NORTH CAROLINA

WAKE COUNTY

BEFORE
THE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE
OF
THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR
21G0084

IN THE MATTER OF	)	
	)	REPRIMAND
ADAM M. EVERETT,	)	
ATTORNEY AT LAW	)	

On January 18, 2024 the Grievance Committee of the North Carolina State Bar met and considered the grievance filed against you by the North Carolina State Bar. The grievance was assigned to a Subcommittee, which thoroughly reviewed the results of the State Bar staff's investigation of this matter.

Pursuant to 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B.0113(a), the Grievance Subcommittee conducted a preliminary hearing. After considering the information available to it, including your response to the letter of notice, the Grievance Subcommittee 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."

Having found probable cause exists in your matter, the Grievance Committee next considered what level of discipline is most appropriate in your matter based upon all the facts, the nature of the misconduct, the actual or potential injury caused, and any aggravating or mitigating factors. After further discussion and deliberation, the Grievance Committee determined the conduct before it merited discipline at the level of reprimand.

A reprimand is a written form of discipline issued where an attorney is determined to have 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 protection of the public does not require a censure.

As Chair of the Grievance Committee of the North Carolina State Bar, it is my duty to issue this reprimand, which is based on the following conduct:

Between December 2020 and January 2021, you were employed as an Assistant District Attorney at the Wake County District Attorney's Office and resided at an apartment complex in Raleigh, North Carolina. At approximately 1:00 a.m. on January 1, 2021, you knocked on the doors of two of your neighbors' apartments to speak with the individuals inside regarding suspected drug use. You had been drinking alcohol that night and you appeared impaired. Further, your neighbors observed you openly carrying a holstered pistol. You informed your neighbors that you worked at the District Attorney's Office, and you accused your neighbors of using and selling marijuana. You requested one neighbor provide you with information related to his alleged drug use and drug sales, and you asked a different neighbor whether you could come into his apartment to "search" and/or "look around." When your neighbors denied your accusations and access into their apartments, you threatened to obtain a search warrant, if necessary.

Accordingly, you are hereby reprimanded by the North Carolina State Bar for your professional misconduct consisting of the cited violations of the Rules of Professional Conduct. 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.

If you accept this reprimand, it will be maintained as a record in the judgment book of the North Carolina State Bar and a copy will be sent to the complainant. Please review carefully the details set forth in the formal Notice of Reprimand attached.

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 23rd day of May, 2025.

Charles Gordon Brown, Chair
Grievance Committee

CGB/jms