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NORTH CAROLINA  
WAKE COUNTY

BEFORE THE  
GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR  
0226GR022

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IN THE MATTER OF	)	
	)	
LEON ORR,	)	CENSURE
ATTORNEY AT LAW	)	
	)	

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On July 23, 2003, the Grievance Committee of the North Carolina State Bar met and considered the grievance filed against you by Michael Thomas.

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.

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

The Grievance Committee believes that a hearing before the Disciplinary Hearing Commission is not required in this case and issues this censure to you. As chairman of the Grievance Committee of the North Carolina State Bar, it is now my duty to issue this censure. I am certain that you will understand fully the spirit in which this duty is performed.

Mr. Michael Thomas filed a grievance with the Grievance Committee of the 26<sup>th</sup> District alleging that he was not paid for an option on real estate when the land was sold to your client, Mr. Rashad Sabur. The 26<sup>th</sup> District sent you a Letter of Notice regarding Mr. Thomas' allegation, but you failed to respond. Therefore, the 26<sup>th</sup> District recommended a finding of probable cause on the issue of failing to respond to the Grievance Committee. After receiving the 26<sup>th</sup> District's recommendation, the State Bar gave you an additional chance to respond. You failed to respond and a summons was issued for you to appear at the State Bar. You appeared in response to the summons, but provided a written response only when asked to do so while at the State Bar Office.

The Committee views your failure to respond timely to the State Bar as a violation of Rule 8.1. Furthermore, this is not the only incidence of your failure to respond timely. The Committee also considered the fact that you have recently received discipline in other matters.

You are hereby censured by the North Carolina State Bar for your violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct. The Grievance Committee trusts that you will ponder this censure, recognize the error that you have made, and that you will never again allow yourself to depart from adherence to the high ethical standards of the legal profession. This censure should serve as a strong reminder and inducement for you to weigh carefully in the future your responsibility to the public, your clients, your fellow attorneys and the courts, to the end that you demean yourself as a respected member of the legal profession whose conduct may be relied upon without question.

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 censure by the Grievance Committee, the costs of this action in the amount of \$50.00 are hereby taxed to you.

Done and ordered, this 12 day of August, 2003.

*Sharon B. Alexander*

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Sharon B. Alexander, Chair  
Grievance Committee  
The North Carolina State Bar