

NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

BEFORE THE
GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE
OF THE
NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR
09G1031

IN THE MATTER OF)	
)	
Shannon T. Reid,)	REPRIMAND
Attorney At Law)	
)	

On April 15, 2010 the Grievance Committee of the North Carolina State Bar met and considered the grievance filed against you by A. D.

Pursuant to Section .0113(a) of the Discipline and Disability Rules of the North Carolina State Bar, the Grievance Committee conducted a preliminary hearing. After considering the information available to it, including your response to the letter of notice, the Grievance Committee found probable cause. Probable cause is defined in the rules as “reasonable cause to believe that a member of the North Carolina State Bar is guilty of misconduct justifying disciplinary action.”

The rules provide that after a finding of probable cause, the Grievance Committee may determine that the filing of a complaint and a hearing before the Disciplinary Hearing Commission are not required, and the Grievance Committee may issue various levels of discipline depending upon the misconduct, the actual or potential injury caused, and any aggravating or mitigating factors. The Grievance Committee may issue an admonition, a reprimand, or a censure to the respondent attorney.

A reprimand is a written form of discipline more serious than an admonition issued in cases in which an attorney has violated one or more provisions of the Rules of Professional Conduct and has caused harm or potential harm to a client, the administration of justice, the profession, or a member of the public, but the misconduct does not require a censure.

The Grievance Committee was of the opinion that a censure is not required in this case and issues this reprimand to you. As chairman of the Grievance Committee of the North Carolina State Bar, it is now my duty to issue this reprimand.

A. D. filed a grievance against you with the North Carolina State Bar on August 31, 2009, alleging that you neglected his domestic case. You were served with a letter of notice which apprised you of Mr. D’s allegations on November 19, 2009. You did not respond to the grievance within 15 days of receipt of the letter of notice, as is required by the North Carolina State Bar’s rules. The State Bar office sent a follow-up letter on December 31, 2009 and asked

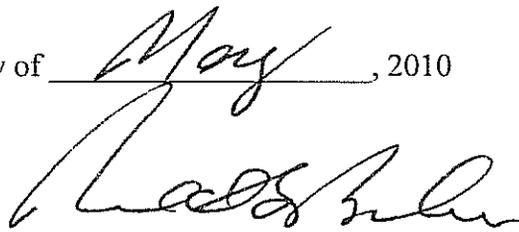
that you respond no later than January 15, 2010. You did not respond by the January 15 deadline. The Office of Counsel asked your State Bar councilor to contact you. Your councilor indicated that she left a telephone message for you, but did not get a return call. The Office of Counsel then subpoenaed you to the North Carolina State Bar Grievance Committee meeting on April 15, 2010, and you did appear at that time and spoke to two members of the Grievance Committee. When asked about your failure to respond to this grievance, you indicated that you had no excuse for not responding.

The Grievance Committee found that you violated Rule 8.1(b) and 8.4(d) by not responding to this grievance. Lawyers in North Carolina are members of a self-regulated profession. Our rules allow us to investigate the public's complaints against lawyers and impose discipline, if necessary, for the protection of the public. The grievance process necessarily includes the lawyer answering the allegations of misconduct. In order for us to continue to be a self-regulated profession, we must require lawyers to participate in the grievance process.

You are hereby reprimanded by the North Carolina State Bar for your professional misconduct. The Grievance Committee trusts that you will heed this reprimand, that it will be remembered by you, that it will be beneficial to you, and that you will never again allow yourself to depart from adherence to the high ethical standards of the legal profession.

In accordance with the policy adopted January 24, 2008 by the Council of the North Carolina State Bar regarding the taxing of the administrative and investigative costs to any attorney issued a reprimand by the Grievance Committee, the costs of this action in the amount of \$100.00 are hereby taxed to you.

Done and ordered, this the 5 day of May, 2010



Ronald G. Baker, Sr., Chair
Grievance Committee

RGB/lr