

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF DISCIPLINARY APPEALS  
APPOINTED BY  
THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS**

**IN THE MATTER OF  
LEILA LOUISE HALE,  
STATE BAR CARD NO. 24088781**

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§

**CAUSE NO. 68262**

**AGREED JUDGMENT OF PUBLIC REPRIMAND**

On this day the above-styled and numbered reciprocal disciplinary action was called for hearing before the Board of Disciplinary Appeals. Petitioner appeared by attorney and Respondent appeared in person as indicated by their respective signatures below and announced that they agree to the findings of fact, conclusions of law, and orders set forth below solely for the purposes of this proceeding which has not been fully adjudicated. Respondent waives any and all defenses that could be asserted under Rule 9.04 of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure. The Board of Disciplinary Appeals, having reviewed the file and in consideration of the agreement of the parties, is of the opinion that Petitioner is entitled to entry of the following findings, conclusions, and orders:

**Findings of Fact.** The Board of Disciplinary Appeals finds that:

- (1) Respondent, Leila Louise Hale, Bar Card number 24088781, is an attorney licensed and authorized by the Supreme Court of Texas to practice law in the State of Texas.
- (2) On or about March 9, 2023, a Complaint was filed in a matter styled Case No. SBN22-00282, State Bar of Nevada, Southern Nevada Disciplinary Board, *State Bar of Nevada, Complainant, vs. Leila Louise Hale, Esq., Bar No. 7368, Respondent*, alleging violation of the following Nevada Rules of Professional Conduct:

**COUNT ONE-RPC 1.7 [Conflict of Interest: Current Clients]**

22. RPC 1.7 states:

*(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b), a lawyer shall not represent a client if the representation involves a concurrent conflict of interest. A concurrent conflict of interest exists if:*

*(1) The representation of one client will be directly adverse to another client; or*

*(2) There is a significant risk that the representation of one or more clients will be materially limited by the lawyer's responsibilities to another client, a former client or a third person or by a personal interest of the lawyer.*

*(b) Notwithstanding the existence of a concurrent conflict of interest under paragraph ( a), a lawyer may represent a client if:*

*(1) The lawyer reasonably believes that the lawyer will be able to provide competent and diligent representation to each affected client;*

*(2) The representation is not prohibited by law;*

*(3) The representation does not involve the assertion of a claim by one client against another client represented by the lawyer in the same litigation or other proceeding before a tribunal; and*

*(4) Each affected client gives informed consent, confirmed in writing.*

23. Respondent was in a dating relationship with Dr. Gross while she represented Ramsey.

24. There was a significant risk that the personal relationship would materially limit Respondent's responsibilities to Ramsey and other clients.

25. Respondent could have and did give Dr. Gross special treatment that another attorney of reasonable prudence and care would not have given Dr. Gross. She paid Dr. Gross with client funds instead of her operating account.

26. Respondent did not obtain informed consent from Ramsey for the conflict.

27. Respondent violated RPC 1.7.

28. In light of the foregoing, including without limitation paragraphs 2 through 21, Respondent has violated RPC 1. 7 [Conflict of Interest: Current Clients].

**COUNT TWO-RPC 1.15(a) [Safekeeping Property]**

29. RPC 1.15(a) states,

*(a) A lawyer shall hold funds or other property of clients or third persons that is in a lawyer's possession in connection with a representation separate from the lawyer's own property. All funds received or held for the benefit of clients by a lawyer or firm, including advances for costs and expenses, shall be deposited in one or more identifiable bank accounts designated as a trust account maintained in the state where the lawyer's office is situated, or elsewhere with the consent of the client or third person. Other property in which clients or third persons hold an interest shall be identified as such and appropriately safeguarded. Complete records of such account funds and other property shall be kept by the lawyer and shall be preserved for a period of five years after termination of the representation.*

30. In light of the foregoing, including without limitation paragraphs 2 through 28, Respondent has violated RPC 1.25(a) [sic] [Safekeeping Property].

- (3) On or about August 11, 2023, an Order of Public Reprimand was entered in a matter styled, Case Nos. SBN22-00282; SBN23-00580, State Bar of Nevada, Southern Nevada Disciplinary Board, *State Bar of Nevada, Complainant, vs. Leila Louise Hale, Esq., State Bar No. 7368, Respondent*, which states in pertinent part:

A panel of the Southern Nevada Disciplinary Board has reviewed the two cases captioned above against you. We found that you have violated the Rules of Professional Conduct, which requires a Public Reprimand to ensure your professionalism and adherence to ethical standards. We encourage you to take appropriate action to prevent similar misconduct in the future.

...

Based on the conduct described above, we find that you violated RPC 1.7(a)(2) (Conflict of Interest: Current Clients). Your personal relationship with Dr. Gross posed a significant risk of materially limiting your responsibilities to Brown and Sanchez-Hernandez. This relationship could have influenced your treatment of Dr. Gross, such as using client funds to pay him instead of advancing your own funds to do so. Moreover, you failed to obtain

informed consent from Brown and Sanchez-Hernandez regarding this conflict, as required by RPC 1.7(b).

Additionally, we find that you violated RPC 1.15(a) (Safekeeping Property). This rule mandates that lawyers keep clients' funds and other property safe and separate from their own. The act of paying Dr. Gross from your IOLTA for Brown's and Sanchez-Hernandez's cases placed other clients' monies at risk. We understand that you wished to simplify payment to Dr. Gross with a single check. But the best practice is to advance costs from a separate cost account and pay liens after recovery from your IOLTA. Paying a provider from an IOLTA for multiple clients, both pre-recovery and post recovery, creates a risk of commingling firm and client property and a risk of misappropriating other client property from your IOLTA.

Considering the gravity of these violations and the impact they have had on the legal proceedings and your clients' trust, it is imperative that you address this conduct promptly. We urge you to reflect upon your actions and to ensure that you uphold the highest ethical standards expected of legal professionals. It is vital to prioritize the best interests of your clients and to keep payments from your cost account and your IOLTA separate.

Considering the foregoing, you violated Rule of Professional Conduct ("RPC") 1.7(a)(2) (Conflict of Interest: Current Clients) and RPC 1.15(a) (Safekeeping Property) and are hereby PUBLICLY REPRIMANDED.

- (4) Respondent, Leila Louise Hale, is the same person as the Leila Louise Hale who is the subject of the State Bar of Nevada, Southern Nevada Disciplinary Board's Order of Public Reprimand; and
- (5) The public reprimand entered by the State Bar of Nevada, Southern Nevada Disciplinary Board, is final.

**Conclusions of Law.** Based upon the foregoing findings of facts the Board of Disciplinary

Appeals makes the following conclusions of law:

- (1) This Board has jurisdiction to hear and determine this matter. TEX. RULES DISCIPLINARY P. R. 7.08(H).

- (2) Reciprocal discipline identical, to the extent practicable, to that imposed by the State Bar of Nevada, Southern Nevada Disciplinary Board, is warranted in this case.

It is, accordingly, **ORDERED, ADJUDGED, and DECREED** that Respondent, Leila Louise Hale, State Bar Card No. 24088781, is hereby **PUBLICLY REPRIMANDED** as an attorney at law in the State of Texas.

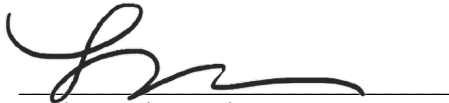
Signed this 13th day of September 2023.



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CHAIR PRESIDING

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CONTENT:



Leila Louise Hale  
State Bar No. 24088781  
Respondent



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Amanda M. Kates  
Assistant Disciplinary Counsel  
State Bar No. 24075987  
Attorney for Petitioner