



DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

General questions regarding attorney discipline should be directed to the Chief Disciplinary Counsel's Office, toll-free (877)953-5535 or (512)453-5535. The Board of Disciplinary Appeals may be reached at (512)475-1578. Information and copies of actual orders are available at www.txboda.org. The State Commission on Judicial Conduct may be contacted toll-free, (877)228-5750 or (512)463-5533. Please note that persons disciplined by the Commission on Judicial Conduct are not necessarily licensed attorneys.

BODA ACTIONS

On Aug. 21, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed a final judgment suspending **Eddie Michael Pope** [#16135500], 58, of Austin, from the practice of law. Pope pleaded guilty to possession of obscene material with intent to promote in violation of Texas Penal Code §42.23(c), enhanced to a state jail felony by Texas Penal Code §43.23(h)(1), intentional crimes as defined in the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, in Cause No. 9040440

styled, *The State of Texas v. Eddie Michael Pope*, in the 147th Judicial District Court of Travis County. Pope received deferred adjudication, a term of four years of community supervision. Pope is suspended from the practice of law for the term of deferred adjudication. The Board issued an opinion in this matter. It can be found on the Board's web site: www.txboda.org. BODA cause number 41472.

On Aug. 21, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals affirmed the judgment of partially probated suspension of **Boma O. Allison** [#24006243], 51, of Houston, signed by an evidentiary panel of the District 4-D Grievance Committee in Case No. H0120419086 on Aug. 17, 2007. The Board issued an opinion in this matter. It can be found on the Board's web site. BODA cause number 40157.

On Aug. 21, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals affirmed the judgment of public reprimand of **Betty Stovall "Kit" Clark** [#04271420], 70, of Houston, signed by an evidentiary panel of the District 4-E Grievance Committee in Case No. H0100521309 on Nov. 5, 2007. The Board issued an opinion in this matter. It can be found on the Board's web site. BODA cause number 41317.

On Aug. 26, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed a judgment disbarring **Wendell Conn Radford, Jr.** [#16455520], 43, of Boston, Mass., from the practice of law. Radford pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit mail fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. §371, an intentional crime as defined in the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, in Cause No. 1:06CR00163-001 styled, *United States of America v. Wendell "Chip"*

Radford, Jr., in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, Beaumont Division. Radford was sentenced to a term of imprisonment of five months, followed by home detention for five months and supervised release for two years. In addition, Radford was ordered to perform 300 hours of community service and pay \$393,422.53 in restitution and an assessment of \$100. BODA cause number 42611.

On Aug. 26, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed a judgment disbarring **Steve Sims** [#18427500], 51, of Tyler, from the practice of law. Sims pleaded guilty to misapplication of fiduciary/financial property of an elderly person in violation of Texas Penal Code §32.45, an intentional crime as defined in the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, in Case No. 241-0794-08, styled, *The State of Texas v. Steven Ray Sims*, in the 241st District Court of Smith County. On May 28, an order of deferred adjudication was signed and Sims was placed on community supervision for five years, ordered to perform 400 hours of community service, and pay \$60,000 in restitution, plus an additional amount to be determined. BODA cause number 42613.

On Aug. 26, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed a final judgment disbarring **James Jeffery Crook** [#05111000], 70, of El Paso. On Nov. 26, 2002, the Board signed an interlocutory order suspending Crook from the practice of law pending the appeal of his criminal conviction for 13 counts of barratry in violation of Texas Penal Code §38.12, an intentional crime as defined in the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, in Cause No. 20010D03480

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styled, *The State of Texas v. James Crook*, in the 383rd District Court of El Paso County. Crook was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment. The sentence was suspended and Crook was placed on seven years of community supervision. In addition, he was fined \$10,000 and ordered to pay \$211.25 in court costs. On June 30, 2005, the 8th Court of Appeals affirmed Crook's conviction. On Feb. 6, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals affirmed the decision of the 8th Court of Appeals and the conviction was final. BODA cause number 27195.

On Aug. 26, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed a final judgment disbaring **Craig Bryan Sokolow** [#18824600], 57, of Wayne, Pa. On Oct. 3, 1995, the Board signed an interlocutory order suspending Sokolow from the practice of law, pending the appeal of his criminal conviction for 107 counts of mail fraud, aiding and abetting in violation of 18 U.S.C. §1341, and 17 counts of engaging in monetary actions in property derived from specified unlawful activity, aiding and abetting in violation of 18 U.S.C. §1957(a), intentional crimes as defined in the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, in Cause No. 2:93CR00394-1 styled, *United States of America v. Craig B. Sokolow*, in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Sokolow was sentenced to five years' imprisonment for counts 1-3, 5-76, and 94-125 and to 92 months' imprisonment for counts 126-142, all sentences to run concurrently, to be followed by supervised release for three years. In addition, he was ordered to pay \$690,246.34 in restitution, fined \$50,000, and barred from being an attorney, consultant, officer, or an employee of any health insurance program. On July 26, 1996, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit affirmed Sokolow's conviction and issued its mandate on Sept. 24, 1996. Sokolow's disbarment is retroactive to the date that the criminal conviction was made final on Sept. 24, 1996. BODA cause number 07285.

On July 23, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed an agreed judgment of probated suspension against **David Michael Koppa** [#11679950], 49, of Colorado Springs, Colo. On May 15, the Supreme Court of Colorado entered an order approving conditional admission of misconduct and imposing sanctions pursuant to C.R.C.P 251.22 against Koppa. He was suspended from the practice of law in Colorado for nine months probated for one year. In accordance with Part IX of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, Koppa is suspended from the practice of law in Texas for nine months beginning July 23 and ending April 22, 2009. BODA cause number 42705.

On Sept. 2, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals dismissed for want of prosecution the appeal of **Steven Jay Rozan** [#17357000], 65, of Houston, of a judgment of public reprimand signed by an evidentiary panel of the District 4-A Grievance Committee in Case Nos. H0040519931 and H0040622285 on Oct. 31, 2007. The Board found that Rozan did not file a reporter's record or a brief. The Board issued an order to show cause to Rozan on April 21, giving him 30 days to respond and show cause as to why the appeal should not be dismissed for want of prosecution. Rozan did not respond. BODA cause numbers 41111 and 41134.

On Sept. 2, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals dismissed for want of prosecution the appeal of **Rosalind A. Kelly** [#11237580], 45, of Dallas, of a judgment of a partially probated suspension signed by an evidentiary panel of the District 6-A Grievance Committee in Case No. D0020628867 on Sept. 7, 2007. The Board found that Kelly did not file a reporter's record or a brief. The Board issued an order to show cause to Kelly on April 21, giving her 30 days to respond and show cause as to why the appeal should not be dismissed for want of prosecution. Kelly did not respond. BODA cause number 41188.

On Sept. 2, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals dismissed for want of prosecution the appeal of **David Norman Getz** [#00784123], 51, of Lubbock, of a judgment of a partially probated suspension signed by an evidentiary panel of the District 16-A Grievance Committee in Case No. S0120617846 on Dec. 5, 2007. The Board found that Getz did not file a reporter's record or a brief. The Board issued an order to show cause to Getz on April 21, giving him 30 days to respond and show cause as to why the appeal should not be dismissed for want of prosecution. Getz did not respond. BODA cause number 41452.

On Oct. 8, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed a judgment disbaring **Sheila Wharton** [#21243600], 61, of Shreveport, La. On Sept. 14, 2007, the

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Supreme Court of Louisiana disbarred Wharton in Cause No. 2007-B-0556. In accordance with Part IX of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, Wharton is disbarred. BODA cause number 42677.

On Oct. 8, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed an interlocutory order of suspension against **Galen Ray Sumrow** [#19511375], 58, of Rockwall. On June 11, Sumrow was convicted of theft by a public servant, in violation of Texas Penal Code §39.02, an intentional crime as defined in the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, in Cause No. 02-07-631 styled, *The State of Texas v. Galen Ray Sumrow*, in the 382nd District Court of Rockwall County. Sumrow was sentenced to 15 years in the institutional division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Sumrow has appealed

the conviction. The Board retains jurisdiction to enter a final judgment when the criminal appeal is final. Sumrow did not answer the petition for compulsory discipline or appear at the hearing. BODA cause number 42678.

On Oct. 8, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed a judgment disbaring **William John Aubrey** [#01428525], 60, of Lafayette, La. On Sept. 14, 2007, the Supreme Court of Louisiana permanently disbarred Aubrey in Case No. 2006-B-0004. In accordance with Part IX of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, Aubrey is disbarred. BODA cause number 42676.

On Oct. 8, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed an interlocutory order of suspension against **Helen Tyne Mayfield** [#24014721], 60, of Houston. On July 30, Mayfield was convicted of three counts of forgery of a financial instrument, in violation of Texas Penal Code §32.21(d), an intentional crime as defined in the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, in Case No. 07-05453-CRF-361 styled, *The State of Texas v. Helen Mayfield*, in the 361st District Court of Brazos County, and three counts of forgery of a financial instrument, in violation of Texas Penal Code §32.21(d), in Case No. 07-05454-CRF-361 styled, *The State of Texas v. Helen Mayfield*, in the 361st District Court of Brazos County. Mayfield was sentenced to two years in the institutional division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for each count, the sentences to run concurrently. Mayfield has appealed the conviction. The Board retains jurisdiction to enter a final judgment when the criminal appeal is final. Mayfield did not answer the petition for compulsory discipline or appear at the hearing. BODA cause number 42845.

On Oct. 8, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals affirmed the modified judgment of partially probated suspension of **John R. Perry** [#15803100], 56, of Corpus

Christi, signed by an evidentiary panel of the District 11-A Grievance Committee in Case No. S0120516179 on Nov. 29, 2007. BODA cause number 41426.

DISBARMENTS

On July 11, **D. Keith Larson** [#11956700], 58, of Houston, was disbarred. An evidentiary panel of the District 4-E Grievance Committee found that Larson was hired by his client to file divorce proceedings. Larson neglected his client's case, failing to perfect service of process on the opposing party. The case was set for trial or dismissal. Larson failed to appear at the setting and failed to notify his client. The case was dismissed for want of prosecution. Larson failed to communicate with his client, failed to explain matters concerning her case, and failed to keep her reasonably informed as to the status of the case. Larson failed to provide the Chief Disciplinary Counsel's office with a written response to the grievance.

Larson violated Rules 1.01(b)(1) and (b)(2), 1.03(a) and (b), 8.01(b), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$450 in restitution and \$1,957.17 in attorney's fees and costs.

On July 28, **Bobby Hugh Caldwell** [#03615000], 74, of Houston, was disbarred. The 55th District Court of Harris County found that Caldwell was hired for representation in a personal injury matter, but failed to take any action on behalf of his client and let the statute of limitations run out. Caldwell also failed to respond to his client's numerous requests for information regarding the status of her case. Caldwell further failed to file a response to the grievance.

Caldwell violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$975 in attorney's fees.

RESIGNATIONS

On Aug. 12, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation, in lieu of discipline, of **James W. Spradling II**

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[#24031363], 55, of Bossier City, La. The Court found that on Jan. 26, 2007, the Supreme Court of Louisiana entered an order disbaring Spradling in Case No. 06-B-1971, styled *In Re: James Wallace Spradling II*. As a result, Spradling would be subject to Reciprocal Discipline under Part IX of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

SUSPENSIONS

On June 25, **Edward Wachendorfer** [#20625560], 46, of Dallas, received a six-month, fully probated suspension effective July 1. An evidentiary panel of the District 6-A Grievance Committee found that in May 2006, the complainant retained Wachendorfer to pursue collection actions on several unpaid accounts for the complainant's company. Wachendorfer failed to subsequently file the necessary lawsuits to collect the debts on behalf of the company, however. Consequently, the complainant instructed Wachendorfer to forward the files to new counsel hired to take over the matters. Wachendorfer failed to forward the files as requested, however. Instead, he filed seven lawsuits in a justice of the peace court. Wachendorfer was administratively suspended from practicing law at the time.

Wachendorfer violated Rules 1.01(b)(1) and 8.04(a)(11). He was ordered to pay \$2,205 in attorney's fees.

On Aug. 7, **Bashist M. Sharma** [#00789824], 51, of Houston, accepted a one-year, fully probated suspension effective Aug. 1. An evidentiary panel of the District 4-D Grievance Committee found that Sharma was hired to represent his client regarding a child support modification matter. In 2005, the parties entered an agreed order that increased the child support retroactively and provided for unreimbursed medical expenses and attorney's fees. Both the ongoing child support and the installment payment that included child support arrearages, unreimbursed medical expenses, and attorney's fees were to be paid

through the Texas Child Support Disbursement Unit and then forwarded to the client. A wage withholding order was also entered with the same provisions as the judgment. However, opposing counsel sent the installment payments directly to Sharma, bypassing the Disbursement Unit. Sharma accepted the payments and did not reimburse his client in the amount of \$1,725 until 2008.

Sharma violated Rules 1.08(e) and 3.04(d). He agreed to pay \$4,631 in attorney's fees and costs.

On July 31, **Warren Reid Williamson** [#21628400], 56, of Houston, received an immediate interim suspension effective Aug. 1. The 234th District Court of Harris County ordered the suspension pending the final disposition of an underlying criminal indictment. Williamson may not accept any new client matters, hold himself out as an attorney at law, perform any legal service for others, accept any fee directly or indirectly for legal services, or appear as counsel in a proceeding in any Texas court or before any Texas administrative body.

On April 16, **Timothy Spencer Corwin** [#04846800], 42, of Waco, was given a four and a half-year, partially probated suspension effective April 15, with the first year and a half actively served and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 8-B Grievance Committee found that in a probated matter, Corwin failed to communicate with his client, neglected the legal matter, failed to carry out the obligations he owed to his client, and failed to keep his client reasonably informed about the status of his case. Corwin further failed to furnish a response to the complaint to the Chief Disciplinary Counsel's office.

In a second matter involving a criminal representation, Corwin failed to communicate with his client, failed to carry out the obligations he owed to his client, neglected the legal matter, failed

to keep his client reasonably informed about his legal matter, and failed to return unearned fees.

In a third case involving child custody, Corwin failed to respond to reasonable requests for information from his client and failed to carry out the obligations he owed to his client, and upon termination, Corwin failed to return unearned fees and the client's file.

In a fourth case involving a business matter, Corwin neglected the legal matter, failed to keep the client reasonably informed about the case, failed to respond to reasonable requests for information about the status of the case, and upon termination, failed to return unearned fees.

In a fifth matter involving employment law, Corwin failed to communicate with his client, failed to keep his

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client informed about the status of the case, failed to respond to reasonable requests for information, and neglected the legal matter.

In a sixth matter involving criminal case, Corwin neglected the legal matter, failed to respond to reasonable requests for information, and failed to refund unearned fees.

Corwin violated Rules 1.01(b)(1) and (b)(2), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(1) and (a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$5,680 in restitution and \$6,516.73 in attorney's fees and costs.

On Aug. 8, **Robert K. Keim** [#11184000], 65, of Houston, received a one-year, fully probated suspension effective Sept. 1. The District 4-C Grievance Committee found Keim failed to hold client funds in trust and deliver

those funds to the person entitled to receive them and failed to render a complete accounting of the funds he had received.

Keim violated Rules 1.14(b) and (c). He was ordered to pay \$14,568.50 in restitution and \$3,500 in attorney's fees and expenses.

On April 28, **William James Sames III** [#17555000], 80, of Lufkin, received a five-year, active suspension effective April 28. The District 2-B Grievance Committee found that in multiple bankruptcy representations, Sames neglected the representations; failed to pay filing fees after having collected fees and expenses from his clients, resulting in the dismissal of his clients' bankruptcy petitions; and failed to properly report fees and expenses paid to him by clients,

resulting in receipt of duplicate fees.

Sames violated Rules 1.01(b)(1) and (b)(2), 1.04(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(3). He was ordered to pay \$22,963.42 in restitution and \$6,932.50 in attorney's fees and expenses.

On Aug. 25, **Lee Alexander Magness** [#00795495], 44, of Houston, received an interim suspension effective Aug. 26. The 11th District Court of Harris County ordered the suspension pending the final disposition of disciplinary proceedings against Magness. Magness was convicted of misapplication of fiduciary property and, on Aug. 21, was sentenced to 10 years in the institutional division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Magness may not accept any new client matters, hold himself out as an attorney at law, perform any legal service for others, accept any fee directly or indirectly for legal services, or appear as counsel in a proceeding in any Texas court or before any Texas administrative body.

On Aug. 21, **Hilda Quesada Valadez** [#20421843], 47, of San Antonio, accepted a one-year, fully probated suspension effective Aug. 1. The District 10-C Grievance Committee found Valadez committed the crime of a misdemeanor theft.

Valadez violated Rule 8.04(a)(2). She was ordered to pay \$700 in attorney's fees and expenses.

On Jan. 7, an order of immediate interim suspension was entered in the 53rd District Court of Travis County against **Bruce P. Garrison** [#24003914], 38, of Austin. The Court found Garrison had nine felony cases pending in the 299th District Court of Travis County, styled *The State of Texas v. Bruce Phillip Garrison*, and that Garrison posed a threat of irreparable harm to clients or prospective clients pursuant to Part XIV of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

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REPRIMANDS

On May 16, **Arthur G. Vega** [#20533600], 55, of San Antonio, accepted a public reprimand. The District 10-C Grievance Committee found Vega practiced law while his law license was suspended.

Vega violated Rule 8.04(a)(11). He was ordered to pay \$600 in attorney's fees and expenses.

On June 2, **Jeffrey Todd Robnett** [#17118450], 46, of Midland, accepted a public reprimand. The District 16-B Grievance Committee found Robnett failed to keep money designated for a third person separate from his personal funds and failed to keep a client reasonably informed.

Robnett violated Rules 1.03(a) and 1.14(a). He agreed to pay \$800 in attorney's fees and expenses.

On June 14, **Chris A. Mealy** [#13887500], 63, of Georgetown, accepted a public reprimand. An evidentiary panel of the District 8-C Grievance Committee found that while representing a client in a criminal matter, Mealy failed to communicate the basis or rate of the fee in writing.

In a second criminal matter, Mealy failed to explain a matter to the extent necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions and failed to deliver papers to which the client was entitled.

Mealy violated Rules 1.03(b), 1.04(c), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(1). He was ordered to pay \$850 in attorney's fees.

On June 17, **Joseph Laurence Jacobson** [#24025452], 62, of Austin, accepted a public reprimand. An evidentiary panel of the District 9-A Grievance Committee found that in representing a client, Jacobson neglected a legal matter, failed to carry out completely the obligations he owed to the client, failed to keep the client reasonably informed about the status of a matter and promptly comply with reasonable requests for information, failed to explain a matter to the extent

reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation, failed to refund a portion of the fee that had not been earned, failed to respond to a lawful demand for information from a disciplinary authority, and failed to timely furnish to the Chief Disciplinary Counsel's office a response as required by the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

Jacobson violated Rules 1.01(b), 1.03(a) and (b), 1.15(d), 8.01(b), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$400 in attorney's fees.

On June 17, **Edward J. Drake III** [#06106100], 53, of Dallas, accepted a public reprimand. An evidentiary panel of the District 6-A Grievance Committee found that Drake was employed in an unlawful termination claim. Thereafter, Drake failed to keep the complainant informed about the status of the matter and failed to file a lawsuit. The complainant requested the file, a final accounting of the retainer, and the return of any unused portion of the retainer, but Drake failed to comply. Drake failed to respond to the grievance.

Drake violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(1) and (a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$1,500 in attorney's fees.

On June 30, **Dennis Warren Craggs** [#04975000], 64, of Houston, accepted a public reprimand. The District 4-E Grievance Committee found that Craggs failed to abide by a court order to file an affidavit addressing the allegations of ineffective assistance of counsel within 20 days of the date of the order. Craggs further failed to file a response to the grievance.

Craggs violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 3.02, and 3.04(d). He agreed to pay \$242.50 in attorney's fees.

On Aug. 6, **Sanford Melamed** [#13913750], 59, of Houston, accepted a public reprimand. An evidentiary panel of the District 4-D Grievance Commit-

tee found that Melamed was appointed to file an appellate brief on behalf of his client. Melamed failed to consult with his client and failed to provide him a copy of the brief prior to filing it. Melamed failed to maintain communication with his client and failed to provide his client with a copy of his file. Melamed failed to provide the Chief Disciplinary Counsel's office with a written response to the grievance.

Melamed violated Rules 1.02(a)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8). He agreed to pay \$600 in attorney's fees and costs.

On Aug. 15, **Sergio Gonzalez** [#00784147], 43, of El Paso, accepted a public reprimand. The District 17-A Grievance Committee found Gonzalez neglected the representation, failed to communicate with his client, failed to withdraw once he realized that failure to do so would result in violation of the rules of professional conduct, and failed to timely return the file to the client upon termination and request.

Gonzalez violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), and 1.15(a)(1) and (d). He was ordered to pay \$600 in attorney's fees and expenses.

On Aug. 8, **Melissa Segundo-Moreno** [#24033173], 38, of San Antonio, accepted a public reprimand. The District 10-B Grievance Committee found Moreno neglected her client's family law representation and failed to properly communicate with her client.

Segundo-Moreno violated Rules 1.01(b)(1) and 1.03(a). She was ordered to pay \$600 in attorney's fees and expenses. ❖