

NORTH CAROLINA  
WAKE COUNTY

BEFORE THE  
GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR  
16G0101, 16G0148, 16G0207

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IN THE MATTER OF	)	
	)	REPRIMAND
EDDIE L. MEEKS,	)	
ATTORNEY AT LAW	)	

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On January 26, 2017 the Grievance Committee of the North Carolina State Bar met and considered the grievances filed against you by T. A., B. T. and T. C. The grievances were assigned to a Subcommittee, which thoroughly reviewed the results of the State Bar staff's investigation of these matters.

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.

Your conduct surrounding the termination of representation in three separate cases in early 2016 failed to comply with the Rules of Professional Conduct. Your client, T.A., had a criminal case appealed to superior court and paid you \$1,500 for the representation. You obtained two continuances in the case and then, in the course of withdrawing from a group of cases, you mistakenly withdrew from T.A.'s case. You did not send T.A. a copy of your

withdrawal motion. When T.A. contacted you, you explained it had been a mistake but you did not make any further efforts on T.A.'s part and you did not refund the unearned fees when T.A. retained new counsel. Your conduct in this case violated Rule 1.5(a).

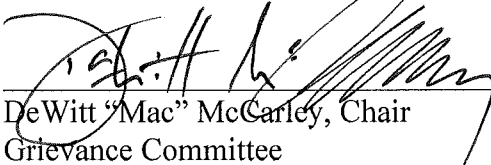
You were representing B.T. in a child custody case. Although you had advised B.T. in 2015 that you planned to discontinue your private law practice, you did not clearly explain to B.T. that you were withdrawing and terminating the representation. In January 2016 B.T. sent you an inquiry and you failed to respond either to answer the question or to clearly explain you would no longer represent him. Your failure to take steps reasonably practicable to protect B.T.'s interests violated Rule 1.16(d).

You were representing T.C. in a DWI case in which T.C. wanted to obtain a limited driving privilege. You obtained several continuances in the case while waiting for T.C. to gather the necessary documents for the limited driving privilege. When the January 2016 court date was postponed due to weather, you made no subsequent effort to determine when the case would be rescheduled, failed to advise T.C. that you were withdrawing from the representation, and kept the entire fee without completing the goals of the representation. Your conduct violated Rules 1.3, 1.16(d), and 1.5(a).

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 10<sup>th</sup> day of FEBRUARY, 2017.

  
DeWitt "Mac" McCarley, Chair  
Grievance Committee

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