

4275
NORTH CAROLINA

WAKE COUNTY

BEFORE THE
GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE
OF THE
NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR
03G0333

IN THE MATTER OF

DANIEL L. TAYLOR,
ATTORNEY AT LAW

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REPRIMAND

On July 23, 2003, the Grievance Committee of the North Carolina State Bar met and considered the grievance filed against you by the NC 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, and I am certain that you will understand fully the spirit in which this duty is performed.

On Dec. 11, 2002 the N.C. State Bar notified you that a former client, Charles L., had filed a petition for fee dispute against you. The notice directed you to file a written response within 15 days. On Jan. 9, 2003, the State Bar sent you a reminder letter that your response was overdue.

On Feb. 5, 2003 you contacted the State Bar and were given another 5 days in which to respond. On Feb. 11, the mediator agreed to hold the fee mediation file open until Feb. 17. No other extensions were provided to you. Nevertheless, you did not file a response to the fee dispute petition until Feb. 24.

Your failure to file a response to the fee dispute petition by the Dec. 26, 2002 deadline constituted a violation of Rule 1.5(d) and Rule 8.1. Your misconduct in this matter was aggravated by the fact that you waited until well after the response was due to seek an extension of time and even then failed to file a timely response. Your violation is also aggravated by the fact that you have previously been admonished for, among other things, failing to respond to a State Bar letter of notice and subpoena.

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 5 day of August, 2003.

Sharon B. Alexander

Sharon B. Alexander
Chair, Grievance Committee