

NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

BEFORE THE
GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE
OF THE
NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR
10G1126

IN THE MATTER OF)	
)	
Roderick M. Wright, Jr.)	REPRIMAND
Attorney At Law)	
)	

On October 20, 2011 the Grievance Committee of the North Carolina State Bar met and considered the grievance filed against you by L. P.

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.

In 2007, you employed an independent contractor to design and construct a new website for your law firm. You suggested that the website designer look at the website for Kurtz & Blum, PLLC, among others, as an example of a firm website with features you believed were desirable. You relied upon the independent contractor to design the website in accordance with

legal and ethical standards, but failed to review the finished product. The site he developed for your firm was essentially a duplicate of the Kurtz & Blum website.

By hiring a non-lawyer to prepare a website for your firm and then failing—for several years—to review the content of the website to ensure it was accurate and in compliance with the Rules of Professional Conduct, you failed to make reasonable efforts to ensure that the non-lawyer's conduct was compatible with your professional obligations in violation of Rule 5.3(a).

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 July 23, 2010 by the Council of the North Carolina State Bar regarding the taxing of administrative fees and investigative costs to any attorney issued a reprimand by the Grievance Committee, an administrative fee in the amount of \$350.00 is hereby taxed to you.

Done and ordered, this the 22 day of Nov., 2011.



Ronald G. Baker, Sr., Chair
Grievance Committee

RGB/lr