# BEFORE THE DISTRICT 7 GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE EVIDENTIARY PANEL 7-1 STATE BAR OF TEXAS

COMMISSION FOR LAWYER	§	
DISCIPLINE,	§	
Petitioner	§	
	§	
V.	§	D0021142416
	§	
DANIEL CHARLES LITTLE,	§	
Respondent	<b>§</b>	

## **JUDGMENT OF DISBARMENT**

# Parties and Appearance

On February 4, 2015, came to be heard the above styled and numbered cause. Petitioner, Commission for Lawyer Discipline, appeared by and through its attorney of record and announced ready. Respondent, Daniel Charles Little, Texas Bar Number 24047534, although duly served with the Evidentiary Petition and notice of this evidentiary and sanctions hearing, failed to appear.

#### Jurisdiction and Venue

The Evidentiary Panel 7-1, having been duly appointed to hear this complaint by the chair of the Grievance Committee for State Bar of Texas District 7, finds that it has jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter of this action and that venue is proper.

#### **Professional Misconduct**

The Evidentiary Panel, having considered all of the pleadings, evidence, stipulations and argument, finds Respondent has committed Professional Misconduct as defined by Rule 1.06(W) of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

## **Findings of Fact**

The Evidentiary Panel, having considered the pleadings, evidence and argument of counsel, makes the following findings of fact and conclusions of law:

- 1. Respondent is an attorney licensed to practice law in Texas and is a member of the State Bar of Texas.
- 2. Respondent resides in and maintains his principal place of practice in Tarrant County, Texas.
- 3. In representing David Brown (Brown) in two traffic citations, Respondent neglected the legal matters entrusted to him by failing to inform Brown of the trial date and failing to attend the trial.
- 4. Respondent failed to keep Brown reasonably informed about the status of his legal matters and failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information from Brown.
- 5. Upon termination of representation in Brown's traffic citations, Respondent failed to refund advance payments of fee that had not been earned.
- 6. Respondent failed to timely furnish to the Chief Disciplinary Counsel's office a response or other information as required by the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, and did not in good faith timely assert a privilege or other legal ground for failure to do so.
- 7. The Chief Disciplinary Counsel of the State Bar of Texas has incurred reasonable attorneys' fees and direct expenses associated with this Disciplinary Proceeding in the amount of \$2,327.26.
- 8. Respondent owes restitution in the amount of \$300 payable to David Brown.

# **Conclusions of Law**

The Evidentiary Panel concludes that, based on foregoing findings of fact, the following Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct have been violated: 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8).

#### Sanction

The Evidentiary Panel, having found Respondent has committed Professional Misconduct, heard and considered additional evidence regarding the appropriate sanction to be imposed against Respondent. After hearing all evidence and argument and after having considered the factors in Rule 2.18 of the Texas Rule of Disciplinary Procedure, the Evidentiary Panel finds that proper discipline of the Respondent for each act of Professional Misconduct is DISBARMENT.

#### **Disbarment**

It is therefore ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED that effective February 6, 2015, Respondent, Daniel Charles Little, State Bar Number 24047534, is hereby DISBARRED from the practice of law in the State of Texas.

It is further ORDERED Respondent is prohibited from practicing law in Texas, holding himself out as an attorney at law, performing any legal services for others, accepting any fee directly or indirectly for legal services, appearing as counsel or in any representative capacity in any proceeding in any Texas court or before any administrative body or holding himself out to others or using his name, in any manner, in conjunction with the words "attorney at law," "attorney," "counselor at law," or "lawyer."

# **Notification**

It is further ORDERED Respondent shall immediately notify each of his current clients in writing of this disbarment. In addition to such notification, Respondent is ORDERED to return any files, papers, unearned monies and other property belonging to clients and former clients in the Respondent's possession to the respective clients or former clients or to another attorney at the client's or former client's request. Respondent is further ORDERED to file with the State Bar of Texas, Chief Disciplinary Counsel's Office, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, TX 78711-2487 (1414 Colorado St., Austin, TX 78701) within thirty (30) days of the signing of this judgment by the Panel Chair, an affidavit stating that all current clients have been notified of Respondent's disbarment and that all files, papers, monies and other property belonging to all clients and former clients have been returned as ordered herein.

It is further ORDERED Respondent shall, on or before thirty (30) days from the signing of this judgment by the Panel Chair, notify in writing each and every justice of the peace, judge, magistrate, administrative judge or officer and chief justice of each and every court or tribunal in which Respondent has any matter pending of the terms of this judgment, the style and cause number of the pending matter(s), and the name, address and telephone number of the client(s) Respondent is representing. Respondent is further ORDERED to file with the State Bar of Texas, Chief Disciplinary Counsel's Office, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, TX 78711-2487 (1414 Colorado St., Austin, TX 78701), within thirty (30) days of the signing of this judgment by the Panel Chair, an affidavit stating that each and every justice of the peace, judge, magistrate, administrative judge or officer and chief justice has received written notice of the terms of this judgment.

### **Surrender of License**

It is further ORDERED Respondent shall, within thirty (30) days of the signing of this judgment by the Panel Chair, surrender his law license and permanent State Bar Card to the State Bar of Texas, Chief Disciplinary Counsel's Office, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, TX 78711-2487 (1414 Colorado St., Austin, TX 78701), to be forwarded to the Supreme Court of the State of Texas.

#### Restitution, Attorneys' Fees and Expenses

It is further ORDERED Respondent shall pay restitution on or before June 1, 2015, to David Brown in the amount of Three Hundred and 00/100 Dollars (\$300). Respondent shall pay the restitution by certified or cashier's check or money order made payable to David Brown and delivered to the State Bar of Texas, Chief Disciplinary Counsel's Office, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, TX 78711-2487 (1414 Colorado St., Austin, TX 78701).

It is further ORDERED Respondent shall pay all reasonable and necessary attorneys' fees and direct expenses to the State Bar of Texas in the amount of Two Thousand Three Hundred Twenty-Seven and 26/100 Dollars (\$2,327.26). The payment shall be due and payable on or before June 1, 2015, and shall be made by certified or cashier's check or money order. Respondent shall forward

the funds, made payable to the State Bar of Texas, to the Chief Disciplinary Counsel's Office, P.O.

Box 12487, Austin, TX 78711-2487 (1414 Colorado St., Austin, TX 78701).

It is further ORDERED that all amounts ordered herein are due to the misconduct of

Respondent and are assessed as a part of the sanction in accordance with Rule 1.06(Z) of the Texas

Rules of Disciplinary Procedure. Any amount not paid shall accrue interest at the maximum legal

rate per annum until paid and the State Bar of Texas shall have all writs and other post-judgment

remedies against Respondent in order to collect all unpaid amounts.

**Publication** 

It is further ORDERED this disbarment shall be made a matter of record and appropriately

published in accordance with the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

Conditions Precedent to Reinstatement

It is further ORDERED payment of the foregoing restitution and attorney's fees and expenses

amounts shall be a condition precedent to any consideration of reinstatement from disbarment as

provided by Rules 2.19, 2.20 and 11.02(D) of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

Other Relief

All requested relief not expressly granted herein is expressly DENIED.

SIGNED this \_\_\_\_ day of February, 2015.

**EVIDENTIARY PANEL** 

DISTRICT NO. 7

STATE BAR OF TEXAS

Mark G. Daniel

**District 7-1 Presiding Member** 

CF6-12