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NORTH CAROLINA

WAKE COUNTY

BEFORE THE
GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE
OF THE
NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR
00G0572

IN THE MATTER OF	)	
	)	
NANCY P. QUINN,	)	REPRIMAND
ATTORNEY AT LAW	)	
	)	

On July 25, 2001, the Grievance Committee of the North Carolina State Bar met and considered the grievance filed against you by Ms. Lisa Laing.

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 and I am certain that you will understand fully the spirit in which this duty is performed.

The Grievance Committee found the following facts. In the fall of 1997, a client retained you to pursue a potential personal injury claim involving the client's minor son. Over the next several years, you failed to file a complaint or otherwise diligently pursue relief on behalf of your client. You filed the complaint on behalf of your client only after she filed a grievance with the State Bar. You also failed to keep your client reasonably informed about the status of the matter and failed to respond to requests from the client for information about the status of her case.

You also failed to respond to the grievance filed by your client. You failed to respond to several requests for information from the State Bar regarding your handling of your client's legal matter and communication with the client. To obtain information relevant to the grievance, you had to be subpoenaed to the State Bar office on two separate occasions before providing that information.

The Committee concluded that your conduct violated several Revised Rules of Professional Conduct. First, you failed to act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing your client in violation of Rule 1.3. Second, you failed to keep your client reasonably informed about the status of the matter and promptly comply with reasonable requests for information in violation of Rule 1.4(a). Third, you repeatedly failed to respond to requests for information during the grievance process in violation of Revised Rule 8.1(b).

In deciding to issue this Reprimand, the Committee considered several aggravating and mitigating factors. In aggravation, the committee considered numerous factors. First, you had been warned for engaging in similar conduct prior to the violations in this case. Second, the violations demonstrated a pattern of misconduct and involved multiple violations. Third, you had substantial experience in the practice of law. Fourth, your violations caused some harm or potential harm to your client. As a mitigating factor, the Committee considered that you had experienced some personal problems during this time period.

You are hereby reprimanded by the North Carolina State Bar due to 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 October 15, 1981 by the Council of the North Carolina State Bar regarding the taxing of the administrative and investigative costs to any attorney issued a Reprimand by the Grievance Committee, the costs of this action in the amount of $50.00 are hereby taxed to you.

Done and ordered, this 14 day of August, 2001.

Calvin E. Murphy
Chair, Grievance Committee