

## 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](http://txboda.org), or the State Commission on Judicial Conduct at (512) 463-5533.

### RESIGNATIONS

On March 7, 2017, the Supreme Court of Texas accepted the resignation in lieu of discipline of **Jennifer Elizabeth Meehan** [#24031502], 40, of Sandy Springs, South Carolina. At the time of Meehan's resignation, a judgment had been entered in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Alabama, Western Division, wherein Meehan pleaded guilty to bank fraud and was committed to the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons for a term of six months. She was ordered to pay a fine in the amount of \$50,000 and restitution in the amount of \$34,815.41. This conviction would subject Meehan to compulsory discipline.

### SUSPENSIONS

On March 6, 2017, **Fred Bowers II** [#00785712], 53, of Lubbock, agreed to

a two-year fully probated suspension effective March 1, 2017. An evidentiary panel of the District 16 Grievance Committee found that Bowers failed to keep the client reasonably informed, failed to communicate the basis or rate of the fees, failed to hold the client's funds in a trust account, and failed to promptly deliver funds to parties they were entitled to receive.

Bowers violated Rules 1.03(a), 1.04(c), 1.14(a), and 1.14(b). He was ordered to pay \$40,000 in restitution and \$1,500 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On March 20, 2017, **Olivero E. Canales** [#03737200], 64, of Laredo, accepted a six-month fully probated suspension effective February 24, 2017. An evidentiary panel of the District 12 Grievance Committee found that Canales failed to communicate with a

client and failed to respond to a grievance in a timely manner.

Canales violated Rules 1.03(b) and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$800 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On March 2, 2017, **Kevin D. Fine** [#00790682], 50, of Boerne, accepted a two-year fully probated suspension effective March 1, 2017. The District 15 Grievance Committee found that Fine neglected a client's matter, failed to communicate with a client, failed to hold a client's funds in a trust account, and failed to return any unearned fees.

Fine violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(b), 1.14(a), and 1.15(d). He was ordered to pay \$8,000 in restitution and \$1,800 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On February 13, 2017, **Paul Steven Jacobs** [#10520600], 57, of Houston,

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received a two-year fully probated suspension effective March 1, 2017. The 133rd District Court of Harris County found that Jacobs committed professional misconduct by violating Rules 1.14(b) [for failing, upon receiving funds in which a third person has an interest, to promptly notify the third person and failing to promptly deliver to the client or third person funds that the client or third person is entitled to receive]; 5.03(a) and 5.03(b) [for failing to make reasonable efforts to ensure that non-lawyer employees' conduct was compatible with the professional obligations of the lawyer and for ordering, encouraging, or permitting non-lawyer employees' conduct that would be a violation of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct]; 8.04(a)(3) [for engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation]; and 8.04(a)(8) [for failing to respond to the grievance].

Jacobs was ordered to pay \$444.20 in restitution and \$1,549.97 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

fees and direct expenses.

On February 27, 2017, **Jacqueline LeFevre** [#24027947], 41, of La Joya, agreed to a two-year partially probated suspension effective May 1, 2017, with the first 90 days actively served and the remainder probated. An evidentiary panel of the District 12 Grievance Committee found that LeFevre failed to abide by the client's instructions concerning the lawsuit, failed to keep the client reasonably informed, failed to return any unearned fees, failed to respond to a grievance in a timely manner, and engaged in the practice of law while her license was suspended.

LeFevre violated Rules 1.02(a)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), 8.04(a)(8), and 8.04(a)(11). She was ordered to pay \$2,200 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On March 17, 2017, **Tamer Farouk Morsi** [#24041530], 44, of San Antonio, accepted a 10-month fully probated

suspension effective March 1, 2017. An evidentiary panel of the District 10 Grievance Committee found that Morsi failed to keep a client reasonably informed and failed to respond to the grievance.

Morsi violated Rules 1.03(a) and 8.04(a)(8). He was ordered to pay \$2,000 in restitution and \$800 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On February 6, 2017, **Mary Mankesi Panzu** [#24066911], 33, of Arlington, received a four-year fully probated suspension effective February 28, 2017. An evidentiary panel of the District 7 Grievance Committee found that Panzu neglected legal matters, knowingly made false statements of material fact or law to a tribunal, and knowingly disobeyed obligations under the standing rules of or rulings by a tribunal.

Panzu violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 3.03(a)(1), and 3.04(d). She was ordered to pay \$2,417.50 in attorneys' fees and \$200 in direct expenses.

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On March 13, 2017, **Johnny Rodriguez** [#24045311], 43, of San Antonio, accepted a one-year fully probated suspension effective March 15, 2017. The 285th Judicial District Court of Bexar County found that Rodriguez committed professional misconduct by violating Rule 1.14(a) [failing to hold funds and other property belonging in whole or in part to clients or third persons in a lawyer's possession separate from the lawyer's own property].

Rodriguez was ordered to pay \$6,004.43 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On February 22, 2017, **Jerome Neal Stein** [#19128290], 58, of Addison, received a 12-month fully probated suspension effective March 1, 2017. An evidentiary panel of the District 6 Grievance Committee found that Stein neglected a complainant's legal matter, failed to refund unearned fees, and failed to provide a full accounting to the complainant as requested. In a second matter, Stein neglected a com-

plainant's legal matter entrusted to him by failing to appear at a hearing, failed to keep the complainant reasonably informed about the status of his legal matter, and failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information from the complainant.

Stein violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.14(b), and 1.15(d). He was ordered to pay \$4,397.07 in restitution and \$1,500 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

On March 7, 2017, **Robert Earnest Williams II** [#24085659], 35, of Houston, accepted a six-month fully probated suspension effective April 1, 2017. An evidentiary panel of the District 4 Grievance Committee found that Williams failed to promptly deliver funds to his client and a medical provider that they were entitled to receive.

Williams violated Rule 1.14(b). He was ordered to pay \$1,666.66 in restitution and \$750 in attorneys' fees and direct expenses.

### PRIVATE REPRIMANDS

Listed here is a breakdown of Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct violations for 15 attorneys, with the number in parentheses indicating the frequency of 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).

1.02(a)(1)—for failing to abide by a client's decisions concerning the objectives and general methods of representation (1).

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 (2).

1.03(b)—for failing to explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding representation (3).

1.04(d)—for entering into a contingent fee agreement prohibited by paragraph (e) or other law, and/or failing to enter into a written contingency fee agreement that states the method by



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which the fee is to be determined (1).

1.14(a)—for failing to hold funds and other property belonging in whole or in part to clients or third persons in a lawyer's possession separate from the lawyer's own property (2).

1.15(a)(1)—for failing to decline or withdraw from representation of a client if the representation will result in a violation of Rule 3.08, other applicable rules of professional conduct, or other law (1).

1.15(d)—for failing, upon termination of representation, to reasonably protect a client's interests, give notice to the client to seek other counsel, or surrender papers and property which belongs to the client (2).

5.03(a)—for failing to make reasonable efforts to ensure that the non-lawyer's conduct is compatible with the professional obligations of the lawyer (1).

5.03(b)(1)—a lawyer shall be in violation if the lawyer orders, encourages, or permits the conduct involved of a non-lawyer to be in violation of the rules of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of

Professional Conduct (1).

8.02(a)—making a false statement that the lawyer knew to be false or with reckless disregard as to its truth or falsity concerning the qualifications or integrity of a judge, adjudicatory official or public legal officer, or a candidate for election or appointment to judicial or legal office (1).

8.04(a)(8)—for failing to timely furnish to a district grievance committee a response or other information as required unless he or she timely asserts a privilege or other legal ground for failure to do so (1).

8.04(a)(11)—A lawyer shall not engage 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 (2). **TBJ**

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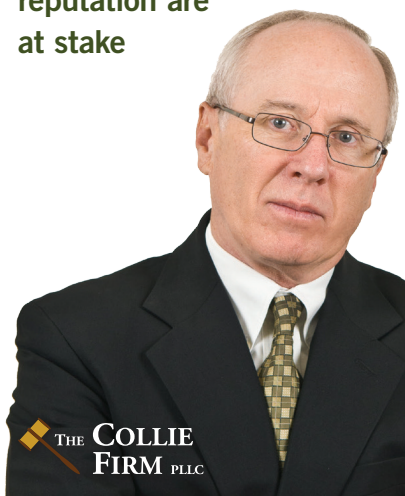
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