

NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

BEFORE THE
GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE
OF THE
NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR
09GG0647

IN THE MATTER OF

Lisa A. Page,
Attorney At Law

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REPRIMAND

On October 22, 2009 the Grievance Committee of the North Carolina State Bar met and considered the grievance filed against you by the North Carolina State Bar.

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.

Gail Matre is licensed in South Carolina. Ms. Matre is not licensed to practice law in North Carolina. Ms. Matre organized a South Carolina law firm under the name "Matre Law Firm."

You signed an interstate law firm registration form with the North Carolina State Bar as the North Carolina member of the Matre Law Firm and indicated to the Bar that you handled the North Carolina business of that firm. However, the operating agreement that you signed with the Matre Law Firm LLC provided that you had only a .1% ownership interest, you were not entitled to any profits of the Matre Law Firm LLC, and you had no voting rights or authority over the LLC's business practices.

After receiving the interstate law firm registration, Ms. Matre advertised her ability to provide legal services in North Carolina on her website, matrelawfirm.com. She was the only attorney identified as being able to provide legal services in North Carolina on that website. Ms. Matre's website included headings such as "Matre Law Firm Specializing in Charlotte Real Estate" and "Local Real Estate Specialty."

You allowed Ms. Matre to hold herself out as being able to provide legal services in North Carolina and to misrepresent that she specialized in real estate law in this state. The Grievance Committee found that you aided Ms. Matre in the unauthorized practice of law in violation of Rule 5.5(d) of the Rules of Professional Conduct.

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 January 24, 2008 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 \$100.00 are hereby taxed to you.

Done and ordered, this the 11th day of November, 2009



James R. Fox, Chair
Grievance Committee

JRF/lr