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JUDICIAL ACTIONS

On March 9, 2015, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct issued a public warning to **Carlos Cortez**, former judge of the 44th Civil District Court in Dallas, Dallas County. Cortez violated Canon 2A of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct and Article V §1-a(6)A and Article V §1-a(8) of the Texas Constitution.

On March 13, 2015, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct issued a public admonition to **Nora Longoria**, a justice of the 13th Court of Appeals in Edinburg, Hidalgo County. Longoria violated Canon 2B of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct and Article V §1-a(6)A and Article V §1-a(8) of the Texas Constitution.

On March 19, 2015, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct issued a public reprimand and order of additional education to **Teresa M. Melendrez**, a justice of the peace of Precinct 4, Place 1 in Eagle Pass, Maverick County. Melendrez violated Canons 2A, 3B(2), and 6C(2) of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct. Pursuant to this order, Melendrez must obtain eight hours of instruction with a mentor in addition to her required judicial education in fiscal year 2015.

On April 24, 2015, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct issued a public warning and order of additional education to **Michael Thomas Seiler**, judge of the 435th District Court in Conroe, Montgomery County. Seiler violated Canons 3B(4), 3B(5), 3B(10), 4A(1), and 4A(2) of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct and Article V §1-a(6)A of the Texas Constitution. Pursuant to this order, Seiler must obtain four hours of instruction with a mentor judge in addition to his required judicial education in fiscal year 2015.

deceit, or misrepresentation by not informing the complainant and the complainant's son that he was not eligible to practice law.

Hodges violated Rules 8.04(a)(3), 8.04(a)(7), and 8.04(a)(11). He was ordered to pay \$1,500 in restitution and \$1,516.45 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On May 22, 2015, **Charles Ray Jordan** [#11006000], 69, of Seguin, was disbarred. The District 11-2 Grievance Committee found that Jordan violated a disciplinary judgment, engaged in the practice of law while his law license was suspended, engaged in conduct involving deceit or misrepresentation, and failed to respond to the grievance.

Jordan violated Rules 8.04(a)(3), 8.04(a)(7), 8.04(a)(8), and 8.04(a)(11) and was ordered to pay \$3,100 in restitution and \$6,750.68 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

RESIGNATIONS

On June 2, 2015, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation in lieu of discipline of **Angus K. McGinty** [#13632900], 51, of San Antonio. At the time of resignation, there was one disciplinary action pending, alleging that McGinty, as judge of the 144th District Court of Bexar County, asked for, accepted, and agreed to accept gifts, payments, and things of value from a criminal defense lawyer. In exchange for the gifts, payments, and things of value, it is alleged that McGinty made favorable rulings for the benefit of the criminal defense lawyer and/or the defense lawyer's clients. It is further alleged that McGinty failed to disclose the receipt of the gifts, payments, things of value, and/or benefits he accepted and that McGinty failed to inform the appropriate dis-

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DISBARMENTS

On March 17, 2015, **Hugh Murrell Hodges Jr.** [#09767000], 70, of Dallas, was disbarred. An evidentiary panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that the complainant hired Hodges to represent the complainant's son in a criminal matter. Hodges engaged in the practice of law when his right to practice had been suspended under the terms of a disciplinary judgment; 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; and engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud,

ciplinary authority of the defense lawyer's conduct with the tribunal. It is alleged that McGinty violated Rules 8.03(a) and 8.04(a)(1)-(a)(4).

On April 28, 2015, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation in lieu of discipline of **Frederick J. O'Laughlin** [#15241770], 61, of Dallas. At the time of his resignation, there were pending disciplinary actions alleging that O'Laughlin neglected the legal matters entrusted to him by his clients, failed to respond to his clients' requests for information regarding the status of their matters, failed to return documents belonging to the clients, and failed to timely furnish to the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel responses or other information as required by the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

O'Laughlin violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.14(b), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8).

On May 12, 2015, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation in lieu of discipline of **John Harold Risley** [#16941150], 50, of Houston. At the time of Risley's resignation, an order of deferred adjudication had been entered in the 176th Criminal District Court of Harris County, wherein Risley pled guilty to misapplication of fiduciary property of an elderly person regarding an amount less than \$100,000—a first-degree felony—and was placed on community supervision for five years. Risley was further ordered to pay \$227 in restitution and \$9,325.55 in attorneys' fees. Risley was further ordered to surrender his law license and not practice law as a condition of community supervision. This conviction would subject Risley to compulsory discipline.

On April 28, 2015, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation in lieu of discipline of **Armando Roberto Villalobos** [#00788584], 47, of Brownsville. At the time of Villalobos's resignation, a judgment in a

criminal case had been entered in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas, holding session in Brownsville, wherein Villalobos was found guilty of count 1—participating in conduct and affairs of a criminal enterprise, the activities of which affected interstate and foreign commerce through a pattern of racketeering activity (under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act); count 2—conspiracy to participate in conduct and affairs of a criminal enterprise, the activities of which affected interstate and foreign commerce through a pattern of racketeering activity; count 4—extortion (under color of official right) and aiding and abetting; count 5—extortion (under color of official right) and aiding and abetting; count 6—extortion (under color of official right) and aiding and abetting; and count 9—extortion (under color of official right) and aiding and abetting. He was committed to the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons to be imprisoned for 156 months on each count to be served concurrently. The respondent was ordered upon release from imprisonment to be on supervised release for three years on each count to be served concurrently, to perform 150 hours of community service, and to pay an assessment of \$600, a fine of \$30,000, and restitution of \$339,000. This conviction would subject Villalobos to compulsory discipline.

On June 2, 2015, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation in lieu of discipline of **Lisa Marie Young** [#24066321], 48, of Austin. In one matter, the complainant hired Young for a modification of a child support/visitation order. The complainant attempted to contact Young to ascertain the status of her case, but Young failed to respond. The complainant terminated the representation and requested a billing statement and a refund of unearned fees. Young

failed to comply with the request. In her response to the grievance, Young represented to the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel that she included a billing statement and refund to the complainant with the complainant's copy of the response. No billing statement or refund was ever received by the complainant.

In another matter, the complainant hired Young for a divorce. The complainant attempted to contact Young to ascertain the status of her case, but Young failed to respond. The complainant contacted the Travis County District Clerk's Office and learned that Young had not filed the petition for divorce. The complainant sent Young a letter terminating the representation and requesting a refund of unearned fees and the return of the complainant's file. Young failed to comply with the request. Young further failed to furnish written responses



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to two complaints as directed.

Young violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), 8.01(a), 8.04(a)(1), and 8.04(a)(8).

SUSPENSIONS

On May 6, 2015, **Raymond B. Albertson** [#00971600], 53, of Fort Worth, agreed to a three-month probated suspension effective May 1, 2015. An evidentiary panel of the District 7 Grievance Committee found that Albertson failed to keep the complainant reasonably informed about the status of the civil matter by failing to inform the complainant of the motion for summary judgment. Albertson engaged in the practice of law when he was administratively suspended for noncompliance with the Supreme Court rules concerning membership dues, the attorney occupation tax, and continuing legal education requirements.

Albertson violated Rules 1.03(a) and 8.04(a)(11). He was ordered to pay \$1,276.40 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On May 4, 2015, **Olivero E. Canales** [#03737200], 63, of Laredo, accepted a one-year fully probated suspension effective July 1, 2015. The District 12 Grievance Committee found that Canales neglected client matters, failed to keep clients reasonably informed, and failed to return unearned fees.

Canales violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.03(b), and 1.15(d) and was ordered to pay \$500 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On April 27, 2015, **Garry Philip Cantrell** [#00789200], 56, of Dallas, received a three-month fully probated suspension effective April 27, 2015. The 162nd Judicial District Court of

Dallas County found that Cantrell committed professional misconduct by violating Rules 1.02(a)(2) [a lawyer shall abide by a client's decisions whether to accept an offer of settlement], 1.03(a) [a lawyer shall keep a client reasonably informed about the status of a matter and promptly comply with reasonable requests for information], and 1.04(d) [upon conclusion of a contingent fee matter, the lawyer shall provide the client with a written statement describing the outcome of the matter and, if there is a recovery, show the remittance to the client and the method of its determination].

Cantrell was ordered to pay \$2,250 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses. He did not file an appeal.

On May 21, 2015, **John Hatchett Carney** [#03832200], 60, of Dallas, received a four-year partially probated suspension effective July 1, 2015, with the first two years actively served and the remainder probated. The District 6 Grievance Committee found that Carney failed to hold funds belonging in whole or in part to clients and third persons that were in Carney's possession separate from Carney's own property. Carney failed to disburse funds in a trust account only to those persons entitled to receive them by virtue of the representation or by law.

Carney violated Rules 1.14(a) and 1.14(c). He was ordered to pay \$5,065 in attorneys' fees and \$775.96 in direct expenses.

On April 29, 2015, **Susan H. Durham** [#06281600], 63, of Houston, received a 24-month partially probated suspension effective May 1, 2015, with the first 12 months actively suspended and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that on or about October 3, 2012, the complainant hired Durham to represent her in a divorce action. In representing the complainant, Durham neglected the legal matter entrusted to

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her by failing to provide legal services and failing to file the divorce petition. Durham failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information from the complainant about the divorce case. Durham also failed to hold separate from Durham's own property those funds belonging to the complainant that were in Durham's possession in connection with the representation. Upon termination of representation, Durham failed to refund advance payments of fees that had not been earned. She engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation by attempting to have the complainant sign a fraudulent affidavit of indigence.

Durham violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.14(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(3). She was ordered to pay \$1,365 in restitution and \$1,400 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On May 28, 2015, **Pascual Madrigal** [#12802150], 60, of San Antonio, accepted a six-month fully probated suspension effective June 1, 2015. The District 10 Grievance Committee found that in an immigration representation, Madrigal failed to keep a client reasonably informed, failed to return a client file, failed to return an unearned fee, failed to exercise independent judgment and render proper advice, and violated the advertising rules by failing to have prior approval for his law firm's website.

Madrigal violated Rules 1.15(d), 1.03(a), 1.03(b), 2.01, 7.02(a)(3), and 7.07(c).

On May 28, 2015, **Pascual Madrigal** [#12802150], 60, of San Antonio, accepted a six-month fully probated suspension effective June 1, 2015. The District 10 Grievance Committee found that Madrigal failed to return a client file.

Madrigal violated Rule 1.15(d).

On August 5, 2014, **Howard W.**

Rubinstein [#17361900], 68, of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, received a two-year probated suspension. The 98th Civil District Court of Travis County found that Rubinstein violated Rules 3.03(a)(1) [a lawyer shall not knowingly make a false statement of material fact or law to a tribunal], 8.04(a)(3) [a lawyer shall not engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation], 8.05(a) [in addition to being answerable for his conduct occurring in this state, any such lawyer also may be disciplined in this state for conduct occurring in another jurisdiction or resulting in lawyer discipline in another jurisdiction, if it is professional misconduct under Rule 8.04], and 8.04(a)(1) [a lawyer shall not violate the disciplinary rules].

On May 7, 2015, **Erin Elizabeth Stanley** [#24059264], 32, of Houston,

accepted a two-year partially probated suspension effective June 1, 2015, with the first year actively suspended and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that in representing two clients, Stanley neglected the legal matters entrusted to her, failed to keep her clients reasonably informed about the status of their legal matters and to comply with reasonable requests for information, and upon termination of representation, failed to refund advance payments of fees that had not been earned. Stanley also failed to timely furnish to the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel a response or other information as required by the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

Stanley violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8). She was ordered to pay \$1,500 in restitution, \$1,250 in attorneys' fees, and



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\$280 in direct expenses.

On May 20, 2015, **Karyn Alexia Thomas** [#24070736], 36, of Dallas, received a 12-month fully probated suspension effective June 1, 2015. An evidentiary panel of the District 1 Grievance Committee found that Thomas neglected the legal matter that the complainant entrusted to her. In addition, Thomas failed to keep the complainant reasonably informed and failed to promptly comply with his reasonable requests for information. Thomas failed to respond to the complainant's grievance.

Thomas violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), and 8.04(a)(8). She was ordered to pay \$1,500 in restitution and \$1,422 in attorneys' fees.

On April 15, 2015, **Paul Thomas Vincent** [#24060777], 41, of Waxahachie, received a one-year fully pro-

bated suspension effective April 1, 2015. In October 2012, the complainant hired Vincent for representation in a civil matter. In representing the complainant, Vincent neglected the legal matter entrusted to him by failing to appear at the court's final setting for trial. Vincent failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information from the complainant about his civil matter. In addition, Vincent failed to timely furnish to the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel a response or other information as required by the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure or assert any grounds for his failure to do so.

Vincent violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$500 in restitution and \$2,686.23 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

PUBLIC REPRIMANDS

On May 20, 2015, **Robert James Ford** [#00798184], 52, of San Antonio, accepted a judgment of public reprimand. The District 10-3 Grievance Committee found that Ford failed to keep a client reasonably informed, to hold client funds in a trust account separate from his own property, and to promptly deliver funds to parties entitled to receive funds.

Ford violated Rules 1.03(a) and 1.14(a)-(c) and was ordered to pay \$800 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On May 7, 2015, **Earl M. Herring** [#09534140], 53, of Eagle Pass, accepted a judgment of public reprimand. The 293rd District Court of Maverick County found that Herring 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].

Herring was ordered to pay \$800 in attorneys' fees. **TBJ**

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