

NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

19382
BEFORE THE
GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE
OF THE
NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR
99G0558, 99G0359, 9726GR027 & 99G0084

IN THE MATTER OF)
)
SHARON D. JUMPER,) REPRIMAND
ATTORNEY AT LAW)
)
)

On January 20, 2000, the Grievance Committee of the North Carolina State Bar met and considered the grievance filed against you by CEE, BOO, RLG, and RBR, Jr.

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, and I am certain that you will understand fully the spirit in which this duty is performed.


You were served with a letter of notice and substance of grievance in grievance file number 99G0359 on May 6, 1999. You failed to timely respond to the grievance, resulting in a subpoena being issued for you to appear before the North Carolina State Bar. In file number 99G0558, the post office attempted to serve a certified mail letter on your office on three different occasions, August 27, 1999, August 31, 1999, and September 7, 1999. Ultimately they had to return the letter unclaimed. Subsequently, the letter of notice was served by a sheriff to your home address. The sheriff's return indicates that it was served by leaving a copy with your

thirteen year old son, on August 22, 1999. In your response, you stated that you never received the letter of notice from your son. However, the Grievance Committee was troubled by the fact that the post office attempted service of the certified letter three times, and was unable to serve your office. In file number 9726GR027, you were mailed a letter dated April 23, 1997 by the 26th Judicial District Grievance Committee asking you to respond. You never responded to the letter of notice. On June 1, 1998, you were served with a letter of notice and substance of grievance from the North Carolina State Bar. You did not respond to that grievance in a timely fashion. Ultimately, a subpoena was issued for you to appear before the North Carolina State Bar. In file number 99G0084, you were served with a letter of notice on March 1, 1999. You failed to respond to the letter of notice. On April 19, 1999, you were mailed a follow-up letter. You failed to respond to that grievance. Your multiple failures to respond to lawful requests for information from a disciplinary authority violates Rule 8.1 of the North Carolina Revised Rules of Professional Conduct. In deciding to issue a Reprimand, the State Bar took into account the multiple instances of misconduct in this matter, and your previous disciplinary history.

You are hereby reprimanded by the North Carolina State Bar due to 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 October 15, 1981 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 \$50.00 are hereby taxed to you.

Done and ordered, this 13 day of March, 2000.



James K. Dorsett, III
Chair, Grievance Committee