

NORTH CAROLINA  
WAKE COUNTY

BEFORE THE  
GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR  
96G0524(II)

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IN THE MATTER OF	)	
	)	
J. ALLEN MAST,	)	REPRIMAND
ATTORNEY AT LAW	)	
	)	

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On October 16, 1996, the Grievance Committee of the North Carolina State Bar met and considered the grievance filed against you by the North Carolina 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.

Between 1987 and 1995, you made a number of material, false statements about your academic credentials to employers and the UNC School of Law. Specifically, the Grievance Committee found that in your 1986 application to the UNC School of Law, which was

unsuccessful, you correctly stated that you graduated from Davidson College in the top 30% of your class. In your 1987 application to UNC, you incorrectly stated that you graduated in the top 15% of your class at Davidson. This application was successful.

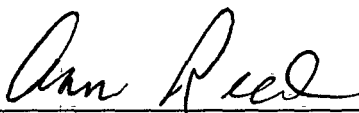
Thereafter, you made a number of false statements about your academic qualifications to various law firms to which you had applied for employment. For example, in 1989 you told Petree, Stockton & Robinson that you scored a 42 on the LSAT when in fact you scored a 30 on the LSAT on two occasions in 1985. In 1990, you told the law firm of Kennedy, Covington, Lobdell & Hickman that you had a 3.2 GPA at the UNC School of Law and that you had scored a 42 on the LSAT. As of the end of the 1990 academic year, you in fact had a 2.7 GPA.

In 1991, you falsely told the firm of Buist, Moore, Smythe & McGee that you graduated from the UNC School of Law with a 3.0 GPA and that you scored a 42 on the LSAT. In fact, you graduated from UNC with a 2.7 GPA. In 1993 you told Parker, Poe, Adams & Bernstein that you graduated from the UNC School of Law with a 3.0 GPA. Finally, in 1995, you falsely represented to the Executive Director of the N.C. State Bar and the IOLTA Board of Governors that you graduated with honors from the UNC School of Law. Your conduct in making repeated false statements about your academic qualifications constituted conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation in violation of Rule 1.2(c) of the Rules of Professional Conduct.

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 24<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1996.



Ann Reed  
Chair, Grievance Committee  
The North Carolina State Bar