

NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

BEFORE THE
GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE
OF THE
NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR
19G0330

IN THE MATTER OF)	
)	REPRIMAND
DARREN O. DAY,)	
ATTORNEY AT LAW)	

On October 24, 2019 the Grievance Committee of the North Carolina State Bar met and considered the grievance filed against you by Q. L. 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.

Mr. Q. L. hired you on February 1, 2019 to handle an appeal of the suspension of his driver's license. Mr. L. paid you a \$1,000.00 attorney's fee. The fee contract that Mr. L. signed on February 1, 2019 indicated that you were handling a "DMV appeal." You stated that you agreed to research whether Mr. L had a meritorious claim for appeal. You indicated that when you spoke with Mr. L. on February 1, 2019, you did not know the deadline for filing the appeal and that you were going to research and determine the appeal deadline. You stated that your research determined that the deadline for filing the appeal was February 7, 2019. On February 8,

2019, one day after the appeal deadline had passed, your staff associate informed Mr. L. that you would not handle his appeal.

The Grievance Committee found that you violated Rule 1.3 and Rule 1.4(a)(2)(3) when you notified Mr. L. one day after the appeal deadline that you would not handle his appeal.

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 20th day of November, 2019.

A. Todd Brown Sr.

A. Todd Brown, Sr., Chair
Grievance Committee

ATB/lb