

NORTH CAROLINA  
WAKE COUNTY

BEFORE THE  
GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR  
12G0807

---

IN THE MATTER OF )

Jennifer W. Moore, )  
Attorney At Law )

) REPRIMAND  
)  
)  
)

---

On January 23, 2014 the Grievance Committee of the North Carolina State Bar met and considered the grievance filed against you by C. W.

Pursuant to Section .0113(a) of the Discipline and Disability Rules of the North Carolina State Bar, the Grievance Committee conducted a preliminary hearing. After considering the information available to it, including your response to the letter of notice, the Grievance Committee 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.

You represented CW in a child support matter originating in another state. You filed a motion to show cause in North Carolina. You attempted to mislead the Bar by saying the show cause hearing was continued to another court date when, in fact, the court struck the show cause order. Your statement to the Bar violated Rule 8.1(b).

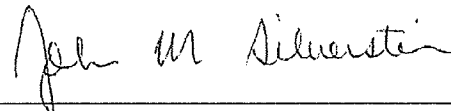
You claim to have been actively negotiating with opposing counsel during the long representation, however, your records show only 1.3 hours of work in ten months and you had no evidence that negotiations were transpiring. Your failure to actively pursue your client's interests for a long period of time indicates a failure to acknowledge the urgency of child support payments and violated Rule 1.3.

When the opposing party sent a settlement check to your office, you forwarded the check to CW and withdrew from the representation without explaining the status of the matter or the effect of accepting the money to your client. You knew CW did not want to settle for the offered amount. Your withdrawal without taking steps to protect CW's interests violated Rule 1.16(d). Accepting settlement money without question and without advising CW regarding acceptance of the money violated Rule 1.4.

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 28<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2014.



---

John M. Silverstein, Chair  
Grievance Committee