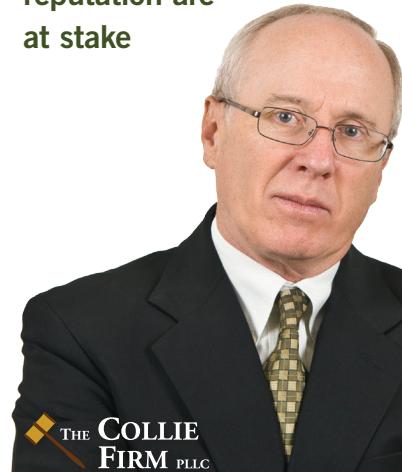
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1.08(g)—a lawyer shall not make an agreement prospectively limiting the lawyer's liability to a client for malpractice unless permitted by law and the client is independently represented in making the agreement, or settle a claim for such liability with an unrepresented client or former client without first advising that person in writing that independent representation is appropriate in connection therewith (1).

1.14(a)—for failing to hold funds and other property belonging in whole or in part to clients or third persons that are in a lawyer's possession in connection with a representation separate from the lawyer's own property (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(d)—upon termination of rep-

resentation, 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 (2).

8.04(a)(3)—for engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation (1).

8.04(a)(11)—for engaging in the practice of law when the lawyer is on inactive status or when the lawyer's right to practice has been suspended or terminated, including but not limited to situations where a lawyer's right to practice has been administratively suspended for failure to timely pay required fees or assessments or for failure to comply with Article XII of the State Bar Rules relating to mandatory continuing legal education (1). **TBJ**

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