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NORTH CAROLINA

WAKE COUNTY

BEFORE THE
GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE
OF THE
NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR
03G1115

IN THE MATTER OF)

Conrad A. Airall,)
Attorney At Law)

REPRIMAND)

On Thursday, April 22, 2004 the Grievance Committee of the North Carolina State Bar met and considered the grievances filed against you by the North Carolina State Bar.

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, and I am certain that you will understand fully the spirit in which this duty is performed.

This matter came to the attention of the N.C. State Bar shortly after June 2003, when Judge Alice Stubbs sanctioned you for, among other things, filing frivolous pleadings during the course of litigation you were handling for client named Mamdouh Keshk. During the State Bar's investigation of this matter, bar counsel wrote to you on Oct. 1, 2003, requesting more

information. You did not respond to this letter or to bar counsel's follow up letter dated Nov. 12, 2003. As a result of your failure to provide the requested information, bar counsel was forced to subpoena you to appear in the Bar's offices to respond in person. Your conduct in this regard violated Rule 8.1(b) of the Revised Rules of Professional Conduct.

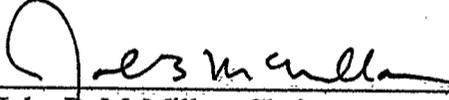
In determining the appropriate sanction to be imposed, the Committee noted that you received letters of warning in 1997 and 1998 in which you were reminded of your obligation to respond promptly to official inquiries of the Bar. The Committee was also advertent to the fact that you were censured in 1998 for, among other things, failing to respond promptly to an earlier inquiry of the Bar. The Committee wishes to remind you that the Bar cannot remain self-regulating if attorneys fail to cooperate in the investigation of complaints. Any future violations of Rule 8.1(b) on your part may well result in the imposition of more substantial discipline.

The Grievance Committee did not deem it necessary to impose professional discipline for your conduct during Mr. Keshk's case in light of the substantial sanctions levied by Judge Stubbs.

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 October 15, 1981 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 \$50.00 are hereby taxed to you.

Done and ordered, this the 5th day of May, 2004.



John B. McMillan, Chair
Grievance Committee

JBM/lr