

NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

BEFORE THE
GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE
OF THE
NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR
15G1198

IN THE MATTER OF)
)
GLENN A. BARFIELD,) REPRIMAND
ATTORNEY AT LAW)

On July 18, 2019 the Grievance Committee of the North Carolina State Bar met and considered the grievance filed against you by the North Carolina State Bar. 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 represented a client in a suit against a nonprofit regarding governance of the nonprofit entity. The case was pending in the North Carolina Business Court. During the course of the litigation, you sought an *ex parte* order affecting the governance of the nonprofit from a judge in your home county. You did not provide notice to the entity's lawyer that you were seeking *ex parte* relief from another court in violation of Rule 3.5(a)(3). You also made a misleading statement to the opposing party regarding your efforts to obtain the *ex parte* order in violation of Rule 8.4(c) and had direct communication with a represented party in violation of

Rule 4.2. Your actions were prejudicial to the administration of justice in violation of Rule 8.4(d). In determining that reprimand was the appropriate discipline, the Committee took into account the fact that you have no prior professional discipline in more than 30 years of practice and the fact that your conduct did not cause significant actual harm.

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 7th day of August, 2019.

A. Todd Brown Sr
A. Todd Brown, Sr., Chair
Grievance Committee

ATB/lb