NORTH CAROLINA

WAKE COUNTY

BEFORE THE
GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE
OF THE
NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR
21G0795

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

On July 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 Section .0113(a) of the Discipline and Disability Rules of the North Carolina State Bar, 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."

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.

An incident occurred in which an individual known to you was charged with misdemeanor breaking and entering and simple assault (hereinafter, this individual will be referred to as the "defendant"). After the defendant was arrested, the magistrate issued a pretrial release order, authorizing the defendant's release upon the payment of a secured bond and prohibiting the defendant from having contact with one of your family members. Prior to the defendant being released from jail, you called the Magistrate's Office and asked a Magistrate to modify the conditions of release. When the Magistrate stated that she did not have the power to modify the conditions of release, you called a Wake County District Court

Judge on his personal cell phone and asked him to modify the conditions of release to prohibit the defendant from contacting you or returning to your residence. The defendant was not present during your conversation with the Judge, nor was the defendant given advance notice that the conversation would take place. The conditions of release were modified to include the additional conditions you requested.

By calling the Judge on his personal cell phone about a criminal case involving your family member and seeking a modification of a pretrial release order for your own benefit, without providing advance notice to the defendant or requesting that the defendant be given an opportunity to be heard, you engaged in conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice in violation of Rule 8.4(d).

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 19th day of August, 2024.

Kevin G. Williams, Chair
Grievance Committee

KGW/ab