

By: _____
FILED
APR 02 2014
Board of Disciplinary Appeals
appointed by the
Supreme Court of Texas

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

IN THE MATTER OF §
§
STEVEN RYAN LAFUENTE §
§
STATE BAR CARD NO. 24032522 §

CAUSE NO. 53998

PETITION FOR REVOCATION OF PROBATION

TO THE BOARD OF DISCIPLINARY APPEALS:

Petitioner, the Commission for Lawyer Discipline, brings this action against Respondent, Steven Ryan Lafuente, and would respectfully show the following:

I. RULES APPLICABLE/CONDITIONS PRECEDENT

This action is commenced by Petitioner pursuant to Rule 2.23 of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure and Rule 5 of the Board of Disciplinary Appeals' Internal Procedural Rules. Petitioner is attaching a copy of the Board of Disciplinary Appeals' Internal Procedural Rules to this petition. All conditions precedent to the relief sought herein have been performed or fulfilled.

II. RESPONDENT

Respondent, Steven Ryan Lafuente, State Bar No. 24032522, may be served with process and notices in this matter at 6004 Milford, Amarillo, Texas 79109.

III. DISCIPLINARY JUDGMENTS

Case No. D0091144042

Commission for Lawyer Discipline, Petitioner, v. Steven Ryan Lafuente, Respondent

On October 24, 2012, in a case styled, *Commission for Lawyer Discipline, Petitioner, v.*

Steven Ryan Lafuente, Respondent, Case No. D0091144042, an Evidentiary Panel of the State Bar of Texas District 6C Grievance Committee found that Respondent had committed violations of Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct 1.15(d), 8.04(a)(3), and 8.04(a)(7). A true and correct copy of the Agreed Judgment of Partially Probated Suspension in this matter is attached as Exhibit 1. Respondent received a sanction of a four-year partially probated suspension beginning December 1, 2012, and ending November 30, 2016, with two years active suspension beginning December 1, 2012, and ending November 30, 2014, and two years probated suspension beginning December 1, 2014, and ending on November 30, 2016.

Case No. D0051142943

Commission for Lawyer Discipline, Petitioner, v. Steven Ryan Lafuente, Respondent

On November 5, 2012, in a case styled, *Commission for Lawyer Discipline, Petitioner, v. Steven Ryan Lafuente, Respondent*, Case No. D0051142943, an Evidentiary Panel of the State Bar of Texas District 6A Grievance Committee found that Respondent had committed violations of Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a) and 1.15(d). A true and correct copy of the Agreed Judgment of Partially Probated Suspension in this matter is attached as Exhibit 2. Respondent received a sanction of a two-year partially probated suspension beginning December 1, 2012, and ending November 30, 2014, with one year active suspension beginning December 1, 2012, and ending November 30, 2013, and one year probated suspension beginning December 1, 2013, and ending on November 30, 2014.

IV. VIOLATIONS OF TERMS OF JUDGMENT

Respondent violated the following terms of the active suspension contained in the Agreed Judgment of Partially Probated Suspension entered in Case No. **D0091144042**, Commission for Lawyer Discipline, Petitioner, v. Steven Ryan Lafuente, Respondent:

- It is further **ORDERED** Respondent shall 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), on or before December 1, 2012, an affidavit stating all current clients and opposing counsel have been notified of Respondent's suspension and that all files, papers, monies and other property belonging to all current clients have been returned as ordered herein.
- It is further **ORDERED** Respondent shall 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), on or before December 1, 2012, an affidavit stating Respondent has notified in writing each and every justice of the peace, judge, magistrate, and chief justice of each and every court 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 in Court.
- It is further **ORDERED** that, on or before December 1, 2012, Respondent shall 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 Texas.

Respondent violated the above-noted terms of active suspension in the following manner:

Respondent failed 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), on or before December 1, 2012, an affidavit stating all current clients and opposing counsel have been notified of Respondent's suspension and that all files, papers, monies and other property belonging to all current clients have been returned as ordered herein.

Respondent failed 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), on or

before December 1, 2012, an affidavit stating Respondent has notified in writing each and every justice of the peace, judge, magistrate, and chief justice of each and every court 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 in Court.

Respondent failed on or before December 1, 2012, to 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 Texas.

Respondent violated the following **terms of probation** contained in the Agreed Judgment of Partially Probated Suspension entered in Case No. D0091144042, Commission for Lawyer Discipline, Petitioner, v. Steven Ryan Lafuente, Respondent:

1. Respondent shall not violate any term of this judgment.
8. Respondent shall pay restitution on or before January 5, 2015, to Melinda Claudio in the amount of Four Thousand Three Hundred and no/100 Dollars (\$4,300.00). The payment of restitution shall be made in twenty-four (24) monthly installments, with the first twenty-three (23) payments in the amount of One Hundred Eighty and no/100 Dollars (\$180.00), and the twenty-fourth (24th) payment in the amount of One Hundred Sixty and no/100 Dollars (\$160.00). Each installment is due on the 5th of each month, beginning February 5, 2013, with the final installment due on January 5, 2015. Respondent shall pay the restitution by certified or cashier's check or money order, made payable to Melinda Claudio, 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).
11. Respondent shall make contact with the Texas Lawyers' Assistance Program (TLAP) at its hotline number, 800-343-8527, not later than seven (7) days after receipt of a copy of this judgment to inquire as to services and referrals offered by that program to aid in Respondent's rehabilitation. Respondent shall additionally send verification of contact with TLAP to the State Bar of Texas within fifteen (15) days of such contact.
12. Respondent shall submit to supervision for a period of four (4) years by a

rehabilitation monitor acceptable to the State Bar of Texas and selected by the monitoring program of the Texas Lawyers' Assistance Program. The monitor shall supervise Respondent's compliance with the requirements of the rehabilitation conditions and is under a duty to immediately report to the Chief Disciplinary Counsel's Office State Bar of Texas any noncompliance on the part of Respondent. The monitor shall report the status of Respondent's compliance with these conditions on a monthly basis, with the report due by the 5th day of each month for the duration of the monitoring period.

13. Respondent shall meet with the monitor a minimum of two times per month. The initial meeting shall be held not later than ten (10) days after Respondent receives written notification from the State Bar of Texas of the name and phone number of Respondent's assigned monitor. Such meetings shall be in person at a place and time determined by the monitor. Exceptions must be approved in advance by the monitor and noted on the monthly report.
14. Within ten (10) days of Respondent's receipt of a copy of this judgment, Respondent shall schedule a full psychological assessment to be conducted by a mental health professional licensed in Texas as a psychiatrist, a psychologist, a master's level social worker (LCSW), or a licensed professional counselor (LPC). Respondent shall complete the assessment at the earliest practicable date, but in no event later than sixty (60) days after receipt of a copy of this judgment. Although the details of information disclosed during the assessment shall remain confidential, the conclusions, diagnosis and treatment plan recommendations of the mental health professional shall be reported to the State Bar of Texas within ten (10) days of the completion of the assessment. Respondent shall take all necessary action, including the execution of a valid release of information, to allow and direct the mental health professional to report such results and recommendations.

Respondent violated the above-noted terms of probation in the following manner:

Respondent failed to pay 14 monthly installment payments of restitution to Melinda Claudio in the amount of One Hundred Eighty and no/100 Dollars (\$180.00) each month beginning February 5, 2013. Respondent failed to make monthly installment payments of \$180.00 on February 5, 2013, March 5, 2013, April 5, 2013, May 5, 2013, June 5, 2013, July 5, 2013, August 5, 2013, September 5, 2013, October 5, 2013, November 5, 2013, December 5, 2013, January 5, 2014, February 5, 2014 and March 5, 2014.

Respondent failed to make contact with the Texas Lawyers' Assistance Program (TLAP) at its hotline number, 800-343-8527, not later than seven (7) days after receipt of a copy of the judgment to inquire as to services and referrals offered by that program to aid in Respondent's rehabilitation. Respondent also failed to send verification of contact with TLAP to the State Bar of Texas within fifteen (15) days of such contact.

Respondent failed to submit to supervision for a period of four (4) years by a rehabilitation monitor acceptable to the State Bar of Texas and selected by the monitoring program of the Texas Lawyers' Assistance Program.

Respondent failed to meet with the monitor a minimum of two times per month.

Respondent failed within ten (10) days of receipt of a copy of the judgment, to schedule a full psychological assessment to be conducted by a mental health professional licensed in Texas as a psychiatrist, a psychologist, a master's level social worker (LCSW), or a licensed professional counselor (LPC). Respondent failed to complete the assessment at the earliest practicable date, but in no event later than sixty (60) days after receipt of a copy of this judgment.

These inactions result in violations of Probationary Term Number 1.

Respondent violated the following **terms of the active suspension** contained in the Agreed Judgment of Partially Probated Suspension entered in Case No. **D0051142943**, Commission for Lawyer Discipline, Petitioner, v. Steven Ryan Lafuente, Respondent:

- It is further ORDERED Respondent shall 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), on or before December 1, 2012, an affidavit stating all current clients and opposing counsel have been notified of Respondent's suspension and that all files, papers, monies and other property belonging to all current clients have been returned as ordered herein.
- It is further ORDERED Respondent shall 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), on or before December 1, 2012, an affidavit stating Respondent has notified in writing each and every justice of the peace, judge, magistrate, and chief justice of each and every court 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 in Court.

- It is further ORDERED that, on or before December 1, 2012, Respondent shall 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 Texas.

Respondent violated the above-noted terms of active suspension in the following manner:

Respondent failed 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), on or before December 1, 2012, an affidavit stating all current clients and opposing counsel have been notified of Respondent's suspension and that all files, papers, monies and other property belonging to all current clients have been returned as ordered herein.

Respondent failed 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), on or before December 1, 2012, an affidavit stating Respondent has notified in writing each and every justice of the peace, judge, magistrate, and chief justice of each and every court 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 in Court.

Respondent failed on or before December 1, 2012, to 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 Texas.

Respondent violated the following terms of probation contained in the Agreed Judgment of Partially Probated Suspension entered in Case No. D0051142943, Commission for Lawyer Discipline, Petitioner, v. Steven Ryan Lafuente, Respondent:

1. Respondent shall not violate any term of this judgment.
8. Respondent shall pay restitution on or before October 5, 2013, to Brandi Reschke in the amount of One Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty and no/100 Dollars (\$1,850.00). The payment of restitution shall be made in ten (10) monthly installments, with each payment in the amount of One Hundred Eighty-Five and no/100 Dollars (\$185.00). Each installment is due on the 5th of each month, beginning January 5, 2013, with the final installment due on October 5, 2013. Respondent shall pay the restitution by certified or cashier's check or money order, made payable to Brandi Reschke, 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).
9. Respondent shall pay all reasonable and necessary attorneys' fees and direct expenses to the State Bar of Texas in the amount of One Thousand One Hundred Thirty and no/100 Dollars (\$1,130.00). The payment of attorneys' fees and expenses shall be made in ten (10) monthly installments, with each payment in the amount of One Hundred Thirteen and no/100 Dollars (\$113.00). Each installment is due on the 5th of each month, beginning November 5, 2013, with the final installment due on August 5, 2014. Respondent shall pay the attorneys' fees and expenses by certified or cashier's check or money order, made payable to the State Bar of Texas, 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).

Respondent violated the above-noted terms of probation in the following manner:

Respondent failed to pay 10 monthly installment payments of restitution to Brandi Reschke in the amount of One Hundred Eighty-Five and no/100 Dollars (\$185.00) each month beginning January 5, 2013. Respondent failed to make monthly installment payments of \$185.00 on January 5, 2013, February 5, 2013, March 5, 2013, April 5, 2015, May 5, 2013, June 5, 2013, July 5, 2013, August 5, 2013, September 5, 2013 and October 5, 2013.

Respondent failed to pay 5 monthly installment payments of attorneys' fees and direct expenses to the State Bar of Texas in the amount of One Hundred Thirteen and no/100 Dollars

(\$113.00) each month beginning November 5, 2013. Respondent failed to make monthly installment payments of \$113.00 on November 5, 2013, December 5, 2013, January 5, 2014, February 5, 2014 and March 5, 2014.

These inactions result in violations of Probationary Term Number 1.

As detailed above, Respondent violated probationary terms of his judgments.

V. REVOCATION

Pursuant to Rule 2.23 of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals is granted jurisdiction for the full term of suspension, including any probationary period, to hear a motion to revoke probation. "Upon proof, by a preponderance of the evidence, of a violation of probation, the same shall be revoked and the attorney suspended from the practice of law for the full term of the suspension without credit for any probationary time served." Tex.R.Discipl.P. 2.23.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Petitioner prays Respondent be given notice of these proceedings as provided by law and upon final hearing of this matter, that this Honorable Board enter orders suspending Respondent's license to practice law for the full term of his suspension, and for such other and additional relief to which Petitioner may be entitled.

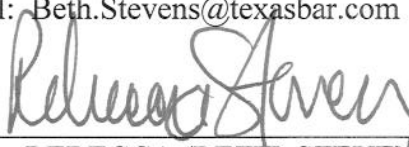
Respectfully submitted,

LINDA A. ACEVEDO
Chief Disciplinary Counsel

Rebecca (Beth) Stevens
Assistant Disciplinary Counsel

Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel
State Bar of Texas
P.O. Box 12487

Austin, Texas 78711
Telephone: 512.427.1350
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Email: Beth.Stevens@texasbar.com

By: 
REBECCA (BETH) STEVENS
State Bar No. 24065381

ATTORNEYS FOR PETITIONER

NOTICE OF HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a trial on the merits of the Petition for Revocation of Probation heretofore sent to be filed with the Board of Disciplinary Appeals on this day, will be held in the courtroom of the Supreme Court of Texas, Tom C. Clark Building, 14th and Colorado Streets, Austin, Texas, at **9:00 a.m. on the 2nd day of May 2014.**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rebecca Stevens". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Rebecca (Beth) Stevens

SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS
BOARD OF DISCIPLINARY APPEALS
INTERNAL PROCEDURAL RULES

SECTION 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS 1
Rule 1.01 Definitions 1
Rule 1.02 General Powers 1
Rule 1.03 Additional Rules in Disciplinary Matters 1
Rule 1.04 Appointment of Panels 1
Rule 1.05 Record Retention 2
Rule 1.06 Trial Briefs 2
Rule 1.07 Service 2
Rule 1.08 Publication 2
Rule 1.09 Photocopying Costs 2
Rule 1.10 Abstracts 2
Rule 1.11 Hearing Setting and Notice 3
Rule 1.12 Time to Answer 3
Rule 1.13 Facsimile and Electronic Filing 3
Rule 1.14 Hearing Exhibits 4
Rule 1.15 BODA Work Product and Drafts 4
Rule 1.16 BODA Opinions 4
SECTION 2: ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS 5
Rule 2.01 Representing or Counseling Parties in Disciplinary Matters 5
And Legal Malpractice Cases 5
Rule 2.02 Confidentiality 5
Rule 2.03 Disqualification and Recusal of BODA Members 5
Rule 2.04 Communications with BODA 6
SECTION 3: CLASSIFICATION APPEALS 6
Rule 3.01 Notice of Appeal 6
Rule 3.02 Complaint on Appeal 6
Rule 3.03 Notice of Disposition 6
SECTION 4: APPEALS FROM EVIDENTIARY PANEL HEARINGS 6
Rule 4.01 Signing, Filing, and Service 6
Rule 4.02 Computation of Time 7
Rule 4.03 Record on Appeal 7
Rule 4.04 Time to File Record 8
Rule 4.05 Copies of the Record 9
Rule 4.06 Requisites of Briefs 9
Rule 4.07 Oral Argument 10
Rule 4.08 Motions Generally 11
Rule 4.09 Motions for Extension of Time 11
Rule 4.10 Decision and Judgment 11
Rule 4.11 Involuntary Dismissal 12
SECTION 5: PETITIONS TO REVOKE PROBATION 12
Rule 5.01 Initiation and Service 12
Rule 5.02 Hearing 12
SECTION 6: COMPULSORY DISCIPLINE MATTERS 13
Rule 6.01 Initiation of Proceeding 13
Rule 6.02 Notice of Decision 13
SECTION 7: RECIPROCAL DISCIPLINE MATTERS 13
Rule 7.01 Initiation of Proceeding 13
Rule 7.02 Order to Show Cause 13
Rule 7.03 Attorney's Response 13
SECTION 8: DISTRICT DISABILITY COMMITTEE HEARINGS 13
Rule 8.01 Appointment of District Disability Committee 13
Rule 8.02 Hearing Order 14
Rule 8.03 Provisions for Physical or Mental Examinations 15
Rule 8.04 Ability to Compel Attendance 15
Rule 8.05 Respondent's Right to Counsel 15
Rule 8.06 Limited Discovery 15
Rule 8.07 Hearing 16
Rule 8.08 Notice of Decision 16
Rule 8.09 Confidentiality 16
SECTION 9: DISABILITY REINSTATEMENTS 16
Rule 9.01 Petition for Reinstatement 16
Rule 9.02 Discovery 17
Rule 9.03 Physical or Mental Examinations 17
Rule 9.04 Judgment 17
SECTION 10: APPEALS FROM BODA TO THE SUPREME COURT 18
Rule 10.01 Docketing by the Clerk 18
Rule 10.02 Appellate Rules to Apply 18

**SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS
BOARD OF DISCIPLINARY APPEALS
INTERNAL PROCEDURAL RULES**

SECTION 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS

Rule 1.01 Definitions

- (a) “BODA” is the Board of Disciplinary Appeals.
- (b) “Chair” is the member elected by BODA to serve as chairperson.
- (c) “Classification” is the determination pursuant to TEXAS RULES OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE (“TRDP”) 2.10 by the Chief Disciplinary Counsel (“CDC”) whether a grievance constitutes a “complaint” or an “inquiry.”
- (d) “Clerk” is the executive director or other person appointed by BODA to assume all duties normally performed by the clerk of a court.
- (e) “Executive Director” is the executive director of BODA.
- (f) “Panel” is any three-member grouping of BODA.
- (g) “Party” is a complainant, respondent, or the CDC.

Rule 1.02 General Powers

Pursuant to TRDP 7.08J, BODA shall have and exercise all the powers of either a trial court or appellate court, as the case may be, in hearing and determining disciplinary proceedings; except that BODA judgments and orders shall be enforced in accordance with TRDP 15.03.

Rule 1.03 Additional Rules in Disciplinary Matters

Except as varied by these rules and to the extent applicable, the TEXAS RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE (“TRCP”), TEXAS RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE (“TRAP”), and TEXAS RULES OF EVIDENCE (“TRE”) apply to all disciplinary matters before BODA, except appeals from classification decisions, which are governed by Section 3 of these Internal Rules.

Rule 1.04 Appointment of Panels

- (a) BODA may consider any matter or motion through appointment of a panel, except as specified in subpart (b) of this Rule. The chair may delegate appointment of panels for any BODA action to the executive director. Decisions shall be by a majority vote of the panel; however, any panel member may refer a matter for consideration by BODA sitting *en banc*. Nothing

contained in these rules shall be construed to give a party the right to be heard by BODA sitting *en banc*.

(b) Any disciplinary matter naming a BODA member as respondent shall be considered by BODA sitting *en banc*.

Rule 1.05 Record Retention

Records of appeals from classification decisions shall be retained by the BODA clerk for a period of at least three (3) years from the date of disposition. Records of other disciplinary matters shall be retained for a period of at least five (5) years from the date of final judgment, or for at least one (1) year after the date a suspension or disbarment ends, whichever is later.

Rule 1.06 Trial Briefs

In any disciplinary proceeding before BODA, all trial briefs and memoranda must be filed with the clerk no later than ten (10) days before the hearing, except upon leave of BODA.

Rule 1.07 Service

In any disciplinary proceeding before BODA initiated by service of a petition upon the respondent, service shall be by personal service, certified mail with return receipt requested and delivery restricted to respondent as addressee only, or in any other manner permitted by applicable rule(s) and authorized by BODA that is reasonably calculated under all the circumstances to apprise the respondent of the proceeding and to give him or her reasonable time to appear and answer. The CDC may serve a petition by certified mail itself without the appointment of a private process server. To establish service by certified or registered mail, the return receipt must contain the respondent's signature.

Rule 1.08 Publication

The office of the CDC shall publish these rules as part of the TDRPC and TRDP and notify each respondent in a compulsory discipline, reciprocal discipline, revocation of probation, or disability matter filed with BODA where these rules are available.

Rule 1.09 Photocopying Costs

The clerk of BODA may charge to the requestor a reasonable amount for the reproduction of non-confidential documents filed with BODA. BODA may set a fee for the reproduction of documents. The fee shall include compensation for staff and recovery of actual production costs.

Rule 1.10 Abstracts

BODA may, in its sole discretion, periodically prepare abstracts of inquiries, grievances, or disciplinary proceedings for publication pursuant to Texas Gov't Code § 81.072(b)(3) and Part VI of the TRDP.

Rule 1.11 Hearing Setting and Notice

(a) **Original Petitions.** For any compulsory case, reciprocal case, revocation of probation, or other matter initiated by the CDC filing a petition with BODA, the CDC may contact the BODA clerk for the next regular available hearing date before filing the original petition. The CDC may then include in the petition a hearing notice specifying the date, time, and place of the hearing. The hearing date must be at least thirty (30) days from the date that the petition is served on the respondent, except in the case of a petition to revoke probation.

(b) **Filing without notice.** The CDC may file any matter with BODA without first obtaining a hearing date so long as it thereafter serves notice on the respondent of the date, time, and place of the hearing in accordance with TRCP 21a (or other applicable TRCP) at least thirty (30) days before the hearing date, except in the case of a petition to revoke probation.

(c) **Expedited settings.** If a party desires a hearing on a matter on a date other than the next regular available BODA hearing date, the party may request an expedited setting in a written motion setting out the reasons for the request. The expedited hearing setting must be at least thirty (30) days from the date of service of the petition, motion or other pleading, except in the case of a petition to revoke probation. BODA may grant or deny a request for an expedited hearing date in its sole discretion.

(d) **Setting notices.** BODA shall notify the parties by first class mail of any hearing date, other than a hearing set on the next regularly available hearing date as noticed in an original petition or motion.

(e) **Announcement docket.** Attorneys and parties appearing before BODA shall check in with the BODA clerk in the courtroom immediately prior to the time docket call is scheduled to begin. The chair will call an announcement docket immediately following the call to order of BODA hearings. Attorneys for each party with a matter on the docket shall appear at that time to give their announcement of readiness, a time estimate for the hearing, and any preliminary motions or matters. The chair will set and announce the order of cases to be heard following the docket announcements.

Rule 1.12 Time to Answer

An answer to any matter pending before BODA may be filed at any time prior to the day of the hearing on the merits except where expressly provided otherwise by these rules or the TRDP, or when an answer date has been set by prior order of BODA. BODA may, but is not required to, consider an answer filed the day of the hearing.

Rule 1.13 Facsimile and Electronic Filing

(a) Any document required to be filed with BODA may be filed by facsimile transmission with a copy to the BODA clerk by first class mail. A document filed by facsimile will be considered filed the day it is received if received before 5:00 p.m. on a regular business day. Any document received by facsimile after 5:00 p.m. or received on a weekend or holiday officially observed by the State of Texas will be considered filed the next regular business day.

(b) Any document required to be filed with BODA may be filed by emailing a copy of the document file to the email address designated by BODA for that purpose with a copy sent to the BODA clerk by first class mail. A document filed by email will be considered filed the day it is received if received before 5:00 p.m. on a regular business day. Any document received by email after 5:00 p.m. or received on a weekend or holiday officially observed by the State of Texas will be considered filed the next regular business day. The date and time of receipt shall be determined by the date and time shown on the BODA clerk's email.

(c) It is the responsibility of the party filing a document by facsimile or email to obtain the correct telephone number or email address for BODA and confirm that the document was received by BODA in legible form. Any document which is illegible or which cannot be opened as part of an email attachment by BODA will not be considered received or filed. Parties using facsimile or email filing must still comply with TRCP requirements for signatures.

(d) Papers will not be deemed filed if sent to any individual BODA member or other office or address.

Rule 1.14 Hearing Exhibits

Counsel should provide an original and twelve copies of any document, pleading, exhibit, or other material which the attorney intends to offer or otherwise make available to the BODA members at a hearing and not already filed with BODA prior to the hearing.

Rule 1.15 BODA Work Product and Drafts

Without limiting any exceptions or exemptions from disclosure contained in any other rules or statutes, a document or record of any nature, regardless of electronic or physical form, characteristics, or means of transmission, created or produced in connection with or related to BODA's adjudicative decision-making process is not subject to disclosure or discovery. This includes documents prepared by any BODA member, by BODA staff or interns, or any other person acting on behalf of or at the direction of BODA.

Rule 1.16 BODA Opinions

(a) BODA may render judgment with or without written opinion in any disciplinary matter. In accordance with TRDP 6.06, all written opinions of BODA are open to the public and shall be made available to the public reporting services, print or electronic, for publishing. A majority of the members who participate in considering the disciplinary matter must determine if an opinion will be written. The names of the participating members must be noted on all written opinions of BODA.

(b) Only a member who participated in the decision of a disciplinary matter may file or join in a written opinion concurring in or dissenting from the judgment of BODA. For purposes of this Rule, in hearings in which evidence is taken, no member may participate in the decision unless that member was present at the hearing. In all other proceedings, no member may participate unless that member has reviewed the record. Any member of BODA may file a written opinion in connection with the denial of a hearing or rehearing en banc.

(c) A BODA determination in an appeal from a grievance classification decision under TRDP 2.10 is not a judgment for purposes of this Rule and may be issued without a written opinion.

SECTION 2: ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Rule 2.01 Representing or Counseling Parties in Disciplinary Matters And Legal Malpractice Cases

(a) No current member of BODA shall represent a party with respect to any disciplinary action or proceeding. No current member of BODA shall testify voluntarily or offer to testify voluntarily on behalf of a party in any disciplinary action or proceeding.

(b) No current BODA member may serve as an expert witness providing opinions regarding the TDRPC.

(c) A BODA member may represent a party in a legal malpractice case, provided that he or she is later recused in accordance with these rules from any proceeding before BODA arising out of the same facts.

Rule 2.02 Confidentiality

(a) All BODA deliberations are confidential and shall not be disclosed by BODA members or staff. Classification appeals files and disability suspension files are confidential pursuant to the TRDP.

(b) If subpoenaed or otherwise compelled by law to testify in any proceeding, members of BODA shall not disclose matters discussed in conference concerning any disciplinary case, unless required to do so by a court of competent jurisdiction. If subpoenaed or otherwise compelled to attend any disciplinary proceeding, including depositions, a member of BODA shall promptly notify the chair of BODA and the CDC.

Rule 2.03 Disqualification and Recusal of BODA Members

(a) BODA members are subject to disqualification and recusal respectively as provided in TRCP 18b.

(b) BODA members may, in addition to recusals pursuant to (a) above, voluntarily recuse themselves from any discussion and voting for any other reason.

(c) Nothing in these rules shall impute disqualification to lawyers who are members of or associated with BODA members' firms from serving on grievance committees or representing parties in disciplinary or legal malpractice cases; however, BODA members shall recuse themselves from any matter in which any lawyer who is a member of or associated with a BODA member's firm represents a party in any disciplinary proceeding or before BODA.

Rule 2.04 Communications with BODA

Correspondence or other communications relative to any matter pending before BODA must be conducted with the clerk and shall not be addressed directly to or conducted with any BODA member.

SECTION 3: CLASSIFICATION APPEALS

Rule 3.01 Notice of Appeal

(a) If the grievance filed by the complainant is not classified as a complaint, the CDC shall notify the complainant of his or her rights to appeal as set out in TRDP 2.10 or other applicable rule.

(b) To facilitate the potential filing of an appeal, the CDC shall send the complainant an Appeal Notice form with the classification disposition which shall include, but is not limited to, the docket number of the matter, the time deadline for appealing as set out in TRDP 2.10 or other applicable provision, and information for mailing or faxing the Appeal Notice to BODA.

Rule 3.02 Complaint on Appeal

BODA shall review only the original grievance on appeals from classification decisions. The CDC shall forward a copy of the complete grievance to BODA with supporting documentation as originally filed. BODA shall not consider any supplemental information which was not reviewed as part of the original screening and classification decision.

Rule 3.03 Notice of Disposition

BODA shall mail complainant, respondent, and the CDC written notice of the decision of the appeal by first class mail to the addresses provided BODA by the CDC in the appeal transmittal.

SECTION 4: APPEALS FROM EVIDENTIARY PANEL HEARINGS

Rule 4.01 Signing, Filing, and Service

(a) **Signing.** Each brief, motion or other paper filed shall be signed by at least one attorney for the party or by the party *pro se* and shall give the State Bar of Texas identification number, mailing address, telephone number, email address, and telecopier number, if any, of each attorney whose name is signed thereto, or of the party (if applicable).

(b) **Number of Copies.** Each party shall file an original and two (2) copies of all briefs and motions with the clerk. Only one copy of the clerk's record and reporter's record shall be filed.

(c) **Service.** Copies of all papers other than the record filed by any party shall, at or before the time of filing, be served on all other parties as required and authorized by the TRAP.

Rule 4.02 Computation of Time

- (a) **Beginnings of Periods.** The date the chair of the evidentiary panel signs its decision shall constitute the date of notice under TRDP 2.21.
- (b) **TRAP Followed.** Computation of time for purposes of this section shall follow TRAP 4.1 and 9.2(b).

Rule 4.03 Record on Appeal

(a) **Contents.** The record on appeal shall consist of a clerk's record and where necessary to the appeal, a reporter's record.

(b) **Stipulation as to Record.** The parties may designate parts of the clerk's record and reporter's record to be included in the record on appeal by written stipulation filed with the custodian of records of the evidentiary panel.

(c) **Responsibility for Filing Record.** The custodian of records of the evidentiary panel is responsible for preparing, certifying, and timely filing the clerk's record if a notice of appeal has been filed. The court reporter is responsible for timely filing the reporter's record if a notice of appeal has been filed, the appellant has requested that the reporter's record be prepared, and the party responsible for initiating the appeal has paid the reporter's fee or has made satisfactory arrangements with the reporter. The party initiating the appeal shall pay the cost of preparing the record.

(d) **Clerk's Record.**

- (1) Unless otherwise stipulated by the parties, the clerk's record on appeal shall include all papers on file with the evidentiary panel, including, but not limited to, the election letter, all pleadings upon which the hearing was held, the docket sheet, the evidentiary panel's charge, the final hearing order with attachments or exhibits, any findings of fact and conclusions of law, all other pleadings, the judgment or other order(s) appealed from, the notice of decision sent each party, any post-submission pleadings and briefs, and any notice of appeal.
- (2) Upon receipt of a copy of the notice of appeal, the custodian of records in the individual CDC office which conducted the evidentiary hearing shall prepare and transmit the clerk's record to BODA. If the CDC is unable for any reason to prepare and transmit the clerk's record by the due date, it shall promptly notify BODA and the parties, explain the reason(s) why it cannot be timely filed, and give the date by which it expects the clerk's record can be filed.
- (3) The clerk's record should be in the following form:
 - (i) contain a detailed index identifying each document included in the record, the date of filing, and the page where it first appears;

- (ii) arranged in ascending chronological order by document by date of filing or occurrence;
- (iii) tabbed with heavy index tabs to show the beginning of each document;
- (iv) consecutively numbered in the bottom right-hand corner of the pages;
- (v) bound together so that the record will lie flat when opened; and
- (vi) contain the custodian's certification that the documents contained in the clerk's record are true and correct copies and are all the documents required to be filed.

(e) **Reporter's Record.** The appellant, at or before the time prescribed for perfecting the appeal, shall make a written request to the official reporter for the reporter's record, designating the portion of the evidence and other proceedings to be included. A copy of such request shall be filed with the evidentiary panel and BODA and be served on the appellee. The reporter's record shall be certified by the official court reporter.

(f) **Non-Stenographic Recordings.** All testimony and evidence may be recorded at the evidentiary hearing by means other than stenographic recording, including videotape recordings; however, the non-stenographic recording shall not dispense with the requirement of a stenographic transcription of the hearing. In appeals to BODA, the non-stenographic recording must be transcribed and the transcription filed as the reporter's record.

(g) **Other Requests.** At any time before the clerk's record is prepared or within ten (10) days after service of a copy of appellant's request for the reporter's record, any party may request additional portions of the evidence and other proceedings to be included therein.

(h) **Inaccuracies or Defects.** Any inaccuracies in the record may be corrected by an agreement of the parties. Any dispute regarding the reporter's record shall be submitted by BODA to the evidentiary panel for resolution and to conform the reporter's record.

Rule 4.04 Time to File Record

(a) **Timetable.** The clerk's record and reporter's record (including a non-stenographic recording which has been transcribed) shall be filed with the BODA clerk within thirty (30) days after the date the notice of appeal is received by BODA. Failure to file either the clerk's record or the reporter's record within such time shall not affect BODA's jurisdiction, but shall be grounds for BODA exercising its discretion to dismiss the appeal, affirm the judgment appealed from, disregard materials filed late, or to apply presumptions against the appellant.

(b) **If No Record Filed.**

- (1) If the clerk's record or reporter's record has not been timely filed, the BODA clerk must send notice to the party responsible for filing it, stating that the record is late and requesting that the record be filed within thirty (30) days. The BODA clerk must send a copy of this notice to all the parties and the evidentiary panel.
- (2) If no reporter's record is filed due to appellant's fault, and if the clerk's record has been filed, BODA may, after first giving the appellant notice and reasonable opportunity to cure, consider and decide those issues or points that do not require a reporter's record for a decision. BODA may do this if no reporter's record has been filed because:
 - (i) the appellant failed to request a reporter's record; or
 - (ii)(a) appellant failed to pay or make arrangements to pay the reporter's fee to prepare the reporter's record; and
 - (b) the appellant is not entitled to proceed without payment of costs.

(c) **Supplemental Record.** If anything material to either party is omitted from the clerk's record or reporter's record BODA may, upon written motion of a party or upon its own motion, direct a supplemental record to be certified and transmitted by the CDC or the official court reporter.

Rule 4.05 Copies of the Record

The record shall not be withdrawn from the custody of the BODA clerk. Any party may obtain a copy of the record or any designated part thereof by making written request to the clerk and paying copying charges.

Rule 4.06 Requisites of Briefs

(a) **Appellant's Filing Date.** Appellant's brief must be filed within thirty (30) days after the later of the date on which the clerk's record or the reporter's record was timely filed.

(b) **Appellee's Filing Date.** Appellee's brief must be filed within thirty (30) days after the filing of appellant's brief.

(c) **Contents.** Briefs shall contain:

- (1) a complete list of the names and addresses of all parties to the final decision and their counsel;
- (2) a table of contents with page references where the discussion of each point relied upon may be found and also an index of authorities alphabetically arranged, together with reference to the pages of the brief where the same are

cited. The subject matter of each point or group of points shall be indicated in the table of contents;

- (3) a brief general statement of the nature of the cause or offense and the result;
- (4) a statement of the points upon which an appeal is predicated or the issues presented for review;
- (5) a brief of the argument;
- (6) prayer for relief; and,
- (7) an appendix consisting of copies of pertinent parts of the record upon which the party relies.

(d) **Length of Briefs.** Briefs shall be typewritten or otherwise legibly printed on letter-size (8½" x 11") paper and shall not exceed fifty (50) pages in length, exclusive of pages containing names and addresses of parties, table of contents, index of authorities, points of error, and any addenda or appendix containing statutes, rules, regulations, etc., except upon leave of BODA.

(e) **Amendment or Supplementation.** Briefs may be amended or supplemented upon leave of BODA.

(f) **Failure to File a Brief.** If the appellant fails to timely file a brief, BODA may:

- (1) dismiss the appeal for want of prosecution, unless the appellant reasonably explains the failure and the appellee is not significantly injured by the appellant's failure to timely file a brief; or
- (2) decline to dismiss the appeal and give further direction to the case as it considers proper.

Rule 4.07 Oral Argument

(a) **Request.** A party desiring oral argument before BODA shall request same in writing and include the request in the notice of appeal or on the front cover of that party's first brief. BODA may grant or deny the request in its sole discretion. If oral argument is granted, the clerk shall notify the parties of the time and place for submission. BODA may also advance cases without oral argument or direct parties on its own initiative to appear and submit oral argument on a case. The parties may agree to submit the case without argument after requesting same.

(b) **Time Allowed.** Each party shall have twenty (20) minutes in which to argue. BODA may, upon request of a party or in its discretion, extend or shorten the time allowed for oral argument.

Rule 4.08 Motions Generally

An application for an order or other relief shall be made by filing a motion with the BODA clerk for same supported by sufficient cause with proof of service on all other parties. The motion shall state with particularity the grounds on which it is based and set forth the relief sought. All supporting briefs, affidavits, or other papers shall be served and filed with the motion. A party may file a response to a motion at any time before BODA rules on the motion or by any deadline set by BODA. BODA may determine a motion before a response is filed.

Rule 4.09 Motions for Extension of Time

(a) **When due.** Any request for extension of time other than to file a brief must be filed with the BODA clerk no later than fifteen (15) days after the last day allowed for filing the item in question.

(b) **Contents.** All motions for extension of time shall be in writing, comply with BODA Internal Procedural Rule 4.08, and specify the following:

- (1) the date of notice of decision of the evidentiary panel, together with the number and style of the case;
- (2) if the appeal has been perfected, the date when the appeal was perfected;
- (3) the original deadline for filing the item in question;
- (4) the length of time requested for the extension;
- (5) the number of extensions of time which have been granted previously regarding the item in question; and,
- (6) the facts relied upon to reasonably explain the need for an extension.

(c) **For Filing Reporter's Record.** When an extension of time is requested for filing the reporter's record, the facts relied upon to reasonably explain the need for an extension must be supported by an affidavit of the court reporter, which shall include the court reporter's estimate of the earliest date when the reporter's record will be available for filing.

Rule 4.10 Decision and Judgment

(a) **Decision.** BODA may affirm in whole or in part the decision of the evidentiary panel, modify the panel's finding(s) and affirm the finding(s) as modified, reverse in whole or in part the panel's finding(s) and render such decision as the panel should have rendered, or reverse the panel's finding(s) and remand the cause for further proceedings to be conducted by:

- (1) the panel that entered the finding(s); or,

- (2) a statewide grievance committee panel appointed by BODA and composed of members selected from the state bar districts other than the district from which the appeal was taken.

(b) **Notice of Orders and Judgment.** When BODA renders judgment or grants or overrules a motion, the clerk shall give notice to the parties or their attorneys of record of the disposition made of the cause or of the motion, as the case may be. The notice shall be given by first-class mail and be marked so as to be returnable to the clerk in case of nondelivery.

(c) **Mandate.** In every case where BODA reverses or otherwise modifies the judgment appealed from, BODA shall issue a mandate in accordance with its judgment and deliver it to the evidentiary panel.

Rule 4.11 Involuntary Dismissal

Under the following circumstances and on any party's motion or on its own initiative after giving at least ten days' notice to all parties, BODA may dismiss the appeal or affirm the appealed judgment or order. Dismissal or affirmance may occur if the appeal is subject to dismissal

- (a) for want of jurisdiction;
- (b) for want of prosecution; or
- (c) because the appellant has failed to comply with a requirement of these rules, a court order, or a notice from the clerk requiring a response or other action within a specified time.

SECTION 5: PETITIONS TO REVOKE PROBATION

Rule 5.01 Initiation and Service

(a) Before filing a motion with BODA seeking to revoke the probation of an attorney who has been sanctioned, the CDC shall contact the BODA clerk to confirm whether the next regular available hearing date will comply with the thirty-day requirement of TRDP. The chair may designate a three-member panel to hear the motion, if necessary, to meet the thirty-day requirement of TRDP 2.23.

(b) Upon filing of the motion, the CDC shall serve the respondent in accordance with TRDP 2.23 with the motion and supporting documents, if any, in accordance with the TRCP and these rules. The CDC shall notify BODA of the date service is obtained on the respondent.

Rule 5.02 Hearing

Within thirty (30) days of service of the motion on the respondent, BODA shall docket and set the matter for a hearing and notify the parties of the time and place for the hearing; however, upon a showing of good cause by a party or upon its own motion, BODA may continue the case to a future hearing date as circumstances require.

SECTION 6: COMPULSORY DISCIPLINE MATTERS

Rule 6.01 Initiation of Proceeding

Pursuant to TRDP 8.03, the CDC shall file a petition for compulsory discipline with BODA and serve the respondent in accordance with the TRDP and Rule 1.07 above.

Rule 6.02 Notice of Decision

The BODA clerk shall mail a copy of the judgment to the parties within ten (10) days from the date the decision is signed by the chair. Transmittal of the judgment shall include all information required by the TRDP and the Supreme Court.

SECTION 7: RECIPROCAL DISCIPLINE MATTERS

Rule 7.01 Initiation of Proceeding

(a) Pursuant to TRDP 9.01 and 9.02, the CDC shall file a petition for reciprocal discipline with BODA when information is received indicating that an attorney licensed to practice law in Texas has been disciplined in another jurisdiction.

(b) The petition shall request that the respondent be disciplined in Texas and have attached to it any information concerning the disciplinary matter from the other jurisdiction including a copy of the order or judgment, if any, rendered against the respondent. The CDC shall serve the respondent in accordance with Rule 1.07 above.

Rule 7.02 Order to Show Cause

Upon the filing of the petition with BODA, the chair shall immediately issue a show cause order including a hearing setting notice and forward it to the CDC, who shall serve the order on the respondent. The CDC shall notify BODA of the date service is obtained.

Rule 7.03 Attorney's Response

If, on or before the thirtieth day after service of the show cause order and hearing notice by the CDC, the respondent does not file an answer but thereafter appears at the hearing, BODA may, at the discretion of the chair, receive testimony from the respondent relating to the merits of the petition for reciprocal discipline.

SECTION 8: DISTRICT DISABILITY COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Rule 8.01 Appointment of District Disability Committee

(a) If the evidentiary panel of the grievance committee finds pursuant to TRDP 2.17P(2) or the CDC believes pursuant to TRDP 2.14C that a respondent is suffering from a disability, the rules in this section shall apply to the District Disability Committee *de novo* proceeding held pursuant to TRDP Part XII.

(b) Upon receiving an evidentiary panel's finding or the CDC's report that an attorney is believed to be suffering from a disability, the BODA chair shall appoint a District Disability Committee in compliance with TRDP 12.02 and designate a chair. The BODA clerk shall notify the CDC and respondent that a committee has been appointed and notify the respondent where the procedural rules governing disability proceedings are available.

(c) A respondent notified to appear at a District Disability Committee hearing may, at any time, waive that hearing in writing and enter into an agreed judgment of indefinite disability suspension or probated suspension, provided that the respondent is competent to so waive the hearing. If the respondent is not represented, the waiver shall include a statement by the respondent that he has been advised of his right to have counsel appointed for him and that he waives that right.

(d) All pleadings, motions, briefs, or other matters to be filed with the District Disability Committee shall be filed with the BODA clerk.

(e) Should any member of the District Disability Committee become unable to serve, the BODA chair may appoint a substitute member.

Rule 8.02 Hearing Order

(a) Upon being notified that the District Disability Committee has been appointed by BODA, the CDC shall, within twenty (20) days, file with the BODA clerk and then serve upon the respondent either in person or by certified mail, return receipt requested with delivery restricted to the respondent as addressee with a copy by first class mail, a proposed hearing order containing a list of names and addresses of all witnesses expected to be called to testify before the District Disability Committee and all exhibits expected to be offered. If service is by certified mail, the return receipt with the respondent's signature must be filed with the BODA clerk.

(b) The respondent shall, within twenty (20) days after receiving the CDC's proposed hearing order, file with the BODA clerk and serve the CDC by certified mail a proposed hearing order including a list of names and addresses of all witnesses expected to be called to testify before the District Disability Committee and all exhibits expected to be offered. Respondent's failure to timely file the proposed hearing order will not affect the responsibility of the District Disability Committee to issue a final hearing order.

(c) The District Disability Committee chair may adopt either the CDC's proposed hearing order, the respondent's proposed hearing order, or an order of his or her own. The BODA clerk shall prepare the final hearing order at the instruction of the District Disability Committee chair and send to the parties by first class mail. The BODA clerk shall set the final hearing date at the instruction of the chair. The adopted order shall be the final hearing order and shall contain a date, time, and place for the hearing. That order may contain provisions requiring a physical or mental examination of the respondent.

(d) Requests for an extension of time to file the proposed hearing order by either party must be by written motion filed with the BODA clerk.

Rule 8.03 Provisions for Physical or Mental Examinations

(a) Upon motion by the CDC or upon its own motion, the District Disability Committee may order the respondent to submit to a physical and/or mental examination by a qualified health care or mental health care professional. The respondent shall be given reasonable notice of the examination by written order specifying the name, address, and telephone number of the person conducting the examination. Any objections(s) to the motion for an exam and request for a hearing shall be filed with the BODA clerk within fifteen (15) days of receipt of the motion.

(b) The examining professional shall file with the BODA clerk his detailed written report setting out findings, including results of all tests made, diagnoses and conclusions, and deliver a copy to the CDC and to the respondent.

(c) Nothing contained herein shall be construed to limit the respondent's right to an examination by a professional of his choice in addition to any exam ordered by BODA.

Rule 8.04 Ability to Compel Attendance

The respondent and the CDC may, if they so choose, confront and cross-examine witnesses at the hearing. Compulsory process to compel the attendance of witnesses, enforceable by an order of a district court of proper jurisdiction, is available to the respondent and the CDC, by requesting a subpoena be issued as provided in TRCP 176.

Rule 8.05 Respondent's Right to Counsel

(a) The notice to the respondent that a District Disability Committee has been appointed and the notice transmitting the CDC's proposed hearing order shall state that the respondent may request appointment of counsel by BODA to represent him or her at the disability hearing.

(b) If the respondent wishes to have counsel appointed pursuant to TRDP Rule 12.02, a written request must be filed with the BODA clerk within sixty (60) days of the date respondent receives the CDC's proposed hearing order. Any request for appointment of counsel after sixty (60) days from the date of receipt of the proposed hearing order must show good cause for the failure to do so timely and that the request is not sought for delay only.

Rule 8.06 Limited Discovery

(a) In the sole discretion of the District Disability Committee, limited discovery is permissible upon a clear showing of good cause and substantial need. The parties seeking discovery must file with the BODA clerk a verified written request for discovery showing good cause and substantial need with the proposed hearing order.

(b) If good cause and substantial need are demonstrated, the District Disability Committee shall by written order permit the discovery, including in the final hearing order limitations or deadlines on the discovery. Such discovery, if any, as may be permitted, must be conducted by methods provided in the TRCP in effect at the time and may upon motion be enforced by a district court of proper jurisdiction.

(c) A decision of a District Disability Committee on a discovery matter may be reviewed only on appeal of the entire case. A reversal of the case may not be based upon the granting or denial of a discovery request without a showing of material unfairness or substantial harm.

Rule 8.07 Hearing

(a) The party seeking to establish the disability must prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the respondent is suffering from a disability as defined in the TRDP. The chair of the District Disability Committee shall admit all such probative and relevant evidence as he or she deems necessary for a fair and complete hearing, generally in accord with the TRE; provided, however, that the admission or exclusion of evidence shall be in the sole discretion of the chair. No ruling on evidence shall be a basis for reversal solely because it fails to strictly comply with the TRE.

(b) Such proceedings shall begin and conclude no earlier than thirty (30) days from the date the respondent receives the CDC's proposed hearing order nor later than ninety (90) days from that date; however, failure to do so does not affect the jurisdiction of the District Disability Committee to act. Nothing herein shall be construed to limit the parties' right to request a continuance of the hearing for good cause.

(c) If the Committee is unable for any reason to hold a hearing within ninety (90) days of the date the respondent receives the proposed hearing order, BODA may appoint a new committee to handle the case.

Rule 8.08 Notice of Decision

The District Disability Committee shall certify its finding and any recommendations to BODA which shall issue the final judgment in the matter.

Rule 8.09 Confidentiality

All proceedings before the District Disability Committee are closed to the public. All matters before the District Disability Committee are confidential and are not subject to disclosure, except as allowed by the TRDP or as may be required in the event of an appeal to the Supreme Court.

SECTION 9: DISABILITY REINSTATEMENTS

Rule 9.01 Petition for Reinstatement

(a) An attorney under an indefinite disability suspension may, at any time after he or she has been suspended, file a verified petition with BODA to have the suspension terminated and to be reinstated to the practice of law. All such petitions shall be filed with the BODA clerk. The petitioner shall also serve a copy of the petition on the CDC as set forth in TRDP 12.06. After the petition is filed, the TRCP shall apply except when in conflict with these rules. Service shall be in accordance with the TRDP and these rules.

(b) The petition shall set forth the information required by TRDP 12.06. If the judgment of disability suspension contained terms or conditions relating to misconduct by the petitioner prior to the suspension, the petition shall affirmatively demonstrate that those terms have been complied with or explain why they have not been satisfied. The petitioner has a duty to amend and keep current all information in the petition until the final hearing on the merits. Failure to do so may result in dismissal without notice.

(c) Disability reinstatement proceedings before BODA are not confidential; however, BODA may seal all or any part of the record of the proceeding.

Rule 9.02 Discovery

The parties shall have sixty (60) days from the date of the filing of the petition for reinstatement in which to conduct discovery. The matter shall be set for a hearing by the BODA clerk on the next available hearing date after the expiration of the sixty (60) days, and the clerk shall so notify the parties of the time and place of the hearing. Nothing contained herein shall preclude either party from requesting a continuance for good cause.

Rule 9.03 Physical or Mental Examinations

(a) BODA may order the petitioner seeking reinstatement to submit to a physical and/or mental examination by a qualified health care or mental health care professional upon written motion of the CDC or its own motion. The petitioner shall be served with a copy of the motion and given at least seven (7) days to respond. BODA may grant or deny the motion with or without a hearing.

(b) The petitioner shall be given reasonable notice of the examination by written order specifying the name, address and telephone number of the person conducting the examination.

(c) The examining professional shall deliver to BODA and the parties a copy of a detailed written report setting out findings, including results of all tests made, diagnoses and conclusions.

(d) If the petitioner fails to submit to an examination as ordered, BODA may dismiss the petition without notice.

(e) Nothing contained herein shall be construed to limit the petitioner's right to an examination by a professional of his choice in addition to any exam ordered by BODA.

Rule 9.04 Judgment

If, after hearing all the evidence, BODA determines that the petitioner is not eligible for reinstatement, BODA may, in its discretion, either enter an order denying the petition or direct that the petition be held in abeyance for a reasonable period of time until the petitioner provides additional proof as directed by BODA. The judgment may include such other orders as protecting the public and the petitioner's potential clients may require.

SECTION 10: APPEALS FROM BODA TO THE SUPREME COURT

Rule 10.01 Docketing by the Clerk

(a) All appeals to the Supreme Court from determinations by BODA on a decision of a District Grievance Committee's evidentiary panel concerning the imposition or failure to impose sanctions, appeals from determinations on compulsory discipline, reciprocal discipline, revocations of probation, and disability suspensions will be docketed by the clerk of the Supreme Court in the same manner as petitions for review.

(b) No fee shall be charged by the clerk for filing any appeal from BODA decisions.

(c) The notice of appeal must be filed directly with the clerk of the Supreme Court within fourteen (14) days after receipt of notice of a final determination by BODA. The record must be filed within sixty (60) days after BODA's determination. The appealing party's brief is due thirty (30) days after the record, and the responding party's brief must be filed within thirty (30) days thereafter.

(d) The BODA clerk shall include the information contained in subpart (c) above with transmittal of each final determination to the parties.

Rule 10.02 Appellate Rules to Apply

(a) The TRAP will apply to these appeals to the extent they are relevant. Oral argument may be granted on motion. The case shall be reviewed under the substantial evidence rule. The Court's decisions on sanctions, compulsory discipline, reciprocal discipline, revocations of probation, and disability suspension cases will be announced on the Court's orders. Following review by the Court, these appeals will be available for public inspection in the office of the Clerk of the Supreme Court, unless the file or some portion thereof is confidential under the TRDP.

(b) The Court may affirm a decision of BODA by order without written opinion.

BEFORE THE DISTRICT 6 GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE
EVIDENTIARY PANEL 6-C1
STATE BAR OF TEXAS

COMMISSION FOR LAWYER
DISCIPLINE,
Petitioner

V.

STEVEN RYAN LAFUENTE,
Respondent

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§
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§

CASE NO. D0091144042

AGREED JUDGMENT OF PARTIALLY PROBATED SUSPENSION

Parties and Appearance

On this date, came to be heard the above-styled and numbered cause. Petitioner, Commission for Lawyer Discipline ("Petitioner"), and Respondent, **STEVEN RYAN LAFUENTE** ("Respondent"), Texas Bar Number **24032522**, announce that an agreement has been reached on all matters including the imposition of a Partially Probated Suspension.

Jurisdiction and Venue

The Evidentiary Panel 6-C1, having been duly appointed to hear this complaint by the chair of the Grievance Committee for State Bar of Texas District 6, 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 the pleadings, admissions, stipulations and agreements of the parties, finds Respondent has committed Professional Misconduct as defined by Rule 1.06(V) of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

Findings of Fact

Petitioner and Respondent agree to the following findings of fact. Accordingly, the Evidentiary Panel finds:

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 Dallas County, Texas.
3. Respondent failed to refund to Melinda Claudio advance payments of fees that had not been earned.
4. Respondent violated a disciplinary judgment by practicing law while on an active suspension.
5. Respondent engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation.
6. Respondent owes restitution in the amount of Four Thousand Three Hundred and no/100 Dollars (\$4,300.00), payable to Melinda Claudio.
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 One Thousand One Hundred Nine and no/100 Dollars (\$1,109.00).

Conclusions of Law

Petitioner and Respondent agree that, based on the foregoing findings of fact, the following Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct have been violated. Accordingly, the Evidentiary Panel concludes that the following Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct have been violated: Rules 1.15(d), 8.04(a)(3) and 8.04(a)(7).

Sanction

It is **AGREED** and **ORDERED** that the sanction of a Partially Probated Suspension shall be imposed against Respondent in accordance with the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

Accordingly, it is **ORDERED, ADJUDGED** and **DECREED** that Respondent be suspended from the practice of law for a period of four (4) years, beginning December 1, 2012, and ending November 30, 2016. Respondent shall be actively suspended from the practice of law for a period of two (2) years beginning December 1, 2012, and ending November 30, 2014. The two (2) year period of probated suspension shall begin on December 1, 2014, and shall end on November 30, 2016.

Terms of Active Suspension

It is further **ORDERED** that during the term of active suspension ordered herein, or that may be imposed upon Respondent by the Board of Disciplinary Appeals as a result of a probation revocation proceeding, Respondent shall be 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 or Federal 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."

It is further **ORDERED** that, on or before December 1, 2012, Respondent shall notify each of Respondent's current clients and opposing counsel in writing of this suspension.

In addition to such notification, it is further **ORDERED** Respondent shall return any files, papers, unearned monies and other property belonging to current clients in Respondent's possession to the respective clients or to another attorney at the client's request.

It is further **ORDERED** Respondent shall 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), on or before December 1, 2012, an affidavit stating all current clients and opposing counsel have been notified of Respondent's suspension and that all files, papers, monies and other property belonging to all current clients have been returned as ordered herein.

It is further **ORDERED** Respondent shall, on or before December 1, 2012, 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.

It is further **ORDERED** Respondent shall 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), on or before December 1, 2012, an affidavit stating Respondent has notified in writing each and every justice of the peace, judge, magistrate, and chief justice of each and every court 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 in Court.

It is further **ORDERED** that, on or before December 1, 2012, Respondent shall 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 Texas.

Terms of Probation

It is further **ORDERED** that during all periods of suspension, Respondent shall be under the following terms and conditions:

1. Respondent shall not violate any term of this judgment.
2. Respondent shall not engage in professional misconduct as defined by Rule 1.06(V) of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.
3. Respondent shall not violate any state or federal criminal statutes.
4. Respondent shall keep State Bar of Texas membership department notified of current mailing, residence and business addresses and telephone numbers.
5. Respondent shall comply with Minimum Continuing Legal Education requirements.
6. Respondent shall comply with Interest on Lawyers Trust Account (IOLTA) requirements.
7. Respondent shall promptly respond to any request for information from the Chief Disciplinary Counsel in connection with any investigation of any allegations of professional misconduct.
8. Respondent shall pay restitution on or before January 5, 2015, to Melinda Claudio in the amount of Four Thousand Three Hundred and no/100 Dollars (\$4,300.00). The payment of restitution shall be made in twenty-four (24) monthly installments, with the first twenty-three (23) payments in the amount of One Hundred Eighty and no/100 Dollars (\$180.00), and the twenty-fourth (24th) payment in the amount of One Hundred Sixty and no/100 Dollars (\$160.00). Each installment is due on the 5th of each month, beginning February 5, 2013, with the final installment due on January 5, 2015. Respondent shall pay the restitution by certified or cashier's check or money order, made payable to Melinda Claudio, 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).
9. Respondent shall pay all reasonable and necessary attorneys' fees and direct expenses to the State Bar of Texas in the amount of One Thousand One Hundred Nine and no/100 Dollars (\$1,109.00). The payment of attorneys' fees and expenses shall be made in twelve (12) monthly installments, with the first eleven (11) payments in the amount of Ninety-Five and no/100 Dollars (\$95.00), and the twelfth (12th) and final payment in the amount of Sixty-Four and no/100 Dollars (\$64.00). Each installment is due on the 5th of each month, beginning February 5, 2015, with the final installment due on January 5, 2016. Respondent shall pay the attorneys' fees and expenses by certified or cashier's check or money order, made payable to

the State Bar of Texas, 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).

10. Respondent shall make contact with the Chief Disciplinary Counsel's Office's Compliance Monitor at 877-953-5535, ext. 1334 and Special Programs Coordinator at 877-953-5535, ext. 1323, not later than seven (7) days after receipt of a copy of this judgment to coordinate Respondent's compliance.
11. Respondent shall make contact with the Texas Lawyers' Assistance Program (TLAP) at its hotline number, 800-343-8527, not later than seven (7) days after receipt of a copy of this judgment to inquire as to services and referrals offered by that program to aid in Respondent's rehabilitation. Respondent shall additionally send verification of contact with TLAP to the State Bar of Texas within fifteen (15) days of such contact.
12. Respondent shall submit to supervision for a period of four (4) years by a rehabilitation monitor acceptable to the State Bar of Texas and selected by the monitoring program of the Texas Lawyers' Assistance Program. The monitor shall supervise Respondent's compliance with the requirements of the rehabilitation conditions and is under a duty to immediately report to the Chief Disciplinary Counsel's Office State Bar of Texas any noncompliance on the part of Respondent. The monitor shall report the status of Respondent's compliance with these conditions on a monthly basis, with the report due by the 5th day of each month for the duration of the monitoring period.
13. Respondent shall meet with the monitor a minimum of two times per month. The initial meeting shall be held not later than ten (10) days after Respondent receives written notification from the State Bar of Texas of the name and phone number of Respondent's assigned monitor. Such meetings shall be in person at a place and time determined by the monitor. Exceptions must be approved in advance by the monitor and noted on the monthly report.
14. Within ten (10) days of Respondent's receipt of a copy of this judgment, Respondent shall schedule a full psychological assessment to be conducted by a mental health professional licensed in Texas as a psychiatrist, a psychologist, a master's level social worker (LCSW), or a licensed professional counselor (LPC). Respondent shall complete the assessment at the earliest practicable date, but in no event later than sixty (60) days after receipt of a copy of this judgment. Although the details of information disclosed during the assessment shall remain confidential, the conclusions, diagnosis and treatment plan recommendations of the mental health professional shall be reported to the State Bar of Texas within ten (10) days of the completion of the assessment. Respondent shall take all necessary action, including the execution of a valid release of information, to allow and direct the mental health professional to report such results and recommendations.

15. If recommended as part of the above assessment, Respondent shall remain under the care of one or more mental health professionals at the frequency recommended by the treatment plan for the duration of the supervision period or until released in writing by the treatment provider. Each treating mental health professional shall provide written quarterly reports to the State Bar of Texas verifying Respondent's attendance at the sessions and good faith participation in the treatment plan. The initial report(s) shall be due ninety (90) days after completion of the assessment, with subsequent reports due quarterly thereafter. Respondent shall take all necessary action, including the execution of a valid release of information, to permit any treating mental health professional to provide written or oral reports for the duration of the supervision period.
16. Respondent shall be responsible for all costs and expenses incurred, directly or indirectly, by compliance with these terms and shall pay all such costs and expenses as required by the provider, but in no event later than the final day of the supervision period.
17. Any and all reports and evaluations required by these terms of probation shall be sent to the State Bar of Texas, Chief Disciplinary Counsel's Office, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, TX 78711-2487 (1414 Colorado St., Suite 200, Austin, TX 78701),

Probation Revocation

Upon determination that Respondent has violated any term of this judgment, the Chief Disciplinary Counsel may, in addition to all other remedies available, file a motion to revoke probation pursuant to Rule 2.23 of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure with the Board of Disciplinary Appeals ("BODA") and serve a copy of the motion on Respondent pursuant to Tex.R.Civ.P. 21a.

BODA shall conduct an evidentiary hearing. At the hearing, BODA shall determine by a preponderance of the evidence whether Respondent has violated any term of this Judgment. If BODA finds grounds for revocation, BODA shall enter an order revoking probation and placing Respondent on active suspension from the date of such revocation order. Respondent shall not be given credit for any term of probation served prior to revocation.

It is further **ORDERED** that any conduct on the part of Respondent which serves as the basis for a motion to revoke probation may also be brought as independent grounds for discipline as allowed under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct and Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

Restitution, Attorneys' Fees and Expenses

It is further **ORDERED** Respondent shall pay restitution on or before January 5, 2015, to Melinda Claudio, in the amount of Four Thousand Three Hundred and no/100 Dollars (\$4,300.00). The payment of restitution shall be made in twenty-four (24) monthly installments, with the first twenty-three (23) payments in the amount of One Hundred Eighty and no/100 Dollars (\$180.00), and the twenty-fourth (24th) payment in the amount of One Hundred Sixty and no/100 Dollars (\$160.00). Each installment is due on the 5th of each month, beginning February 5, 2013, with the final installment due on January 5, 2015. Respondent shall pay the restitution by certified or cashier's check or money order, made payable to Melinda Claudio, 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 One Thousand One Hundred Nine and no/100 Dollars (\$1,109.00). The payment of attorneys' fees and expenses shall be made in twelve (12) monthly installments, with the first eleven (11) payments in the amount of Ninety-Five and no/100 Dollars (\$95.00), and the twelfth (12th) and final payment in the amount of Sixty-Four and no/100 Dollars (\$64.00). Each installment is due on the 5th of each month, beginning February 5, 2015, with the final

installment due on January 5, 2016. Respondent shall pay the attorneys' fees and expenses by certified or cashier's check or money order, made payable to the State Bar of Texas, 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** 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(Y) 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

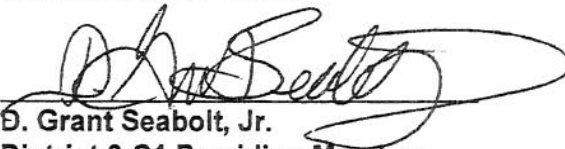
This suspension shall be made a matter of record and appropriately published in accordance with the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

Other Relief

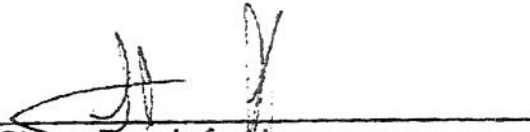
All requested relief not expressly granted herein is expressly DENIED.

SIGNED this 27th day of October, 2012.

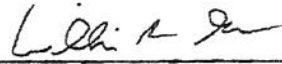
**EVIDENTIARY PANEL 6-C1
DISTRICT NO. 6
STATE BAR OF TEXAS**


**D. Grant Seabolt, Jr.
District 6-C1 Presiding Member**

AGREED AS TO BOTH FORM AND SUBSTANCE:



Steven Ryan Lafuente
State Bar No. 24032522
Respondent



William R. Garrett
State Bar No. 07700200
Counsel for Petitioner

BEFORE THE DISTRICT 6 GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE
EVIDENTIARY PANEL 6-A1
STATE BAR OF TEXAS

COMMISSION FOR LAWYER
DISCIPLINE,
Petitioner

V.

STEVEN RYAN LAFUENTE,
Respondent

§
§
§
§
§
§
§

CASE NO. D0051142943

AGREED JUDGMENT OF PARTIALLY PROBATED SUSPENSION

Parties and Appearance

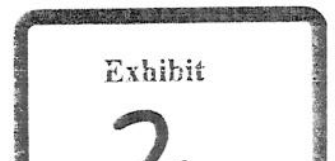
On this date, came to be heard the above-styled and numbered cause. Petitioner, Commission for Lawyer Discipline ("Petitioner"), and Respondent, **STEVEN RYAN LAFUENTE** ("Respondent"), Texas Bar Number **24032522**, announce that an agreement has been reached on all matters including the imposition of a Partially Probated Suspension.

Jurisdiction and Venue

The Evidentiary Panel 6-A1, having been duly appointed to hear this complaint by the chair of the Grievance Committee for State Bar of Texas District 6, 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 the pleadings, admissions, stipulations and agreements of the parties, finds Respondent has committed Professional Misconduct as defined by Rule 1.06(V) of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.



Findings of Fact

Petitioner and Respondent agree to the following findings of fact. Accordingly, the Evidentiary Panel finds:

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 Dallas County, Texas.
3. In representing Brandi Reschke in three legal matters, Respondent neglected the legal matters entrusted to him.
4. Respondent failed to keep Reshke reasonably informed about the status of her legal matters.
5. Upon termination of representation, Respondent failed to refund advance payments of fee that had not been earned.
6. Respondent owes restitution in the amount of One Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty and no/100 Dollars (\$1,850.00), payable to Brandi Reschke.
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 One Thousand One Hundred Thirty and no/100 Dollars (\$1,130.00).

Conclusions of Law

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

Sanction

It is **AGREED** and **ORDERED** that the sanction of a Partially Probated Suspension shall be imposed against Respondent in accordance with the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

Accordingly, it is **ORDERED, ADJUDGED** and **DECREED** that Respondent be suspended from the practice of law for a period of two (2) years, beginning December 1, 2012, and ending November 30, 2014. Respondent shall be actively suspended from the practice of law for a period of one (1) year beginning December 1, 2012, and ending November 30, 2013. The one (1) year period of probated suspension shall begin on December 1, 2013, and shall end on November 30, 2014.

Terms of Active Suspension

It is further **ORDERED** that during the term of active suspension ordered herein, or that may be imposed upon Respondent by the Board of Disciplinary Appeals as a result of a probation revocation proceeding, Respondent shall be 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 or Federal 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."

It is further **ORDERED** that, on or before December 1, 2012, Respondent shall notify each of Respondent's current clients and opposing counsel in writing of this suspension.

In addition to such notification, it is further **ORDERED** Respondent shall return any files, papers, unearned monies and other property belonging to current clients in Respondent's possession to the respective clients or to another attorney at the client's request.

It is further **ORDERED** Respondent shall 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), on or before December 1, 2012, an affidavit stating all current clients and opposing counsel have been notified of Respondent's suspension and that all files, papers, monies and other property belonging to all current clients have been returned as ordered herein.

It is further **ORDERED** Respondent shall, on or before December 1, 2012, 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.

It is further **ORDERED** Respondent shall 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), on or before December 1, 2012, an affidavit stating Respondent has notified in writing each and every justice of the peace, judge, magistrate, and chief justice of each and every court 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 in Court.

It is further **ORDERED** that, on or before December 1, 2012, Respondent shall 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 Texas.

Terms of Probation

It is further **ORDERED** that during all periods of suspension, Respondent shall be under the following terms and conditions:

1. Respondent shall not violate any term of this judgment.
2. Respondent shall not engage in professional misconduct as defined by Rule 1.06(V) of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.
3. Respondent shall not violate any state or federal criminal statutes.
4. Respondent shall keep State Bar of Texas membership department notified of current mailing, residence and business addresses and telephone numbers.
5. Respondent shall comply with Minimum Continuing Legal Education requirements.
6. Respondent shall comply with Interest on Lawyers Trust Account (IOLTA) requirements.
7. Respondent shall promptly respond to any request for information from the Chief Disciplinary Counsel in connection with any investigation of any allegations of professional misconduct.
8. Respondent shall pay restitution on or before October 5, 2013, to Brandi Reschke in the amount of One Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty and no/100 Dollars (\$1,850.00). The payment of restitution shall be made in ten (10) monthly installments, with each payment in the amount of One Hundred Eighty-Five and no/100 Dollars (\$185.00). Each installment is due on the 5th of each month, beginning January 5, 2013, with the final installment due on October 5, 2013. Respondent shall pay the restitution by certified or cashier's check or money order, made payable to Brandi Reschke, 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).
9. Respondent shall pay all reasonable and necessary attorneys' fees and direct expenses to the State Bar of Texas in the amount of One Thousand One Hundred Thirty and no/100 Dollars (\$1,130.00). The payment of attorneys' fees and expenses shall be made in ten (10) monthly installments, with each payment in the amount of One Hundred Thirteen and no/100 Dollars (\$113.00). Each installment is due on the 5th of each month, beginning November 5, 2013, with the final installment due on August 5, 2014. Respondent shall pay the attorneys' fees and expenses by certified or cashier's check or money order, made payable to the State Bar of Texas, 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).

10. Respondent shall make contact with the Chief Disciplinary Counsel's Office's Compliance Monitor at 877-953-5535, ext. 1334 and Special Programs Coordinator at 877-953-5535, ext. 1323, not later than seven (7) days after receipt of a copy of this judgment to coordinate Respondent's compliance.

Probation Revocation

Upon determination that Respondent has violated any term of this judgment, the Chief Disciplinary Counsel may, in addition to all other remedies available, file a motion to revoke probation pursuant to Rule 2.23 of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure with the Board of Disciplinary Appeals ("BODA") and serve a copy of the motion on Respondent pursuant to Tex.R.Civ.P. 21a.

BODA shall conduct an evidentiary hearing. At the hearing, BODA shall determine by a preponderance of the evidence whether Respondent has violated any term of this Judgment. If BODA finds grounds for revocation, BODA shall enter an order revoking probation and placing Respondent on active suspension from the date of such revocation order. Respondent shall not be given credit for any term of probation served prior to revocation.

It is further **ORDERED** that any conduct on the part of Respondent which serves as the basis for a motion to revoke probation may also be brought as independent grounds for discipline as allowed under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct and Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

Restitution, Attorneys' Fees and Expenses

It is further **ORDERED** Respondent shall pay restitution on or before October 5, 2013, to Brandi Reschke, in the amount of One Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty and no/100 Dollars (\$1,850.00). The payment of restitution shall be made in ten (10) monthly installments, with each payment in the amount of One Hundred Eighty-Five and no/100

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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(Y) 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

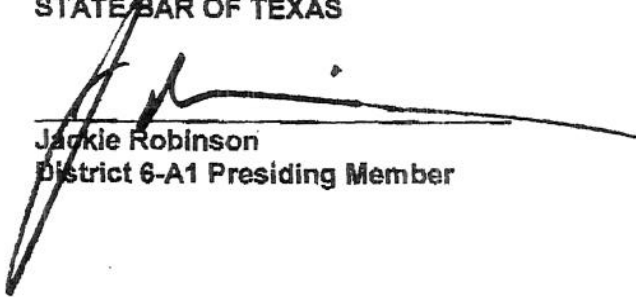
This suspension shall be made a matter of record and appropriately published in accordance with the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

Other Relief

All requested relief not expressly granted herein is expressly DENIED.

SIGNED this 5th day of ^{November}~~October~~, 2012.

**EVIDENTIARY PANEL 6-A1
DISTRICT NO. 6
STATE BAR OF TEXAS**

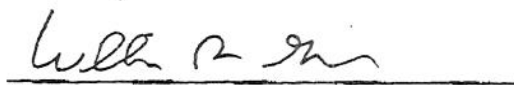


**Jackie Robinson
District 6-A1 Presiding Member**

AGREED AS TO BOTH FORM AND SUBSTANCE:



**Steven Ryan Lafuente
State Bar No. 24032522
Respondent**



**William R. Garrett
State Bar No. 07700200
Counsel for Petitioner**