

NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

BEFORE THE
GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE
OF THE
NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR
09G0777

IN THE MATTER OF

Tenika R. Hall,
Attorney At Law

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REPRIMAND

On April 15, 2010 the Grievance Committee of the North Carolina State Bar met and considered the grievance filed against you by K. K.

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.

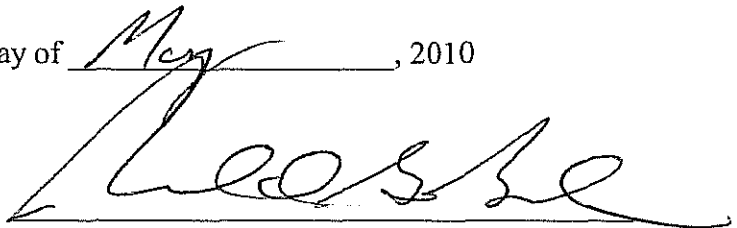
You were asked by a title insurance company that falsely held itself out as able to provide closing services to perform the title search for the closing of property purchased by C. N. and S. N. This title insurance company falsely represented to the lender that you were the closing lawyer for this transaction and the lender sent the closing package and the loan proceeds to you. Although you performed the title search for this transaction, you were not the closing lawyer.

Upon receipt of the closing package and the loan proceeds, you forwarded these documents to the title insurance company in reliance upon the title insurance company representative's representation that another lawyer would close the loan for C. N. and S. N. Because you forwarded the closing package and the loan proceeds to the title insurance company instead of returning these documents to the lender, the title insurance company was able to close the loan without the assistance of a lawyer thereby engaging in the unauthorized practice of law. Your conduct violated Rule 1.15-2(b) which requires that all trust funds received by or placed under the control of a lawyer be promptly deposited into a trust account of the lawyer and Rule 5.5(d) which prohibits a lawyer from assisting another person in the unauthorized practice of law.

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 17 day of May, 2010

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ronald G. Baker, Sr.', written over a horizontal line.

Ronald G. Baker, Sr., Chair
Grievance Committee

RGB/lr