

NORTH CAROLINA  
WAKE COUNTY

BEFORE THE  
GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR  
15G0627 & 16G0066

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IN THE MATTER OF	)	
	)	REPRIMAND
WILLIAM T. PEREGOY,	)	
ATTORNEY AT LAW	)	

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On April 20, 2017 the Grievance Committee of the North Carolina State Bar met and considered the grievances filed against you by M. W. and R. W. The grievances were assigned to a Subcommittee, which thoroughly reviewed the results of the State Bar staff's investigation of these matters.

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.

M.W. engaged you to negotiate the settlement of a debt. You eventually received an offer to settle for \$11,200.00 in July 2014, but at that time you only had \$10,000.00 on deposit on behalf of M.W. You did not keep M.W. well informed of the status of the matter or promptly respond to her inquires in violation of Rule 1.4(a)(3) and (4) of the Rules of Professional Conduct. The creditor subsequently rescinded its \$11,200.00 offer. On or about October 1,

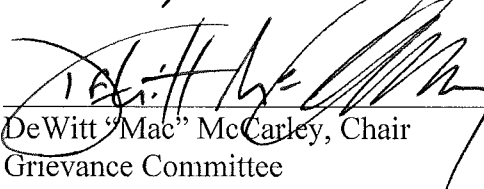
2014, M.W. provided you an additional \$3,000.00 in hopes of settling the matter for \$13,000.00. You thereafter did not engage in any further negotiations until July 2015 when the State Bar notified you of M.W.'s complaint, in violation of Rule 1.3.

In May 2014 C.B. engaged you to represent her in obtaining an expungement of criminal charges. Your first efforts were unsuccessful and you informed C.B. in June 2015 that you would again attempt to obtain the expungement. Thereafter, you did not file the appropriate petition until March 2016, after the State Bar notified you of C.B.'s complaint, in violation of Rule 1.3. You did not inform C.B. at that time that you filed the second petition in violation of Rule 1.4(a)(3).

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 10<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2017.

  
DeWitt "Mac" McCarley, Chair  
Grievance Committee

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