

NORTH CAROLINA  
WAKE COUNTY

BEFORE  
THE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE  
OF  
THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR  
24G1370

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IN THE MATTER OF )  
 )  
COURTNEY PRICE BRYANT, ) CENSURE  
ATTORNEY AT LAW )

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On April 24, 2025, 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 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B.0113(a), 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."

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 censure.

A censure is a written form of discipline issued when an attorney is determined to have violated one or more provisions of the Rules of Professional Conduct and has caused significant harm or potential significant 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 suspension of an attorney's license.

As Chair of the Grievance Committee of the North Carolina State Bar, it is my duty to issue this censure, which is based on the following conduct:

In July 2020, your license to practice law in North Carolina was administratively suspended. You admit that on April 29, 2022, you learned of your suspension. On that date, you submitted a job application in which you held yourself out as actively licensed to practice law in North Carolina. After you learned of your suspension, you did not amend or correct the statement on your job application that you had an active license to practice law in North Carolina.

Upon learning of your suspension on April 29, 2022, you contacted the membership department of the North Carolina State Bar and obtained the information needed to apply for reinstatement. You did not submit an application for reinstatement until November 2024. Between April 29, 2022, and November 2024, you engaged in the unauthorized practice of law in North Carolina. You assert that a personal crisis caused you to forget about the suspension of your license

until the suspension was brought to your attention by your employer in October 2024. While you were suspended, you did not pay yearly membership dues or maintain your CLE requirements. By engaging in the unauthorized practice of law and holding yourself out to your employer and others as being licensed by the North Carolina State Bar from August 2022 through November 2024, you violated Rule 5.5(a) and 5.5(b).

Accordingly, you are hereby censured 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 censure, recognize the errors you made, and hereafter embrace and adhere to the high ethical standards of the legal profession to which you committed when you took your oath. This censure should serve as a strong reminder and inducement for you to weigh carefully your responsibility to the public, your clients, your fellow attorneys and the courts, and to comport yourself as a respected member of the legal profession whose conduct may be relied upon without question.

If you accept this censure, it will be forwarded to the Clerk of the Superior Court in the county where you practice for entry upon the judgment docket and to the Clerks of the North Carolina Supreme Court and Court of Appeals, the United States District Courts of North Carolina, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit and the United States Supreme Court for entry in their minutes. The censure 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 Censure 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 censure by the Grievance Committee, an administrative fee in the amount of \$350.00 is hereby taxed to you.

Done and ordered, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2025.

  
Charles Gordon Brown, Chair  
Grievance Committee

CGB/jms