

NORTH CAROLINA

WAKE COUNTY

26610

BEFORE THE
GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE
OF THE
NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR
06G0653

IN THE MATTER OF)

FRANK G. PINKSTON,
Attorney At Law)

REPRIMAND)

On January 18, 2007 the Grievance Committee of the North Carolina State Bar met and considered the grievances filed against you by the 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.


Lavon Elliott filed a petition for resolution of a fee dispute against you on in March 2006. You were served with notice of the petition by certified mail on May 4, 2006 and was directed to respond in writing in 15 days but failed to do so. You did not participate in the fee dispute resolution process. As a result of your failure to participate in the fee dispute resolution process, a grievance was filed. You were served with the Letter of Notice on July 15, 2006 and also

received a follow up letter on or about August 16, 2006. You again failed to provide a written response to the Bar. Your conduct is a violation of Rules 1.5(f), Fees and 8.1(b), Bar Admission and Disciplinary Matters.

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 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 the 22nd day of February, 2007



James R. Fox, Chair
Grievance Committee

JRF/npm