

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

IN THE MATTER OF	§	
WILLIAM TIMOTHY LADYMAN,	§	CAUSE NO. 69412
STATE BAR CARD NO. 11787900	§	

AGREED JUDGMENT OF PUBLIC REPRIMAND

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

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

- (1) Respondent, William Timothy Ladyman, Bar Card number 11787900, is an attorney licensed and authorized by the Supreme Court of Texas to practice law in the State of Texas.
- (2) On or about February 8, 2024, an Order was entered in a matter styled, Cause No. 1:23-CV-193-H, *Dale Scoggins, et. al, Plaintiffs, v. Native Community Capital, Defendant*, United States District Court, Northern District of Texas, Abilene Division, which states in pertinent part:

For the reasons stated at the Court's show cause hearing on February 7, 2024, the Court finds that W. Tim Ladyman, Texas Bar No. 11787900, has not shown good cause for failing to comply with Court Orders. *See* Dkt. No. 20. Therefore, the Court hereby issues a formal reprimand

against Ladyman and fines him \$300.00. It will also forward this Order to the Texas State Bar's Chief Disciplinary Counsel. Below, the Court describes the conduct at issue, the result of the hearing, and the Court's ultimate sanction.

This case was removed to federal court in late September 2023. *See* Dkt. No. 1. On November 6, 2023, the Court entered its scheduling conference order, which, among other things, required the parties' counsel to confer with each other and submit a joint report. *See* Dkt. No. 5. That same day, the plaintiffs filed a Notice of Nonsuit (Dkt. No. 6), which the Court denied because it failed to comply with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41 (Dkt. No. 7). Because the case was still ongoing, and in an effort to comply with the Court's scheduling conference order, the defendant attempted to make contact with the plaintiffs' counsel, Ladyman. *See* Dkt. No. 11 at 1. The defendant emailed Ladyman four times between November 15, 2023, and December 1, 2023, each of which went unanswered. *Id.* Further, Ladyman did not return phone calls to his office, nor did he respond to voicemails that were left at that number. *Id.* Without other options, the defendant chose to submit a solo report so that it might comply with the Court's Order. *See id.*

After receiving the defendant's solo report, the Court ordered the plaintiffs to show cause "as to why they should not be sanctioned because of their refusal to participate in the scheduling conference." Dkt. No. 12 at 1. The Court further ordered the plaintiffs' counsel to comply with the Court's scheduling conference order (Dkt. No. 5). Dkt. No. 12 at 1. Both the show cause response and the scheduling conference report were due by December 15, 2023. *Id.* Yet on December 16, 2023, nothing had been filed with the Court. Because nothing had been filed, the Court dismissed this case for want of prosecution and failure to follow Court Orders, and it set a hearing on the show cause order. Dkt. No. 19. A court clerk emailed the Order dismissing the case and setting the show cause hearing to Ladyman, as well as counsel for the defendant, to which Ladyman responded with the following:

I received the attached order. I'm sorry, I was not aware of the obligations of a scheduling conference. We do not normally practice civil litigation in Federal Court. We filed this

matter in State Court and the defendant removed it to Federal Court. We did have conversations with the defendant's attorney regarding a dismissal but were unable to agree to the Summary Judgment requested by the defendant.

The Court responded, and it noted that Ladyman's presence was still required at the February 7 hearing.

On February 7, 2024, the Court held a hearing on the show cause order. *See* Dkt. No. 20. At that hearing, the Court gave Ladyman an opportunity to demonstrate good cause as to why he had failed to comply with the Court's Orders. *Id.* Ladyman, however, wholly failed to demonstrate good cause. To the contrary, the Court became more concerned with Ladyman's conduct given his nonchalant attitude. In short, Ladyman admitted that he had received ECF notifications via email from the Court, but that those notifications had "a lot of words," so he did not read them. He ignored the Court's deadlines and his obligation to work with opposing counsel. At best, he alleged he was simply ineffective, but ineffectiveness does not establish good cause. Thus, the Court concluded that Ladyman had not shown good cause as to why he should not be sanctioned. As a result, the Court issues the following sanctions against Ladyman:

1. The Court issues a formal letter of reprimand (this Order) against Ladyman for failure to comply with Court Orders.
2. Ladyman is ordered to pay a monetary sanction in the amount of \$300.00. The fine must be paid no later than 30 days from today – March 8, 2024. The fine shall be paid to the U.S. District Clerk, 341 Pine Street, Room 2008, Abilene, TX 79601.
3. A copy of this Order will be submitted to the Texas State Bar's Chief Disciplinary Counsel, P.O. Box 13287, Austin, Texas 78711.

So ordered on February 8, 2024.

- (3) Respondent, William Timothy Ladyman, is the same person as the W. Tim Ladyman, who is the subject of the Order entered in a matter styled, Cause

No. 1:23-CV-193-H, *Dale Scoggins, et. al, Plaintiffs, v. Native Community Capital, Defendant*, United States District Court, Northern District of Texas, Abilene Division; and

- (4) The public reprimand entered by the United States District Court, Northern District of Texas, Abilene Division, is final.

Conclusions of Law. Based upon the foregoing findings of facts the Board of Disciplinary Appeals makes the following conclusions of law:

- (1) This Board has jurisdiction to hear and determine this matter. TEX. RULES DISCIPLINARY P. R. 7.08(H).
- (2) Reciprocal discipline identical, to the extent practicable, to that imposed by the United States District Court, Northern District of Texas, Abilene Division, is warranted in this case.

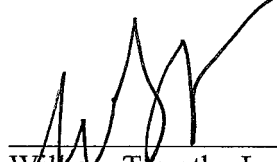
It is, accordingly, **ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED** that Respondent, William Timothy Ladyman, State Bar Card No. 11787900, is hereby **PUBLICLY REPRIMANDED** as an attorney at law in the State of Texas.

Signed this 18th day of June 2024.




CHAIR PRESIDING

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CONTENT:



William Timothy Ladyman
State Bar No. 11787900
Respondent



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