

NORTH CAROLINA

WAKE COUNTY

BEFORE
THE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE
OF
THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR
23G0901

IN THE MATTER OF

KIMBER S. GRABS,
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 M.H.

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:

You represented the Department of Social Services in an abuse, neglect, or dependency case against M.H. You communicated to L.M., a judicial assistant, information about events you believed were occurring at the home of M.H. You intended for L.M. to transmit to the judge the information you provided to her, which she did. The information you communicated to L.M. was not necessary to arrange for the availability of a judge or for any other legitimate purpose. You sent numerous other emails and text messages to L.M. during the pendency of M.H.’s case discussing the merits of the case, your opinions about the motives of M.H. and her counsel, M.H.’s character and suitability as a parent, and criminal conduct of M.H. and the father of some of her children. Many of those communications contained information or opinions intended to influence L.M. and to influence the judge. You also sent several emails to a judge about the merits of an issue that was pending before the judge. Your conduct violates Rules of Professional Conduct 3.5(a)(3) provides that “[a] lawyer representing a party in a matter pending before a tribunal shall

not: ... communicate *ex parte* with the judge or other official regarding a matter pending before the judge or official"); and 8.4(d) ("It is professional misconduct for a lawyer to ... engage in conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice.")

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