

NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

BEFORE THE
GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE
OF THE
NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR
12G0721

IN THE MATTER OF

Antoinette L. Van-Riel,
Attorney At Law

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REPRIMAND

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

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.

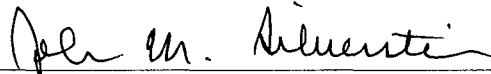
You were hired to represent MK in separation and divorce proceedings. During the representation you failed to respond to MK's calls and requests for information violating Rule 1.4. You filed an affidavit of attorney fees for \$10,000, but your invoice, without any significant additional work, charged over \$22,000 to your client. You charged clearly excessive fees and failed to communicate with your client when she had questions about the invoice violating Rules

1.5(a) and 1.4. You then failed to participate in the State Bar's fee dispute program or the grievance process violating Rules 1.5(f)(2) and 8.1(b).

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 24th day of FEBRUARY, 2014.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John M. Silverstein", written in dark ink.

John M. Silverstein, Chair
Grievance Committee

JMS/lb