

NORTH CAROLINA

WAKE COUNTY

BEFORE
THE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE
OF
THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR
25G0358

IN THE MATTER OF

GUY E. COUSINS,

ATTORNEY AT LAW

REPRIMAND

Pursuant to the procedures set forth in 27 N.C. Admin. Code, Chapter 1B, the Grievance Committee of the North Carolina State Bar considered the grievance filed against you by T.B.

After thoroughly considering the information available to it, including your response to the letter of notice, the Grievance Committee found probable cause, defined 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 based on all the facts, the nature of the misconduct, the actual or potential injury caused, and any aggravating or mitigating factors. After further discussion and deliberations, 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:

A former client filed a petition for fee dispute resolution against you with the State Bar disputing fees she paid for your legal services. A fee dispute facilitator served you with a Letter of Notice of the fee dispute petition, but you did not respond within the required fifteen days. The fee dispute facilitator served you with a late letter, but you did not respond to the late letter. After the facilitator sent you an email asking you to respond to the fee dispute, you emailed the facilitator apologizing for not responding sooner but you did not provide a response to the fee dispute petition. By failing to respond to the fee dispute Letter of Notice or otherwise participating in good faith in the fee dispute resolution process, you violated Rule 1.5(f)(d) of the North Carolina Rules of Professional Conduct.

The State Bar served you with a Letter of Notice asking for information in connection to a grievance matter relating to your failure to respond and participate in the fee dispute

resolution process as described above; however, you did not respond to the Letter of Notice. The State Bar sent you a late letter and contacted you by email requesting a response to the Letter of Notice, but you did not respond. By failing to respond to the State Bar's lawful demand for information in connection with a grievance matter, you violated Rule 8.1(b) of the Rules of Professional Conduct.

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 20th day of August, 2025.


Charles Gordon Brown, Chair
Grievance Committee

CGB/jms