



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 Jan. 12, 2007, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed a judgment of disbarment against **Alan L. Gallagher** [#07583700], 63, of Canby, Ore. On Sept. 14, 2004, Gallagher resigned in lieu of discipline from the practice of law in Oregon. Gallagher did not answer or appear in this disciplinary proceeding. In accordance with Part IX of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, Gallagher was disbarred from the practice of law in Texas. BODA cause number 38541.

On Jan. 12, 2007, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals affirmed the judgment of

disbarment against **Arthur L. Jackson** [#10454000], 65, of Houston, issued on June 26, 2006, by an evidentiary panel for the State Bar of Texas District 4-A Grievance Committee in Case No. H0040520020. BODA cause number 38259.

On Jan. 12, 2007, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed a judgment of disbarment against **W. Allan Craig III** [#04986600], 64, of Austin. On Sept. 19, 2006, Craig pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit mail fraud, wire fraud, and bank fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. §1349 and 2, intentional crimes as defined in the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure in Cause No. A-04-CR-180(8)-LY, styled, *United States of America v. William Allan Craig III*, U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas, Austin Division. Craig was sentenced to 18 months in the federal penitentiary to be followed by five years of supervised release. He was also ordered to pay an assessment in the amount of \$100 and restitution in the amount of \$3,451,805.02. Craig did not answer or appear in this disciplinary proceeding. BODA cause number 38740.

DISBARMENTS

On Nov. 28, 2006, **Bruce D. Moore** [#24014868], 54, of Arlington, was disbarred. The District 7-A Grievance Committee found that in November 2000, the complainant employed Moore to represent her in connection with a medical malpractice claim. Moore was licensed to practice law on March 3, 2000. At the time he undertook the representation, he had never handled a legal malpractice case, and during the course of the representation, he failed to associate in the matter with a lawyer competent to handle the case. Moore prepared a 4590-I letter (now Chapter 70 of the Civil Practice and Remedies Code) to file an expert witness report. The defendant filed a motion to dismiss, because the expert witness's report was inadequate. The court then set the motion for hearing, and Moore failed to attend the hearing. The matter was dismissed on May 12,

2003. Moore appealed the matter, but failed to pay for the clerk's record, despite being sent two letters advising him to either pay for or make arrangements to pay for the record. Moore failed to take either course of action. As a result, the appeal was dismissed for want of prosecution.

Moore violated Rules 1.01(a), (b)(1), and (b)(2). He was ordered to pay \$2,010 in attorney's fees and \$152 in costs.

SUSPENSIONS

On Oct. 13, 2006, **Derek K. Harmon** [#00790824], 47, of Houston, received a 24-month, partially probated suspension effective Nov. 1, 2006, with the first year to be actively served and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 4-E Grievance Committee found that Harmon was retained to represent his client in a divorce matter. Harmon agreed to inform his client about his work during the divorce proceedings and to provide monthly statements and invoices. After a period of four months, Harmon failed to perform any substantive work and failed to obtain his client's divorce. Harmon failed to provide his client with monthly accountings and failed to communicate with his client. Harmon failed to timely respond to notice of the complaint.

Harmon violated Rules 1.03(a) and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$12,882.21 in restitution, \$3,080.50 in attorney's fees, and \$1,193.18 in costs.

On Jan. 25, 2007, **Richard L. Wright** [#22052700], 49, of Dallas, accepted a two-year, fully probated suspension effective Jan. 1, 2007. The District 6-A Grievance Committee found that in one matter, the complainant hired Wright to represent him in a lawsuit against the builder of his home. Wright neglected the matter and failed to return the complainant's calls and file upon request. After the grievance was filed, Wright returned the complainant's retainer less expenses.

In a second matter, the complainant hired Wright to represent her in a personal injury matter. Thereafter, Wright neglected

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the complainant's case and failed to return her calls. The complainant's case was dismissed for want of prosecution in April 2002 and reinstated in May 2002. In July 2003, Wright received a check for the complainant's personal injury protection coverage (PIP) in the amount of \$1,907.08. Wright endorsed the complainant's name to the check and deposited it into his trust account, but failed to notify the complainant or forward any of the funds to her. The complainant terminated Wright's employment and requested the return of her file and the PIP proceeds. After she filed a grievance, Wright sent the complainant the money less expenses.

In a third matter, the complainant hired Wright to file a lawsuit. Wright neglected the case and failed to communicate with the complainant. Wright refunded the complainant's retainer after she filed the grievance.

Wright violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.14(a) and (b), and 1.15(d). He was ordered to pay \$1,728.75 in attorney's fees.

On Nov. 29, 2006, **Marvin Keith Stitt** [#24030943], 37, of Tulsa, Okla., received a five-year, partially probated suspension effective Dec. 15, 2006, with the first two years actively served and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 3-B Grievance Committee found that in one matter, Stitt was retained to file a civil suit in Montgomery County in a personal injury matter. Stitt failed to file the lawsuit. By not filing the suit in a timely fashion, Stitt allowed the statute of limitations to expire. The client made numerous attempts to contact Stitt by telephone and mail, but Stitt failed to reply.

In a second matter, Stitt was retained in a divorce case and was paid a retainer fee. Stitt filed the original petition and drafted the temporary orders in the matter but failed to obtain entry of the temporary orders. During the course of the representation, the client was unable to contact Stitt, leaving messages with his secretary explaining the urgent need of a return call. Stitt failed to return numerous calls. Because Stitt failed to communicate with his client, she was forced to hire new counsel. The client faxed Stitt that she was terminating his services. The client never received a response to the letter she faxed. The client later learned that Stitt had moved to Oklahoma without providing any notice.

Stitt violated Rules 1.01(b)(1) and (b)(2), 1.03(a) and (b), and 8.04(a)(1) and (a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$2,962.50 in attorney's fees and \$970.76 in costs.

On Jan. 10, 2007, **Barbara Wylie** [#22096500], 55, of Peaster, received a six-month, fully probated suspension effective Feb. 1, 2007. The District 14-B Grievance Committee found that Wylie was employed by the complainant on Feb. 9, 2001 to represent him in his attempt to obtain custody of his two children from his ex-wife. On the day of the temporary orders hearing, the parties reached an agreement. Wylie submitted temporary orders memorializing the agreement of the parties. After the temporary orders were entered, Wylie failed to keep the complainant reasonably informed as to the status of his legal matter. The complainant made attempts to contact Wylie by telephone; however, she failed to return his phone calls. Wylie also failed to respond to the complainant's letter regarding his case. The complainant's case was ultimately dismissed by the court for want of prosecution and custody reverted back to the complainant's ex-wife. Thereafter, Wylie failed to timely notify the complainant of the dismissal of his case.

Wylie violated Rule 1.03(a). She was ordered to pay \$1,500 in attorney's fees and \$329.99 in costs.

On Dec. 1, 2006, **Gilbert Corrigan** [#00792429], 42, of Houston, accepted a six-month, fully probated suspension effective Nov. 15, 2006. An evidentiary panel of the District 4-D Grievance Committee found that Corrigan was retained to represent his client in the defense of a traffic violation. The case was then set for trial by jury in August 2005. Corrigan failed to appear at the trial and failed to communicate with his client regarding his failure to appear. Corrigan neglected a legal matter entrusted to him and failed to reasonably communicate with his client. Corrigan failed to timely respond to notice of the complaint.

Corrigan violated rules 1.01(b)(2), 1.03(a) and (b), 8.01(b), and 8.04(a)(8). He agreed to pay \$1,000 in attorney's fees.

On Dec. 27, 2006, **Robert Stephen Lenz** [#12206150], 54, of Fort Worth, received a one-year, partially probated suspension effective Jan. 1, 2007, with the first month actively served and the remainder probated. The District 7-A Grievance Committee found that in October 2002, the complainant employed Lenz in connection with a personal injury matter. On April 24, 2003, an insurance company settled the complainant's claim for \$25,000, and, on May 2, 2003,

another insurance company settled the claim for \$25,000. Lenz deposited the \$50,000 settlement into his account. After receipt of funds, a hospital lien was issued, exceeding the amount of the settlement. Lenz attempted to resolve the lien with the attorney representing the hospital.

Lenz's office closed the file without settling the matter of the hospital lien. Thereafter, Lenz failed to keep the complainant informed regarding the status of the lien and failed to promptly notify the complainant that he had received the settlement funds on her behalf. Further, Lenz failed to either deliver the funds to the complainant or take further steps to resolve the issue regarding the funds.

Lenz violated Rules 1.01(b)(2), 1.03(a), and 1.14(b). He was ordered to pay \$1,037.50 in attorney's fees.

On Dec. 29, 2006, **Nathan John Volk** [#24013696], 32, of Bay City, Mi., received a six-month, fully probated suspension effective Jan. 1, 2007. The District 6-A Grievance

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ance Committee found that on March 19, 2003, the complainant employed Volk to represent him in connection with a personal injury matter. The case settled on July 18, 2003, for \$12,000. The settlement statement provided that \$6,209 was withheld from the settlement proceeds to be distributed to various medical providers on behalf of the complainant. Volk failed to remit payment to the medical providers and failed to inform the complainant of this fact. Further, Volk failed to retain the funds belonging to the medical providers in an IOLTA trust account as required. The complainant began to receive demands for payment from the medical providers but was unable to locate Volk. On May 11, 2005, subsequent to receiving notice of the complaint, Volk tendered full payment to each of the medical providers.

Volk violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.14(a), (b), and (c), and 8.04(a)(3). He was ordered to pay \$1,015 in attorney's fees.

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On Dec. 18, 2006, **Randall R. Lyle** [#12719500], 45, of Fort Worth, accepted a three-year, partially probated suspension effective Jan. 1, 2007, with the first three months actively served and the remainder probated. The District 7-A Grievance Committee found that in May 2005, the complainant employed Lyle to represent him in a personal injury matter. Thereafter, Lyle settled the complainant's personal injury claim. In September 2005, Lyle received a settlement check from the insurance company in the amount of \$20,023. Lyle deposited the settlement check into his operating account and failed to promptly remit to the complainant his portion of the settlement proceeds.

Lyle violated Rules 1.14(a) and (b). He was ordered to pay \$1,108 in attorney's fees.

REPRIMANDS

On Jan. 26, 2007, **Douglas A. Allison** [#01083500], 46, of Corpus Christi, accepted a public reprimand. An evidentiary panel of the District 11-A Grievance Committee found that in connection with representation in a wrongful death case, Allison was a party to an agreement referring a client to counsel not in the same firm when the client did not properly consent in writing to the terms of the arrangement prior to the time of the referral.

Allison violated Rules 1.04(f) and (g). He was ordered to pay \$1,500 in attorney's fees and expenses.

On Jan. 24, 2007, **Thomas Charles Brite** [#03024200], 49, of San Antonio, accepted a public reprimand. An evidentiary panel of the District 10-A Grievance Committee found that Brite was hired in March 2001 to represent his clients for a damage claim related to termite infestation. Brite failed to obtain a written contingent fee agreement, failed to keep his clients reasonably informed about the status of the legal case, and misrepresented the status of the case to his clients. Brite also neglected the representation by failing to investigate the claims against third parties, failed to file suit for more than three years, and failed to respond to discovery requests from opposing parties.

Brite violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a) and (b), and 1.04(d). He was ordered to pay \$600 in attorney's fees and costs.

On Jan. 26, 2007, **Billy Jack Stovall** [#24008097], 35, of Dallas, received a public

reprimand. The District 6-A Grievance Committee found that the complainant is a former employee of Stovall. After the complainant left the firm, Stovall used the complainant's notary public stamp and signed the complainant's name on the notary block of three documents.

Stovall violated Rule 8.04(a)(3). He was ordered to pay \$1,015 in attorneys' fees.

On Jan. 15, 2007, **Della Fay Perez** [#15776440], 44, of McAllen, accepted a public reprimand. An evidentiary panel of the District 12-B Grievance Committee found that Perez failed to communicate with her client.

Perez violated Rule 1.03(a). She was ordered to pay \$1,060 in restitution and \$1,500 in attorney's fees and costs.

On Nov. 28, 2006, **Ricardo Rodriguez Amador** [#00790225], 41, of Corpus Christi, received a public reprimand. An evidentiary panel of the District 11-A Grievance Committee found Amador failed to timely respond to a grievance.

Rodriguez Amador violated Rule 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$1,000 in attorney's fees and costs.

On Jan. 3, 2007, **Eugene Edward Taylor III** [#19691550], 45, of Dallas, received a public reprimand. An evidentiary panel of the District 6-A Grievance Committee found that on Sept. 29, 2005, Taylor appeared in court on behalf of his client in pending criminal matters. During the period of representation, Taylor was administratively suspended from the practice of law and not eligible to practice. Taylor was suspended on Sept. 1, 2005 for failure to pay the Texas Attorney Occupation Tax and reinstated on Nov. 18, 2005.

Taylor violated Rules 8.04(a)(11). He was ordered to pay \$975 in attorney's fees and costs.

RESIGNATIONS

On Nov. 28, 2006, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation of **Causey C. Quillian** [#16430700], 59, of Tuleta. At the time of his resignation, there was a disciplinary action pending against Quillian in district court.

Quillian was appointed the guardian of the person and estate of his aunt by the presiding probate judge of Probate Court No. 1



of Travis County. The probate court had established various safekeeping accounts for the maintenance of the cash assets of the guardianship estate. Beginning in 2003, Quillian secured false probate court documents, including orders containing the forged signature of the presiding judge, and presented these documents to various financial institutions as legitimate authorizations to release funds belonging to the guardianship estate. Quillian failed to make an accounting of the estate funds as required by law.

Quillian violated Rules 1.14(b) and 8.04(a)(1) and (a)(3).

On Nov. 28, 2006, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation of **L. Mark Steinberg** [#19132900], 53, of San Antonio. At the time of his resignation, there were two disciplinary actions pending against Steinberg in district court with a combined total of seven complaints.

In the first district court case, Steinberg was alleged to have represented a client in a divorce case in Arizona but failed to complete the representation, requiring the client to seek other legal counsel to finalize the divorce. Steinberg failed to reasonably communicate with the client and failed to return unearned fees. In another matter, Steinberg was alleged to have been hired for a bankruptcy but failed to timely file the bankruptcy petition and to have misrepresented the basis for his fee. In a third matter, Steinberg was alleged to have been hired on a child custody matter and paid a retainer of \$3,000. Steinberg allegedly neglected the matter, failed to communicate with the client, and failed to return unearned fees.

In the second district court case, Steinberg was alleged to have failed to advise clients of his suspension from practicing law, failed to return unearned fees, and accepted bankruptcy cases without having a license to practice in federal court. In another matter, Steinberg was alleged to have filed a divorce petition while he was actively suspended from the practice of law. In a third matter, Steinberg was alleged to have been paid \$10,000 for a divorce and custody matter while he was suspended from the practice of law, which was an illegal fee. Steinberg filed pleadings in the matter and failed to advise his client of his active suspension, preventing the client from making informed decisions regarding the representation. Steinberg failed

to return unearned fees. Steinberg failed to submit his yellow pages advertisement to Advertising Review for approval. In a fourth matter, Steinberg engaged in conduct involving dishonesty and misrepresentation in collecting a fee and agreeing to represent a client while he was not authorized to practice law.

Steinberg's conduct was alleged to have violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.02(a)(1), 1.03(a) and (b), 1.04(a), 1.14(b), 1.15(a)(1) and (d), 3.04(d), 5.05(a), 7.02(a)(1) and (a)(3), 7.07(b), 8.02(a), 8.04(a)(1), (a)(2), (a)(3), (a)(7), (a)(8), (a)(9), and (a)(11), and 8.05(a).

On Dec. 12, 2006, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation, in lieu of discipline, of **Joe Robert Love, Jr.** [#00791139], 40, of Dallas. At the time of Love's resignation, there were eight pending evidentiary matters. In the first matter, Love disbursed his client's funds to himself and to various entities and individuals without the client's consent.

In four of the matters, Love withheld funds from his clients' personal injury settlements pursuant to letters of protection but failed to remit the funds to the providers. In two other matters, Love settled the clients' personal injury claims without their knowledge or permission, and endorsed their names to the settlement checks and failed to disburse any of the settlement funds to the clients or medical providers. Further, Love failed to provide the clients with settlement statements. In the final matter, Love neglected his client's criminal matter by failing to perform any significant legal work and by his failure to keep the client informed about the status of the case, including a scheduled court date, which resulted in an arrest warrant being issued against his client. Love failed to respond to three of the grievances.

Love violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.02(a)(2) and (b), 1.03(a), 1.14(b) and (c), and 8.04(a)(2), (a)(3), and (a)(8). *

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