

NORTH CAROLINA

WAKE COUNTY

BEFORE THE
GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE
OF THE
NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR
15G1050

IN THE MATTER OF

MO IDLIBBY,
ATTORNEY AT LAW

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)

REPRIMAND

On July 21, 2016 the Grievance Committee of the North Carolina State Bar met and considered the grievance filed against you by B. V. The grievance was assigned to a Subcommittee, which thoroughly reviewed the results of the State Bar staff's investigation of this matter.

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.

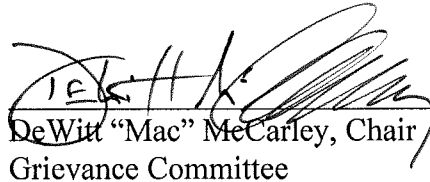
You did not participate in the fee dispute resolution program as required and you filed a late response to the grievance after multiple extensions to your response deadline. While the Committee notes that you were experiencing significant adversity in your personal life, your conduct nonetheless violated Rule 1.5(f)(2) and Rule 8.1(b).

You were initially retained by B.V. to work on reopening his pre-existing order of removal. After two meetings with B.V. and reviewing the information, you determined that you did not have a good faith basis to move forward with the motion. As such, you did not file the motion and could only justify the \$5,000 fee collected by stating that the issues required your in-depth analysis, your special expertise, and the time spent on the case in preparing the motion. You provided no work product to the client and you did not explain how the collected fee was not clearly excessive upon inquiry by the State Bar. You violated Rule 1.5(a). The Committee notes that you have since issued a full refund of \$5,000 to B.V.

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 27th day of October, 2016.


DeWitt "Mac" McCarley, Chair
Grievance Committee

DM/lb