

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

BODA

On Sept. 20, 2013, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals dismissed for want of prosecution the appeal of Odessa attorney **Alfredo A. Soza** [#00785018], 48, from a judgment of partially probated suspension signed by an evidentiary panel of the District 15-4 Grievance Committee of the State Bar of Texas on Nov. 20, 2012, in Case Nos. S0011226607 and S0041227014. Soza did not file a brief, and the board issued an order to show cause to Soza on Aug. 19, 2013. The show cause order gave him 30 days to respond and show cause as to why the appeal should not be dismissed for want of prosecution.

Soza did not respond. BODA Cause No. 51733.

On July 21, 2014, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed an agreed judgment of suspension of Austin attorney **Damon Dean Robertson** [#24005285], 40. On or about Dec. 10, 2013, Robertson pled guilty to possession of marijuana for sale, an intentional crime as defined in the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, and was placed on probation for two years in *The State of Arizona v. Damon Dean Robertson*, Case No. CR-2013-00571, in the Superior Court for the State of Arizona, County of Coconino. BODA Cause No. 54411.

On July 30, 2014, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed a default judgment of suspension of Portland, Oregon, attorney **Lawrence P. Cullen** [#05208700], 67. Cullen was suspended from the practice of law for nine months by the Oregon Supreme Court on or about Nov. 24, 2009, in *In Re: Complaint as to the Conduct of LAWRENCE P. CULLEN, Accused*, Case Nos. 08-117, 09-01, for violating Oregon Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3 (two counts), 1.4(a) (two counts), 1.15-1(d), and 8.4(a)(3). He is suspended from the practice of law in Texas for nine months, beginning July 30, 2014, and ending April 30, 2015. BODA Cause No. 46724.

On July 30, 2014, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed a default judgment of disbarment of Portland, Oregon, attorney **Lawrence P. Cullen** [#05208700], 67. Cullen was disbarred by the Oregon Supreme Court on or about June 27, 2012, in *In Re: Complaint as to the Conduct of LAWRENCE P. CULLEN, Accused*, Case Nos. 10-

150, 10-151, for violating Oregon Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3, 1.4(a), 1.15-1(a), 1.15-1(d), 4.1, 4.4, 5.0, 7.0, 8.1(a)(2), 8.4(a)(2), and 8.4(a)(3). BODA Cause No. 52399.

On July 30, 2014, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed a final judgment of disbarment of Dallas attorney **Donald W. Hill** [#09628400], 62. On or about March 23, 2010, Hill was found guilty of three counts of conspiracy to commit bribery concerning a local government receiving federal benefits and aiding and abetting; one count of conspiracy to commit extortion; one count of extortion by public officials and aiding and abetting; and one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering—all intentional crimes as defined in the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, in Case No 3:07-CR-289-M(01), styled, *United States of America v. Donald W. Hill a/k/a Don Hill*, in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas, Dallas Division. Hill was sentenced to 216 months of imprisonment in the Federal Bureau of Prisons followed by three years of supervised release and ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$112,500 and court costs in the amount of \$600. Because Hill appealed the criminal conviction, on Oct. 18, 2010, the board signed an agreed interlocutory order of suspension during the appeal. On Aug. 26, 2013, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit affirmed his criminal conviction and issued its mandate. On March 10, 2014, the U.S. Supreme Court denied his petition for writ of certiorari. BODA Cause No. 46727.

On July 30, 2014, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed a final judgment

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of disbarment of Fresno attorney **Vincent W. Aldridge** [#00793244], 50. On or about July 26, 2011, Aldridge was found guilty of one count of conspiracy to commit mail fraud and wire fraud, 10 counts of aiding and abetting wire fraud, one count of conspiracy to engage in monetary transaction in criminally derived property, and six counts of aiding and abetting and engaging in monetary transaction in criminally derived property, intentional crimes as defined in the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, in Case No. 4:10CR00185-001, styled, *United States of America v. Vincent Wallace Aldridge*, in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Houston Division. Aldridge was sentenced to 63 months in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, followed by supervised release for three years. The court ordered him to pay a fine in the amount of \$1,900 and restitution in the amount of \$891,000. Because Aldridge appealed the conviction, on Sept. 29, 2011, the board signed an interlocutory order of suspension. On Feb. 12, 2014, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit affirmed Aldridge's criminal conviction and issued its mandate. BODA Cause No. 49053.

On July 30, 2014, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals signed a default judgment of disbarment of Mission attorney **Jose Luis Palacios** [#24043858], 39. On March 19, 2014, Palacios was sentenced to 144 months in prison after pleading guilty to possession, with the intent to distribute, 100 kilograms or more of marijuana, an intentional crime as defined in the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, in *United States of America v. Jose Palacios Jr.*, Case No. 7:13CR00994-S1-015, in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas, McAllen Division. BODA Cause No. 54410.

SUSPENSIONS

On July 10, 2014, **Jose Angel Becerra** [#24026790], 40, of Laredo, accepted a two-year fully probated suspension. The District 12 Grievance Committee found that Becerra neglected client matters, failed to communicate with clients, failed to hold client funds in a trust account separate from his own property, failed to provide an accounting of client funds, and, upon termination, failed to take steps to the extent reasonably practicable to protect his clients' interests.


Becerra violated Rules 1.01(b)(2), 1.03(a), 1.03(b), 1.14(a), 1.14(b), and 1.15(d) and was ordered to pay \$5,000 in restitution and \$200 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On June 25, 2014, **Mark A. Cantu** [#03767445], 53, of McAllen, accepted

a 15-month fully probated suspension effective July 1, 2014. The 206th Judicial District Court of Hidalgo County found that Cantu committed professional misconduct by violating Rules 1.03(a) [failing to keep a client reasonably informed about the status of a matter and promptly comply with reasonable requests for information], 1.03(b) [failing to explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation], and 4.04(b)(1) [participating in presenting or threatening to present criminal or disciplinary charges solely to gain an advantage in a civil matter].

Cantu was ordered to pay \$5,000 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On July 24, 2014, **Melody Hartman Cooper** [#04780950], 53, of Rugby, North Dakota, received a two-year



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partially probated suspension with the first three months actively served and the remainder probated. The District 11 Grievance Committee found that in two representations, Cooper failed to promptly notify third parties of the receipt of funds, failed to promptly deliver funds to parties entitled to receive funds, and failed to hold client funds in a trust account.

Cooper violated Rules 1.14(a) and 1.14(b) and was ordered to pay \$1,500 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On July 27, 2014, **Paul A. Essenburg** [#06671380], 54, of Addison, received a six-month probated suspension effective July 15, 2014. An evidentiary panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that Essenburg engaged in the practice of law when his right to practice had been administratively suspended for failure to

comply with Article XII of the State Bar Rules relating to mandatory continuing legal education.

Essenburg violated Rules 8.04(a)(11). He was ordered to pay \$861.90 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On July 25, 2014, **David Norman Getz** [#00784123], 56, of Lubbock, received a two-year partially probated suspension effective July 25, 2014, with the first three months actively served and the remainder probated. The District 16 Grievance Committee found that Getz accepted employment when he knew he would be a witness.

Getz violated Rule 3.08 and was ordered to pay \$1,650 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On July 24, 2014, **Eric Kevin Gormly** [#24071309], 59, of Dallas, agreed to an 18-month partially pro-

bated suspension effective July 18, 2014, with the first month actively served and the remainder probated.

The District 6 Grievance Committee found that, in the course of the representation of his clients, Gormly took a position that unreasonably increased the costs or other burdens of the cases or that unreasonably delayed resolution of the matters. In the course of representing his clients, Gormly knowingly made false statements of material fact or law to tribunals and made frivolous claims during court proceedings.

Gormly violated Rules 3.01, 3.02, and 3.03(a)(1). He was ordered to pay \$1,338.02 in attorneys' fees.

On Aug. 1, 2014, **Stephen R. Greiner** [#08440920], 52, of Andrews, agreed to a three-year partially probated suspension effective Sept. 1, 2014, with the first year actively served and the remainder probated. The District 16 Grievance Committee found that Greiner neglected a client matter, failed to keep a client reasonably informed, failed to return unearned fees upon termination, and failed to respond to the grievance.

Greiner violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), 8.04(a)(1), and 8.04(a)(8) and was ordered to pay \$750 in restitution and \$1,564 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On July 30, 2014, **Daniel Collin Keesee** [#24076097], 29, of Austin, received a two-year partially probated suspension effective Aug. 15, 2014, with the first year actively suspended and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 9 Grievance Committee found that Keesee neglected the clients' cases, failed to respond to attempts by clients to contact him, and failed to withdraw from the representation of a client when he was discharged. Keesee further failed to furnish written responses to the complaints as directed.

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Keesee violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(a)(3), 8.04(a)(1), and 8.04(a)(8) and was ordered to pay \$864.61 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

PUBLIC REPRIMANDS

On June 30, 2014, **Lorenzo Brown** [#03151500], 62, of DeSoto, received a judgment of public reprimand. An evidentiary panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that on or about June 10, 2009, complainant hired Brown in connection with a personal injury matter resulting from an automobile accident. Brown failed to hold funds belonging to complainant that were in Brown's possession in connection with the representation separate from Brown's property. Brown failed to promptly deliver to complainant funds that complainant was entitled to receive.

Brown violated Rules 1.14(a) and 1.14(b) and was ordered to pay \$3,000 in attorneys' fees and \$1,744.10 in direct expenses.

Brown did not file an appeal.

On Aug. 8, 2014, **Daniel Lucius Brown** [#03108300], 60, of San Antonio, accepted a public reprimand. The District 10 Grievance Committee found that Brown failed to hold client funds separate from his own property.

Brown violated Rule 1.14(a) and was ordered to pay \$800 in restitution.

On Jan. 13, 2014, **Mark Wesley Crampton** [#00789786], 60, of Austin, received a public reprimand. The 53rd Civil District Court of Travis County found that Crampton violated Rule 5.03(a), which requires attorneys having direct supervisory authority over a non-lawyer to make reasonable efforts to ensure that their conduct is compatible with the professional obligations of the lawyer.

Crampton was ordered to pay \$2,043.97 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On July 23, 2014, **Natalie Bush Malonis** [#12887450], 48, of Fort Worth, received an agreed judgment of public reprimand. Malonis neglected the complainant's civil matter entrusted to her, failed to keep complainant reasonably informed about the status of his civil dispute, failed to keep complainant's funds in a separate trust or escrow account, and, upon termination of representation, failed to refund advance payments of fees that had not been earned.

Malonis violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.14(a), and 1.15(d). She was ordered to pay \$5,000 in restitution and \$2,000 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

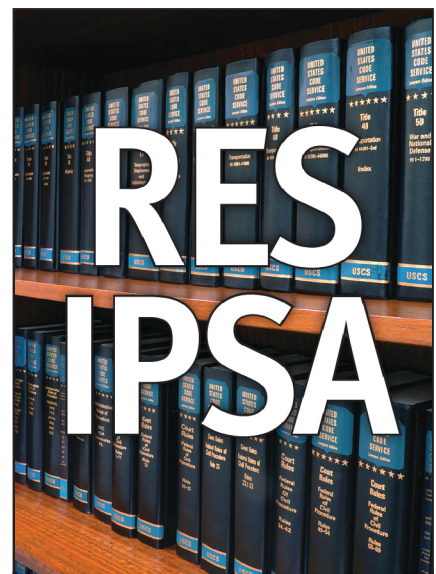
On July 10, 2014, **Silverio A. Martinez Jr.** [#24037040], 38, of Laredo, accepted a public reprimand. The District 12 Grievance Committee found that Martinez failed to carry out completely the obligations owed to a client and failed to keep a client reasonably informed.

Martinez violated Rules 1.01(b)(2), 1.03(a), and 1.03(b) and agreed to pay \$1,500 in restitution and \$200 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On June 16, 2014, **David Marc Stiller** [#19238500], 53, of Richmond, received a judgment of public reprimand. An evidentiary panel of the District 5 Grievance Committee found that in representing his client, Stiller neglected the legal matter entrusted to him, failed to keep the client reasonably informed about the status of the legal matter and failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information, and, upon termination of representation, failed to refund advanced payments of fee that had not been earned.

Stiller violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), and 1.15(d) and was ordered to pay \$750 in restitution and \$1,000 in attorneys' fees.

Stiller did not file an appeal. **TBJ**



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