



In May 2015, you were retained to represent T.M. on federal criminal charges. Your license to practice law in North Carolina was administratively suspended beginning November 5, 2015 and remained suspended through February 1, 2016. You failed to comply with the client notification provisions of the wind down rule, and you did not file a motion to withdraw in T.M.'s case, a violation of Rule 1.16(a)(1). Because you failed to withdraw, the AUSA had to file a motion to determine the status of counsel and a hearing was held at which your client did not have an advocate. At the end of the hearing, the court appointed another lawyer to investigate the status of counsel for T.M. Your failure to comply with the wind down rules and to file a motion to withdraw unnecessarily complicated the issue of T.M.'s representation during your suspension and was prejudicial to the administration of justice in violation of Rule 8.4(d).

In your initial response to the inquiry from the State Bar, you stated that your fee for representation of T.M. was paid in full before the effective date of your suspension. However, you accepted installment payments of your fee to represent T.M. during the time you were suspended. Accepting payment for services while your license was suspended violated Rules 1.5(a) and 8.4(c). By misrepresenting to the State Bar that you were paid in full prior to your suspension, you violated Rules 8.1(a) and 8.4(c).

In 2016 you received a Censure, in part, for representing on your business website that you were admitted to practice law in the State of Vermont. Your license to practice in Vermont was administratively suspended on June 30, 2014. This misleading information was still on your website during the investigation into the present grievances and violates Rule 7.1(a).

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 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 censure by the Grievance Committee, an administrative fee in the amount of \$350.00 is hereby taxed to you.

Done and ordered, this 8<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2019.



A. Todd Brown, Sr., Chair  
Grievance Committee  
The North Carolina State Bar

ATB/lb