

alcohol to a minor investigation; in Cause No. 19CR0918, styled *The State of Texas v. Paul Houston Lavallo*, in the 56th Judicial District Court of Galveston County, Texas.

4. On or about February 28, 2020, a Judgment of Conviction by Jury (Exhibit 2) was entered in Cause No. 19CR0918, styled *The State of Texas v. Paul Houston Lavallo*, in the 57th Judicial District Court of Galveston County, Texas, wherein Respondent was found guilty of Tamper Fabricating Physical Evidence and was sentenced to five (5) years in the Institutional Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. The sentence of confinement was suspended and Respondent was placed on community supervision for five (5) years and ordered court costs in the amount of \$290 and reimbursement in the amount of \$87.00. Attached hereto and made a part hereof for all intents and purposes as if the same were copied verbatim herein, are true and correct copies of the following documents in the Lavallo criminal case: Indictment (Exhibit 1) and Judgment of Conviction by Jury (Exhibit 2). Petitioner expects to introduce certified copies of Exhibits 1 and 2 at the time of hearing of this cause.

5. Respondent, Paul Houston Lavallo, whose bar card number is 11998625, is the same person as the Paul Houston Lavallo who is the subject of the Indictment and Judgment of Conviction by Jury, described above, true and correct copies of which are attached hereto as Exhibits 1 and 2.

6. Attached hereto as Exhibit 3 and made a part hereof for all intents and purposes as if the same were copied verbatim herein is a true and correct copy of an affidavit of Judith Gres DeBerry, Attorney of Record for Petitioner herein, attesting to the fact that Respondent is the same person as the person who is the subject of the Indictment and Judgment of Conviction by Jury, entered in the Lavallo criminal case. Petitioner expects to introduce the original of said affidavit at the time of hearing of this cause.

7. The offenses for which Respondent was convicted are intentional crimes as defined by Rule 1.06(V), Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure. They are as well serious crimes as defined by Rule 1.06(GG), Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

8. Having been convicted of intentional crimes and such conviction currently being appealed, Respondent should be suspended as an attorney licensed to practice law in Texas during the pendency of the appeal. Further, upon a showing by Petitioner that the order has become final after determination of the appeal, Respondent should be disbarred as provided by Rule 8.05, Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

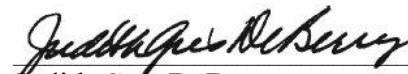
PRAYER

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Petitioner prays that Respondent be given notice of these proceedings as provided by law and, upon hearing of this matter, that the Board enter its order suspending Respondent during his appeal, and for such other and further relief to which Petitioner may be entitled to receive including costs of court and attorney's fees.

Respectfully submitted,

Seana Willing
Chief Disciplinary Counsel


Judith Gres DeBerry
Assistant Disciplinary Counsel
Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel
STATE BAR OF TEXAS
P.O. Box 12487, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711-2487
Telephone: 512.427.1350
Facsimile: 512.427.4167
Email: jdeberry@texasbar.com



Judith Gres DeBerry
State Bar Card No. 24040780
ATTORNEYS FOR PETITIONER

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing instrument has been sent for personal service on Paul Houston Lavallo, 2106 Brook Haven Drive, League City, Texas 77573, on this 10th day of March, 2021.



Judith Gres DeBerry

NOTICE OF REMOTE HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a trial on the merits of the Second Amended Petition for Compulsory Discipline heretofore sent to be filed with the Board of Disciplinary Appeals on this day will be held on April 30, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. by remote appearance.

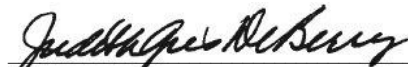
<https://txcourts.zoom.us/j/91391608813>

Meeting ID: 913 9160 8813

Topic: BODA En Banc Hearings

Time: April 30, 2021 09:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

<p><u>To join the Zoom trial by Video:</u></p> <p>Go to: https://txcourts.zoom.us/j/91391608813</p> <p>Meeting ID: 913 9160 8813</p> <p>To appear by video on Zoom, you will need to have an electronic device with an internet connection. You may use a smart phone, iPad/tablet, or webcam/built in camera with sound and video. You will also need to install the free Zoom App before the conference begins.</p>	<p><u>To join the Zoom trial by Phone/Audio only:</u></p> <p>Dial by your location or find your local number: One tap mobile +13462487799,,91391608813# US (Houston) +16699006833,,91391608813# US (San Jose)</p> <p>Dial by your location +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston) +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose) +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma) +1 929 205 6099 US (New York) +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC) +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)</p> <p>Meeting ID: 913 9160 8813 Find your local number: https://txcourts.zoom.us/u/adv0Qzi6La</p>
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Judith Gres DeBerry

THE STATE OF TEXAS
VS
PAUL HOUSTON LAVALLE

DA Control Number: 2019-DA-000891
Cause No: 19CR0918
Offense Code: 48040003 - TAMPER FABRICATING PHYSICAL EVIDENCE/NTBA/\$10,000
48040003 - TAMPER FABRICATING PHYSICAL EVIDENCE/NTBA/\$10,000

SO Number: 109786

Court: 56th

2019 MAR 21 PM 3:26
Seal of the District Clerk of the 405th District Court, Galveston County, Texas

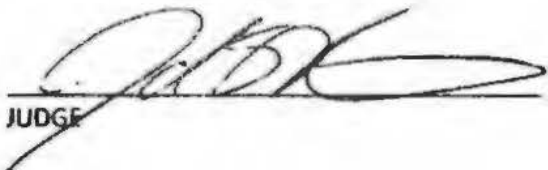
Offense Report No: 18-0787
Agency: Kemah Police Department
Staff Initials: RR

Grand Jury

January Term, 2019

405TH District Court

Witness Name:


JUDGE

BOND SET ON 3/22/19

IN THE NAME AND BY AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNT I

THE GRAND JURORS for the County of Galveston, State aforesaid, duly organized as such at the January Term, A.D., 2019 upon their oaths in said Court present that PAUL HOUSTON LAVALLE, on or about the 14th day of October, 2018 and anterior to the presentment of this indictment in the County of Galveston and State of Texas, did then and there, knowing that an investigation was in progress, namely furnishing alcohol to a minor intentionally and knowingly make and/or present a document, namely the affidavit of Sara Carlin, with knowledge of its falsity and with intent to affect the course or outcome of the furnishing alcohol to a minor investigation.

COUNT II

THE GRAND JURORS for the County of Galveston, State aforesaid, duly organized as such at the January Term, A.D., 2019 upon their oaths in said Court present that PAUL HOUSTON LAVALLE, on or about the 14th day of October, 2018 and anterior to the presentment of this indictment in the County of Galveston and State of Texas, did then and there, knowing that an investigation was in progress, namely furnishing alcohol to a minor intentionally and knowingly make and/or present a document, namely the affidavit of Jailene Soliz, with knowledge of its falsity and with intent to affect the course or outcome of the furnishing alcohol to a minor investigation.

AGAINST THE PEACE AND DIGNITY OF THE STATE.

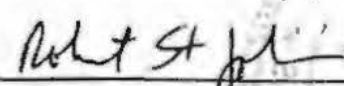

Foreperson of the Grand Jury

EXHIBIT
1

Seal of the District Clerk of the 405th District Court, Galveston County, Texas
19-CR-0918
INDICTMENT
Indictment - OCA
1783958




CASE NO. 19CR0918 COUNT I
 INCIDENT NO./TRN: 9217235539 A001

THE STATE OF TEXAS

v.

PAUL HOUSTON LAVALLE

STATE ID No.: TX10057758

§
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§
§
§

IN THE 56TH JUDICIAL
 DISTRICT COURT OF
 GALVESTON COUNTY, TEXAS

2020 FEB 28 PM 12:04

JUDGMENT OF CONVICTION BY JURY

Judge Presiding: **HON. Lonnie Cox** Date Sentence Imposed: **February 28, 2020**

Attorney for State: **Adam Poole - 24042968 & Shawn Connally - 24051899** Attorney for Defendant: **Nicholas Poehl - 24056148**

Offense for which Defendant Convicted:
TAMPER FABRICATING PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Charging Instrument: **INDICTMENT** Statute for Offense: **37.09(c) Penal Code**

Date of Offense:
October 14, 2018

Degree of Offense: **3RD DEGREE FELONY** Plea to Offense: **NOT GUILTY**

Verdict of Jury: **GUILTY** Findings on Deadly Weapon: **N/A**

Plea to 1st Enhancement Paragraph: **N/A** Plea to 2nd Enhancement Paragraph: **N/A**

Findings on 1st Enhancement Paragraph: **N/A** Findings on 2nd Enhancement Paragraph: **N/A**

Punished Assessed by: **COURT** Date Sentence to Commence: **February 28, 2020**
(Date does not apply to confinement served as a condition of community supervision.)

Punishment and Place of Confinement: **FIVE (5) YEARS INSTITUTIONAL DIVISION, TDCJ**

THIS SENTENCE SHALL RUN CONCURRENTLY.

SENTENCE OF CONFINEMENT SUSPENDED, DEFENDANT PLACED ON COMMUNITY SUPERVISION FOR FIVE (5) YEARS. (The document setting forth the conditions of community supervision is incorporated herein by this reference.)

Defendant is required to register as sex offender in accordance with Chapter 62, TEX. CODE CRIM. PROC.

(For sex offender registration purposes only) The age of the victim at the time of the offense was **N/A**.

Fines: \$ Court Costs: **\$290.⁰⁰** Reimbursement Fees: **\$87.⁰⁰** Restitution: \$ Restitution Payable to: **VICTIM**
(See special finding or order of restitution which is incorporated herein by this reference.)

Was the victim impact statement returned to the attorney representing the State? **N/A**

(FOR STATE JAIL FELONY OFFENSES ONLY) Is Defendant presumptively entitled to diligent participation credit in accordance with Article 42A.559, Tex. Code Crim. Proc.? **Yes or No**

19 - CR - 0918
 DCJUDG
 Judgment
 1997342





Total Jail

Time Credit: If Defendant is to serve sentence in county jail or is given credit toward fine and costs, enter days credited below.

N/A N/A DAYS NOTES: TOWARD INCARCERATION

DAYS

This cause was called for trial in **Galveston County, Texas**. The State appeared by her Criminal District Attorney.

Counsel / Waiver of Counsel (select one)

- Defendant appeared in person with Counsel.
- Defendant knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily waived the right to representation by counsel in writing in open court.
- Defendant was tried in absentia.

Both parties announced ready for trial. It appeared to the Court that Defendant was mentally competent to stand trial. A jury was selected, impaneled, and sworn, and Defendant entered a plea to the charged offense. The Court received the plea and entered it of record.

The jury heard the evidence submitted and argument of counsel. The Court charged the jury as to its duty to determine the guilt or innocence of Defendant, and the jury retired to consider the evidence. Upon returning to open court, the jury delivered its verdict in the presence of Defendant and defense counsel, if any.

The Court received the verdict and **ORDERED** it entered upon the minutes of the Court.

Punishment Assessed by Jury / Court / No election (select one)

- Jury.** Defendant entered a plea and filed a written election to have the jury assess punishment. The jury heard evidence relative to the question of punishment. The Court charged the jury and it retired to consider the question of punishment. After due deliberation, the jury was brought into Court, and, in open court, it returned its verdict as indicated above.
- Court.** Defendant elected to have the Court assess punishment. After hearing evidence relative to the question of punishment, the Court assessed Defendant's punishment as indicated above.
- No Election.** Defendant did not file a written election as to whether the judge or jury should assess punishment. After hearing evidence relative to the question of punishment, the Court assessed Defendant's punishment as indicated above.

In accordance with the jury's verdict, the Court **ADJUDGES** Defendant **GUILTY** of the above offense. The Court **FINDS** that the Presentence Investigation, if so ordered, was done according to the applicable provisions of Subchapter F, Chapter 42A, Tex. Code Crim. Proc.

The Court **ORDERS** Defendant punished in accordance with the jury's verdict or Court's findings as to the proper punishment as indicated above. After having conducted an inquiry into Defendant's ability to pay, the Court **ORDERS** Defendant to pay the fine, court costs, and restitution, if any, as indicated above.



(Defendant to initial) The Court FINDS that Defendant was admonished and acknowledged that, pursuant to Article 42A.301 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, a risk and needs assessment will be conducted with respect to Defendant for purposes of determining the conditions of community supervision. The Court FINDS that Defendant agrees to the following standard conditions of community supervision which are hereby imposed prior to the risk and needs assessment being conducted. Additionally, The Court FINDS that Defendant agrees that based upon the results of the risk and needs assessment, the Court may order additional conditions of community supervision.

Punishment Options (select one)

Confinement in State Jail or Institutional Division. The Court ORDERS the authorized agent of the State of Texas or the County Sheriff to take and deliver Defendant to the Director, Institutional Division, TDCJ, for placement in confinement in accordance with this judgment. The Court ORDERS Defendant remanded to the custody of the County Sheriff until the Sheriff can obey the directions of this paragraph. Upon release from confinement, the Court ORDERS Defendant to proceed without unnecessary delay to the Galveston County and Pre-Trial Services to pay or make arrangements to pay any fine, court costs, and restitution due.

Confinement in State Jail or Institutional Division [BOOT CAMP]. The Court further recommends that the Defendant be placed in the Alternative Incarceration Program (AIP) authorized under Article 42.12 Sec. 8 of the C.C.P. and Section 499.052 Government Code for a period of not less than seventy-five (75) days or more than ninety (90) days. The Court does not retain jurisdiction over the Defendant under Article 42.12 Section 6 of the C.C.P.

County Jail—Confinement / Confinement in Lieu of Payment. The Court ORDERS Defendant committed to the custody of the County Sheriff immediately or on the date the sentence commences. Defendant shall be confined in the Galveston County Jail for the period indicated above. Upon release from confinement, the Court ORDERS Defendant to proceed without unnecessary delay to the Galveston County and Pre-Trial Services to pay or make arrangements to pay any fine, court costs, and restitution due.

Fine Only Payment. The punishment assessed against Defendant is for a FINE ONLY. The Court ORDERS Defendant to proceed immediately to the Galveston County and Pre-Trial Services to pay or make arrangements to pay any fine, court costs, and restitution ordered by the Court in this cause.

Confinement as a Condition of Community Supervision. The Court ORDERS Defendant confined DAYS COUNTY JAIL as a condition of community supervision. The period of confinement as a condition of community supervision starts when Defendant arrives at the designated facility, absent a special order to the contrary.

Fines Imposed Include (check each fine and enter each amount as pronounced by the court):

- General Fine (§12.32, 12.33, 12.34, or 12.35, Penal Code, Transp. Code, or other Code) \$ (not to exceed \$10,000)
- Add'l Monthly Fine for Sex Offenders (Art. 42A.653, Code Crim. Proc.) \$ (\$5 00/per month of community supervision)
- Child Abuse Prevention Fine (Art. 102.0186, Code Crim. Proc.) \$ (\$100)
- EMS, Trauma Fine (Art. 102.0185, Code Crim. Proc.) \$ (\$100)
- Family Violence Fine (Art. 42A.504 (b), Code Crim. Proc.) \$ (\$100)
- Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Fine (Art. 102.0171(a), Code Crim. Proc.) \$ (\$50)
- State Traffic Fine (§ 542.4031, Transp. Code) \$ (\$50)
- Children's Advocacy Center Fine - as Cond of CS (Art. 42A.455, Code Crim. Proc.) \$ (not to exceed \$50)
- Repayment of Reward Fine (Art. 37.073/42.152, Code Crim. Proc.) \$ (To Be Determined by the Court)
- Repayment of Reward Fine - as Cond of CS (Art. 42A.301 (b) (20), Code Crim. Proc.) \$ (not to exceed \$50)
- DWI Traffic Fine (a/k/a Misc. Traffic Fines) (§ 709.001, Transp. Code) \$ (not to exceed \$6,000)



Execution / Suspension of Sentence

The Court **ORDERS** Defendant's sentence **EXECUTED**. The Court **FINDS** that Defendant is entitled to the jail time credit indicated above. The attorney for the state, attorney for the defendant, the County Sheriff, and any other person having or who had custody of Defendant shall assist the clerk, or person responsible for completing this judgment, in calculating Defendant's credit for time served. All supporting documentation, if any, concerning Defendant's credit for time served is incorporated herein by this reference.

The Court **ORDERS** that Defendant is given credit noted above on this sentence for the time spent incarcerated.

Attachment "A" is attached hereto and incorporated herein for all purposes.

Furthermore, the following special findings or orders apply:

The Court **FINDS** that Defendant was prosecuted for an offense under Title 5 of the Penal Code that involved family violence. *TEX. CODE CRIM. PROC. art. 42.013.*

Signed and Entered on this the 28th day of February, A.D., 2020.

JUDGE PRESIDING
56TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
GALVESTON COUNTY, TEXAS

A copy furnished to the above named Defendant and noted in the Docket on this the 28th day of February, A.D., 2020.

**JOHN D. KINARD, DISTRICT CLERK,
GALVESTON COUNTY, TEXAS**

BY: Julie Kallen, DEPUTY
CLERK 56TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
GALVESTON COUNTY, TEXAS



DEFENDANT'S RIGHT THUMBPRINT

CASE NO. 19-CR-0918

Count I

THE STATE OF TEXAS

§

IN THE 56TH JUDICIAL

V.

§

DISTRICT COURT OF

PAUL HOUSTON LAVALLE

§

GALVESTON COUNTY, TEXAS

CONDITIONS OF PROBATION

1. Commit no offense against the laws of the State of Texas or of any other State, the United States or any governmental entity;
2. Avoid injurious or vicious habits;
3. Avoid persons or places of disreputable or harmful character; and specifically avoid association with any person previously convicted of a crime, or presence at any location where a criminal act is being committed;
4. Report in person to the Supervision Officer, at least once each month as directed by the Supervision Officer and obey all rules and regulations of the G.C.C.S.C.D.;
5. Permit the Supervision Officer to visit at his/her home or elsewhere without restriction;
6. Participate fully in a risk and needs assessment conducted by G.C.C.S.C.D.
7. If you are currently working, continue to work at such employment as long as possible and if unemployed, serious attempts must be made to find employment and proof of such attempts must be shown to the Supervision Officer at each reporting session;
8. Remain in the following location: Galveston County, Texas unless obtaining permission to leave from this Court;
9. Support all dependents he/she may have or acquire during the term of Community Supervision;
10. Report within forty-eight (48) hours to the Supervision Officer any change of address, employment, or marital status; any arrests and all sources and amounts of income or money received;
11. Abstain from the use or possession of any drugs, except those taken or possessed under doctor's orders;
12. Never become intoxicated;
13. Pay to the G.C.C.S.C.D. \$60.00 per month as a Community Supervision fee;
14. Pay to the Department of Court Services \$290.00 in Court Costs. Such costs shall be paid (by _____) (in installments of \$ 10.00 per month paid each month); If this sentence is not a deferred adjudication and this offense was committed on or after September 1, 1997 and of the court costs, fine, and restitution are not paid within 30 days of the date of this judgment,

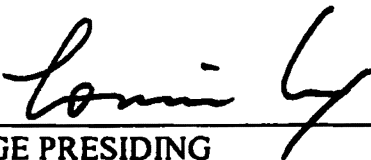
an additional one-time fee of \$15.00 shall be paid to the Department of Court Services pursuant to Local Government Code Sec. 133.103;

15. Pay to the Department of Court Services a fine of \$ _____. Such fine shall be paid (by _____) (in installments of \$ _____ per month paid each month);
16. Pay to the Department of Court Services \$ 87.00 to reimburse the County for reimbursement fees. Such fees shall be paid (by _____) (in installments of \$ 10.00 per month paid each month);
17. Pay to the Department of Court Services \$ 25.00 as a Crime Stoppers Program payment. Such payment shall be paid by 04/28/20;
18. Pay to the Department of Court Services \$ _____ as restitution to the victim. Such restitution shall be paid (by _____) (in installments of \$ _____ per month paid each month);
19. Not operate a motor vehicle unless the vehicle is equipped with a device that uses a deep lung breath analysis mechanism to make impractical the operation of the motor vehicle if ethyl alcohol is detected in the breath of the operator;
20. The Defendant's driver's license will be suspended for one (1) year;
21. The Defendant's driver's license will be suspended for one hundred eighty (180) days and continue for an indefinite period up and until the Defendant completes the education program required in pursuant to V.T.C.A. Transportation Code, Section 521.372; and
22. The Defendant is ordered not to directly communicate with _____ or go near a residence, school or other location, to-wit: _____;
 The Defendant may have supervised access to _____ as follows, to-wit: _____;
23. Pay _____ % of the reasonable and necessary costs incurred by _____ for psychological counseling made necessary by the offense for a period not to exceed one year. The Court finds the Defendant is financially able to make said payments;
24. Serve the statutory mandatory _____ () day(s) in the **Galveston County Jail**; credit allowed for _____ () day(s) served;
25. Defendant is ordered as a condition of community supervision, to provide a DNA sample under Subchapter G, Chapter 411, Government Code, for the purpose of creating a DNA record of the defendant, unless the defendant has already submitted the required sample under other state law; and
26. Participate in a drug screening program designed to detect controlled substances as directed by the GCCSCD. Defendant agrees to refrain from breaking any Texas drug laws and realizes that failure to get a clean report from such drug screening may alone be sufficient to revoke his/her Community Supervision; and Pay to GCCSCD the sum of \$10.00 per substance abuse test to reimburse the cost of drug/alcohol screening. Payment will be assessed at the time of each test.

MENTAL HEALTH CASELOAD PROBATION CONDITIONS

27. Participate in the Galveston County Community Supervision and Corrections Department Mental Health Specialized Caseload beginning upon availability or _____ and faithfully follow all program policies and guidelines until successfully discharged or until further order of the Court;
28. Defendant shall not purchase, obtain, or have in his/her possession a rifle, shotgun, handgun or any weapon deemed illegal, unlawful or prohibited by law, either at home, in a motor vehicle or on his/her person;

Signed and Entered on this the 28th day of February, A.D., 2020.



JUDGE PRESIDING
56TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
GALVESTON COUNTY, TEXAS

AFFIDAVIT

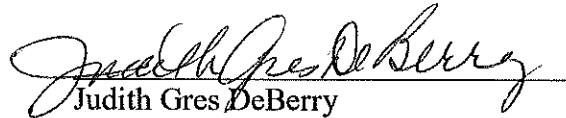
THE STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
COUNTY OF TRAVIS §

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Judith Gres DeBerry, Petitioner's attorney of record, who, being by me duly sworn, deposed as follows:

"My name is Judith Gres DeBerry. I am over the age of 18 years, of sound mind, capable of making this affidavit, and state the following:

Based upon information and belief, Paul Houston Lavallo, whose Texas Bar Card Number is 11998625, is licensed as an attorney and counselor at law in the State of Texas. Based upon information and belief Paul Houston Lavallo, named as Respondent in the Petition for Compulsory Discipline filed with the Board of Disciplinary Appeals is one and the same person as the Paul Houston Lavallo who is the subject of the Judgment of Conviction by Jury entered in Cause No. 19-CR-0918, styled *The State of Texas v. Paul Houston Lavallo*, in the 56th Judicial District Court of Galveston County, Texas, wherein Respondent was found guilty of two counts of Tamper Fabricating Physical Evidence and was placed on community supervision for five (5) years."

FURTHER Affiant saith not.


Judith Gres DeBerry

SWORN AND SUBSCRIBED before me on the 15th day of May 2020.




NOTARY PUBLIC IN AND FOR
THE STATE OF TEXAS



INTERNAL PROCEDURAL RULES

BOARD OF DISCIPLINARY APPEALS

Current through June 21, 2018

Contents

I. 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. Filing of Pleadings, Motions, and Other Papers	1
Rule 1.06. Service of Petition	2
Rule 1.07. Hearing Setting and Notice	2
Rule 1.08. Time to Answer	2
Rule 1.09. Pretrial Procedure	2
Rule 1.10. Decisions	3
Rule 1.11. Board of Disciplinary Appeals Opinions	3
Rule 1.12. BODA Work Product and Drafts	3
Rule 1.13. Record Retention	3
Rule 1.14. Costs of Reproduction of Records	3
Rule 1.15. Publication of These Rules	3
II. ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS	3
Rule 2.01. Representing or Counseling Parties in Disciplinary Matters and Legal Malpractice Cases	3
Rule 2.02. Confidentiality	4
Rule 2.03. Disqualification and Recusal of BODA Members	4
III. CLASSIFICATION APPEALS	4
Rule 3.01. Notice of Right to Appeal	4
Rule 3.02. Record on Appeal	4
IV. APPEALS FROM EVIDENTIARY PANEL HEARINGS	4
Rule 4.01. Perfecting Appeal	4
Rule 4.02. Record on Appeal	5
Rule 4.03. Time to File Record	6
Rule 4.04. Copies of the Record	6
Rule 4.05. Requisites of Briefs	6
Rule 4.06. Oral Argument	7
Rule 4.07. Decision and Judgment	7
Rule 4.08. Appointment of Statewide Grievance Committee	8
Rule 4.09. Involuntary Dismissal	8
V. PETITIONS TO REVOKE PROBATION	8
Rule 5.01. Initiation and Service	8
Rule 5.02. Hearing	8

VI. COMPULSORY DISCIPLINE	8
Rule 6.01. Initiation of Proceeding	8
Rule 6.02. Interlocutory Suspension	8
VII. RECIPROCAL DISCIPLINE	9
Rule 7.01. Initiation of Proceeding	9
Rule 7.02. Order to Show Cause.....	9
Rule 7.03. Attorney’s Response.....	9
VIII. DISTRICT DISABILITY COMMITTEE HEARINGS	9
Rule 8.01. Appointment of District Disability Committee	9
Rule 8.02. Petition and Answer	9
Rule 8.03. Discovery	9
Rule 8.04. Ability to Compel Attendance.....	10
Rule 8.05. Respondent’s Right to Counsel	10
Rule 8.06. Hearing.....	10
Rule 8.07. Notice of Decision.....	10
Rule 8.08. Confidentiality.....	10
IX. DISABILITY REINSTATEMENTS	10
Rule 9.01. Petition for Reinstatement	10
Rule 9.02. Discovery	10
Rule 9.03. Physical or Mental Examinations	10
Rule 9.04. Judgment	10
X. APPEALS FROM BODA TO THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS	11
Rule 10.01. Appeals to the Supreme Court.....	11

INTERNAL PROCEDURAL RULES

Board of Disciplinary Appeals

Current through June 21, 2018

I. 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 chair or, in the Chair’s absence, the member elected by BODA to serve as vice-chair.
- (c) “Classification” is the determination by the CDC under TRDP 2.10 or by BODA under TRDP 7.08(C) whether a grievance constitutes a “complaint” or an “inquiry.”
- (d) “BODA Clerk” is the executive director of BODA or other person appointed by BODA to assume all duties normally performed by the clerk of a court.
- (e) “CDC” is the Chief Disciplinary Counsel for the State Bar of Texas and his or her assistants.
- (f) “Commission” is the Commission for Lawyer Discipline, a permanent committee of the State Bar of Texas.
- (g) “Executive Director” is the executive director of BODA.
- (h) “Panel” is any three-member grouping of BODA under TRDP 7.05.
- (i) “Party” is a Complainant, a Respondent, or the Commission.
- (j) “TDRPC” is the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.
- (k) “TRAP” is the Texas Rules of Appellate Procedure.
- (l) “TRCP” is the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure.
- (m) “TRDP” is the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.
- (n) “TRE” is the Texas Rules of Evidence.

Rule 1.02. General Powers

Under TRDP 7.08, BODA has and may exercise all the powers of either a trial court or an appellate court, as the case may be, in hearing and determining disciplinary proceedings. But TRDP 15.01 [17.01] applies to the enforcement of a judgment of BODA.

Rule 1.03. Additional Rules in Disciplinary Matters

Except as varied by these rules and to the extent applicable, the TRCP, TRAP, and TRE apply to all disciplinary matters before BODA, except for appeals from classification decisions, which are governed by TRDP 2.10 and by Section 3 of these rules.

Rule 1.04. Appointment of Panels

- (a) BODA may consider any matter or motion by panel,

except as specified in (b). The Chair may delegate to the Executive Director the duty to appoint a panel for any BODA action. Decisions are made by a majority vote of the panel; however, any panel member may refer a matter for consideration by BODA sitting en banc. Nothing in these rules gives a party the right to be heard by BODA sitting en banc.

- (b) Any disciplinary matter naming a BODA member as Respondent must be considered by BODA sitting en banc. A disciplinary matter naming a BODA staff member as Respondent need not be heard en banc.

Rule 1.05. Filing of Pleadings, Motions, and Other Papers

- (a) **Electronic Filing.** All documents must be filed electronically. Unrepresented persons or those without the means to file electronically may electronically file documents, but it is not required.

- (1) Email Address. The email address of an attorney or an unrepresented party who electronically files a document must be included on the document.

- (2) Timely Filing. Documents are filed electronically by emailing the document to the BODA Clerk at the email address designated by BODA for that purpose. A document filed by email will be considered filed the day that the email is sent. The date sent is the date shown for the message in the inbox of the email account designated for receiving filings. If a document is sent after 5:00 p.m. or on a weekend or holiday officially observed by the State of Texas, it is considered filed the next business day.

- (3) It is the responsibility of the party filing a document by email to obtain the correct email address for BODA and to confirm that the document was received by BODA in legible form. Any document that is illegible or that cannot be opened as part of an email attachment will not be considered filed. If a document is untimely due to a technical failure or a system outage, the filing party may seek appropriate relief from BODA.

- (4) Exceptions.

- (i) An appeal to BODA of a decision by the CDC to classify a grievance as an inquiry is not required to be filed electronically.

- (ii) The following documents must not be filed electronically:

- a) documents that are filed under seal or subject to a pending motion to seal; and

- b) documents to which access is otherwise restricted by court order.

- (iii) For good cause, BODA may permit a party to file other documents in paper form in a particular case.

- (5) Format. An electronically filed document must:

- (i) be in text-searchable portable document format (PDF);
- (ii) be directly converted to PDF rather than scanned, if possible; and
- (iii) not be locked.

(b) A paper will not be deemed filed if it is sent to an individual BODA member or to another address other than the address designated by BODA under Rule 1.05(a)(2).

(c) **Signing.** Each brief, motion, or other paper filed must be signed by at least one attorney for the party or by the party pro se and must give the State Bar of Texas card number, mailing address, telephone number, email address, and fax number, if any, of each attorney whose name is signed or of the party (if applicable). A document is considered signed if the document includes:

- (1) an “/s/” and name typed in the space where the signature would otherwise appear, unless the document is notarized or sworn; or
- (2) an electronic image or scanned image of the signature.

(d) **Paper Copies.** Unless required by BODA, a party need not file a paper copy of an electronically filed document.

(e) **Service.** Copies of all documents filed by any party other than the record filed by the evidentiary panel clerk or the court reporter must, at or before the time of filing, be served on all other parties as required and authorized by the TRAP.

Rule 1.06. Service of Petition

In any disciplinary proceeding before BODA initiated by service of a petition on the Respondent, the petition must be served by personal service; by certified mail with return receipt requested; or, if permitted by BODA, in any other manner that is authorized by the TRCP and 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. To establish service by certified mail, the return receipt must contain the Respondent’s signature.

Rule 1.07. Hearing Setting and Notice

(a) **Original Petitions.** In any kind of case initiated by the CDC’s filing a petition or motion with BODA, the CDC may contact the BODA Clerk for the next regularly available hearing date before filing the original petition. If a hearing is set before the petition is filed, the petition must state the date, time, and place of the hearing. Except in the case of a petition to revoke probation under TRDP 2.23 [2.22], the hearing date must be at least 30 days from the date that the petition is served on the Respondent.

(b) **Expedited Settings.** If a party desires a hearing on a matter on a date earlier than the next regularly available BODA hearing date, the party may request an expedited setting in a written motion setting out the reasons for the

request. Unless the parties agree otherwise, and except in the case of a petition to revoke probation under TRDP 2.23 [2.22], the expedited hearing setting must be at least 30 days from the date of service of the petition, motion, or other pleading. BODA has the sole discretion to grant or deny a request for an expedited hearing date.

(c) **Setting Notices.** BODA must notify the parties of any hearing date that is not noticed in an original petition or motion.

(d) **Announcement Docket.** Attorneys and parties appearing before BODA must confirm their presence and present any questions regarding procedure to the BODA Clerk in the courtroom immediately prior to the time docket call is scheduled to begin. Each party with a matter on the docket must appear at the docket call to give an announcement of readiness, to give a time estimate for the hearing, and to present any preliminary motions or matters. Immediately following the docket call, the Chair will set and announce the order of cases to be heard.

Rule 1.08. Time to Answer

The Respondent may file an answer at any time, 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 1.09. Pretrial Procedure

(a) Motions.

(1) Generally. To request an order or other relief, a party must file a motion supported by sufficient cause with proof of service on all other parties. The motion must state with particularity the grounds on which it is based and set forth the relief sought. All supporting briefs, affidavits, or other documents must 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. Unless otherwise required by these rules or the TRDP, the form of a motion must comply with the TRCP or the TRAP.

(2) For Extension of Time. All motions for extension of time in any matter before BODA must be in writing, comply with (a)(1), and specify the following:

- (i) if applicable, the date of notice of decision of the evidentiary panel, together with the number and style of the case;
- (ii) if an appeal has been perfected, the date when the appeal was perfected;
- (iii) the original deadline for filing the item in question;
- (iv) the length of time requested for the extension;
- (v) the number of extensions of time that have been granted previously regarding the item in question; and

(vi) the facts relied on to reasonably explain the need for an extension.

(b) **Pretrial Scheduling Conference.** Any party may request a pretrial scheduling conference, or BODA on its own motion may require a pretrial scheduling conference.

(c) **Trial Briefs.** In any disciplinary proceeding before BODA, except with leave, all trial briefs and memoranda must be filed with the BODA Clerk no later than ten days before the day of the hearing.

(d) **Hearing Exhibits, Witness Lists, and Exhibits Tendered for Argument.** A party may file a witness list, exhibit, or any other document to be used at a hearing or oral argument before the hearing or argument. A party must bring to the hearing an original and 12 copies of any document that was not filed at least one business day before the hearing. The original and copies must be:

- (1) marked;
- (2) indexed with the title or description of the item offered as an exhibit; and
- (3) if voluminous, bound to lie flat when open and tabbed in accordance with the index.

All documents must be marked and provided to the opposing party before the hearing or argument begins.

Rule 1.10. Decisions

(a) **Notice of Decisions.** The BODA Clerk must give notice of all decisions and opinions to the parties or their attorneys of record.

(b) **Publication of Decisions.** BODA must report judgments or orders of public discipline:

- (1) as required by the TRDP; and
- (2) on its website for a period of at least ten years following the date of the disciplinary judgment or order.

(c) **Abstracts of Classification Appeals.** BODA may, in its discretion, prepare an abstract of a classification appeal for a public reporting service.

Rule 1.11. Board of Disciplinary Appeals Opinions

(a) BODA may render judgment in any disciplinary matter with or without written opinion. In accordance with TRDP 6.06, all written opinions of BODA are open to the public and must 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 BODA 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.

Rule 1.12. BODA Work Product and Drafts

A document or record of any nature—regardless of its form, characteristics, or means of transmission—that is 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, BODA staff, or any other person acting on behalf of or at the direction of BODA.

Rule 1.13. Record Retention

Records of appeals from classification decisions must be retained by the BODA Clerk for a period of at least three years from the date of disposition. Records of other disciplinary matters must be retained for a period of at least five years from the date of final judgment, or for at least one year after the date a suspension or disbarment ends, whichever is later. For purposes of this rule, a record is any document, paper, letter, map, book, tape, photograph, film, recording, or other material filed with BODA, regardless of its form, characteristics, or means of transmission.

Rule 1.14. Costs of Reproduction of Records

The BODA Clerk may charge a reasonable amount for the reproduction of nonconfidential records filed with BODA. The fee must be paid in advance to the BODA Clerk.

Rule 1.15. Publication of These Rules

These rules will be published as part of the TDRPC and TRDP.

II. ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

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

(a) A current member of BODA must not represent a party or testify voluntarily in a disciplinary action or proceeding. Any BODA member who is subpoenaed or otherwise compelled to appear at a disciplinary action or proceeding, including at a deposition, must promptly notify the BODA Chair.

(b) A current BODA member must not serve as an expert witness on 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) BODA deliberations are confidential, must not be disclosed by BODA members or staff, and are not subject to disclosure or discovery.

(b) Classification appeals, appeals from evidentiary judgments of private reprimand, appeals from an evidentiary judgment dismissing a case, interlocutory appeals or any interim proceedings from an ongoing evidentiary case, and disability cases are confidential under the TRDP. BODA must maintain all records associated with these cases as confidential, subject to disclosure only as provided in the TRDP and these rules.

(c) If a member of BODA is subpoenaed or otherwise compelled by law to testify in any proceeding, the member must not disclose a matter that was discussed in conference in connection with a disciplinary case unless the member is required to do so by a court of competent jurisdiction

Rule 2.03. Disqualification and Recusal of BODA Members

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

(b) BODA members may, in addition to recusals under (a), voluntarily recuse themselves from any discussion and voting for any reason. The reasons that a BODA member is recused from a case are not subject to discovery.

(c) These rules do not disqualify a lawyer who is a member of, or associated with, the law firm of a BODA member from serving on a grievance committee or representing a party in a disciplinary proceeding or legal malpractice case. But a BODA member must recuse him or herself from any matter in which a lawyer who is a member of, or associated with, the BODA member's firm is a party or represents a party.

III. CLASSIFICATION APPEALS

Rule 3.01. Notice of Right to Appeal

(a) If a grievance filed by the Complainant under TRDP 2.10 is classified as an inquiry, the CDC must notify the Complainant of his or her right to appeal as set out in TRDP 2.10 or another applicable rule.

(b) To facilitate the potential filing of an appeal of a grievance classified as an inquiry, the CDC must send the Complainant an appeal notice form, approved by BODA, with the classification disposition. The form must include the docket number of the matter; the deadline for appealing; and information for mailing, faxing, or emailing the appeal notice form to BODA. The appeal notice form must be available in English and Spanish.

Rule 3.02. Record on Appeal

BODA must only consider documents that were filed with the CDC prior to the classification decision. When a notice of appeal from a classification decision has been filed, the CDC must forward to BODA a copy of the grievance and

all supporting documentation. If the appeal challenges the classification of an amended grievance, the CDC must also send BODA a copy of the initial grievance, unless it has been destroyed.

IV. APPEALS FROM EVIDENTIARY PANEL HEARINGS

Rule 4.01. Perfecting Appeal

(a) **Appellate Timetable.** The date that the evidentiary judgment is signed starts the appellate timetable under this section. To make TRDP 2.21 [2.20] consistent with this requirement, the date that the judgment is signed is the "date of notice" under Rule 2.21 [2.20].

(b) **Notification of the Evidentiary Judgment.** The clerk of the evidentiary panel must notify the parties of the judgment as set out in TRDP 2.21 [2.20].

(1) The evidentiary panel clerk must notify the Commission and the Respondent in writing of the judgment. The notice must contain a clear statement that any appeal of the judgment must be filed with BODA within 30 days of the date that the judgment was signed. The notice must include a copy of the judgment rendered.

(2) The evidentiary panel clerk must notify the Complainant that a judgment has been rendered and provide a copy of the judgment, unless the evidentiary panel dismissed the case or imposed a private reprimand. In the case of a dismissal or private reprimand, the evidentiary panel clerk must notify the Complainant of the decision and that the contents of the judgment are confidential. Under TRDP 2.16, no additional information regarding the contents of a judgment of dismissal or private reprimand may be disclosed to the Complainant.

(c) **Filing Notice of Appeal.** An appeal is perfected when a written notice of appeal is filed with BODA. If a notice of appeal and any other accompanying documents are mistakenly filed with the evidentiary panel clerk, the notice is deemed to have been filed the same day with BODA, and the evidentiary panel clerk must immediately send the BODA Clerk a copy of the notice and any accompanying documents.

(d) **Time to File.** In accordance with TRDP 2.24 [2.23], the notice of appeal must be filed within 30 days after the date the judgment is signed. In the event a motion for new trial or motion to modify the judgment is timely filed with the evidentiary panel, the notice of appeal must be filed with BODA within 90 days from the date the judgment is signed.

(e) **Extension of Time.** A motion for an extension of time to file the notice of appeal must be filed no later than 15 days after the last day allowed for filing the notice of appeal. The motion must comply with Rule 1.09.

Rule 4.02. Record on Appeal

(a) **Contents.** The record on appeal consists of the evidentiary panel clerk's record and, where necessary to the appeal, a reporter's record of the evidentiary panel hearing.

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

(c) Responsibility for Filing Record.

(1) Clerk's Record.

(i) After receiving notice that an appeal has been filed, the clerk of the evidentiary panel is responsible for preparing, certifying, and timely filing the clerk's record.

(ii) Unless the parties stipulate otherwise, the clerk's record on appeal must contain the items listed in TRAP 34.5(a) and any other paper on file with the evidentiary panel, including the election letter, all pleadings on which the hearing was held, the docket sheet, the evidentiary panel's charge, any findings of fact and conclusions of law, all other pleadings, the judgment or other orders appealed from, the notice of decision sent to each party, any postsubmission pleadings and briefs, and the notice of appeal.

(iii) If the clerk of the evidentiary panel is unable for any reason to prepare and transmit the clerk's record by the due date, he or she must promptly notify BODA and the parties, explain why the clerk's record cannot be timely filed, and give the date by which he or she expects the clerk's record to be filed.

(2) Reporter's Record.

(i) The court reporter for the evidentiary panel is responsible for timely filing the reporter's record if:

- a) a notice of appeal has been filed;
- b) a party has requested that all or part of the reporter's record be prepared; and
- c) the party requesting all or part of the reporter's record has paid the reporter's fee or has made satisfactory arrangements with the reporter.

(ii) If the court reporter is unable for any reason to prepare and transmit the reporter's record by the due date, he or she must promptly notify BODA and the parties, explain the reasons why the reporter's record cannot be timely filed, and give the date by which he or she expects the reporter's record to be filed.

(d) Preparation of Clerk's Record.

(1) To prepare the clerk's record, the evidentiary panel clerk must:

- (i) gather the documents designated by the parties'

written stipulation or, if no stipulation was filed, the documents required under (c)(1)(ii);

(ii) start each document on a new page;

(iii) include the date of filing on each document;

(iv) arrange the documents in chronological order, either by the date of filing or the date of occurrence;

(v) number the pages of the clerk's record in the manner required by (d)(2);

(vi) prepare and include, after the front cover of the clerk's record, a detailed table of contents that complies with (d)(3); and

(vii) certify the clerk's record.

(2) The clerk must start the page numbering on the front cover of the first volume of the clerk's record and continue to number all pages consecutively—including the front and back covers, tables of contents, certification page, and separator pages, if any—until the final page of the clerk's record, without regard for the number of volumes in the clerk's record, and place each page number at the bottom of each page.

(3) The table of contents must:

(i) identify each document in the entire record (including sealed documents); the date each document was filed; and, except for sealed documents, the page on which each document begins;

(ii) be double-spaced;

(iii) conform to the order in which documents appear in the clerk's record, rather than in alphabetical order;

(iv) contain bookmarks linking each description in the table of contents (except for descriptions of sealed documents) to the page on which the document begins; and

(v) if the record consists of multiple volumes, indicate the page on which each volume begins.

(e) **Electronic Filing of the Clerk's Record.** The evidentiary panel clerk must file the record electronically. When filing a clerk's record in electronic form, the evidentiary panel clerk must:

(1) file each computer file in text-searchable Portable Document Format (PDF);

(2) create electronic bookmarks to mark the first page of each document in the clerk's record;

(3) limit the size of each computer file to 100 MB or less, if possible; and

(4) directly convert, rather than scan, the record to PDF, if possible.

(f) **Preparation of the Reporter's Record.**

(1) The appellant, at or before the time prescribed for

perfecting the appeal, must make a written request for the reporter's record to the court reporter for the evidentiary panel. The request must designate the portion of the evidence and other proceedings to be included. A copy of the request must be filed with the evidentiary panel and BODA and must be served on the appellee. The reporter's record must be certified by the court reporter for the evidentiary panel.

(2) The court reporter or recorder must prepare and file the reporter's record in accordance with TRAP 34.6 and 35 and the Uniform Format Manual for Texas Reporters' Records.

(3) The court reporter or recorder must file the reporter's record in an electronic format by emailing the document to the email address designated by BODA for that purpose.

(4) The court reporter or recorder must include either a scanned image of any required signature or "/s/" and name typed in the space where the signature would otherwise

(6¹) In exhibit volumes, the court reporter or recorder must create bookmarks to mark the first page of each exhibit document.

(g) **Other Requests.** At any time before the clerk's record is prepared, or within ten days after service of a copy of appellant's request for the reporter's record, any party may file a written designation requesting that additional exhibits and portions of testimony be included in the record. The request must be filed with the evidentiary panel and BODA and must be served on the other party.

(h) **Inaccuracies or Defects.** If the clerk's record is found to be defective or inaccurate, the BODA Clerk must inform the clerk of the evidentiary panel of the defect or inaccuracy and instruct the clerk to make the correction. Any inaccuracies in the reporter's record may be corrected by agreement of the parties without the court reporter's recertification. Any dispute regarding the reporter's record that the parties are unable to resolve by agreement must be resolved by the evidentiary panel.

(i) **Appeal from Private Reprimand.** Under TRDP 2.16, in an appeal from a judgment of private reprimand, BODA must mark the record as confidential, remove the attorney's name from the case style, and take any other steps necessary to preserve the confidentiality of the private reprimand.

¹ So in original.

Rule 4.03. Time to File Record

(a) **Timetable.** The clerk's record and reporter's record must be filed within 60 days after the date the judgment is signed. If a motion for new trial or motion to modify the judgment is filed with the evidentiary panel, the clerk's record and the reporter's record must be filed within 120 days from the date the original judgment is signed, unless

a modified judgment is signed, in which case the clerk's record and the reporter's record must be filed within 60 days of the signing of the modified judgment. Failure to file either the clerk's record or the reporter's record on time does not affect BODA's jurisdiction, but may result in BODA's exercising its discretion to dismiss the appeal, affirm the judgment appealed from, disregard materials filed late, or 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 30 days. The BODA Clerk must send a copy of this notice to all the parties and the clerk of 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 a 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) the appellant failed to pay or make arrangements to pay the reporter's fee to prepare the reporter's record, and the appellant is not entitled to proceed without payment of costs.

(c) Extension of Time to File the Reporter's Record.

When an extension of time is requested for filing the reporter's record, the facts relied on to reasonably explain the need for an extension must be supported by an affidavit of the court reporter. The affidavit must include the court reporter's estimate of the earliest date when the reporter's record will be available for filing.

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

Rule 4.04. Copies of the Record

The record may 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 a written request to the BODA Clerk and paying any charges for reproduction in advance.

Rule 4.05. Requisites of Briefs

(a) **Appellant's Filing Date.** Appellant's brief must be filed within 30 days after the clerk's record or the reporter's record is filed, whichever is later.

(b) **Appellee's Filing Date.** Appellee's brief must be filed

within 30 days after the appellant's brief is filed.

(c) Contents. Briefs must 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 indicating the subject matter of each issue or point, or group of issues or points, with page references where the discussion of each point relied on may be found;
- (3) an index of authorities arranged alphabetically and indicating the pages where the authorities are cited;
- (4) a statement of the case containing a brief general statement of the nature of the cause or offense and the result;
- (5) a statement, without argument, of the basis of BODA's jurisdiction;
- (6) a statement of the issues presented for review or points of error on which the appeal is predicated;
- (7) a statement of facts that is without argument, is supported by record references, and details the facts relating to the issues or points relied on in the appeal;
- (8) the argument and authorities;
- (9) conclusion and prayer for relief;
- (10) a certificate of service; and
- (11) an appendix of record excerpts pertinent to the issues presented for review.

(d) Length of Briefs; Contents Included and Excluded.

In calculating the length of a document, every word and every part of the document, including headings, footnotes, and quotations, must be counted except the following: caption, identity of the parties and counsel, statement regarding oral argument, table of contents, index of authorities, statement of the case, statement of issues presented, statement of the jurisdiction, signature, proof of service, certificate of compliance, and appendix. Briefs must not exceed 15,000 words if computer-generated, and 50 pages if not, except on leave of BODA. A reply brief must not exceed 7,500 words if computer-generated, and 25 pages if not, except on leave of BODA. A computer generated document must include a certificate by counsel or the unrepresented party stating the number of words in the document. The person who signs the certification may rely on the word count of the computer program used to prepare the document.

(e) Amendment or Supplementation. BODA has discretion to grant leave to amend or supplement briefs.

(f) Failure of the Appellant 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;

(2) decline to dismiss the appeal and make further orders within its discretion as it considers proper; or

(3) if an appellee's brief is filed, regard that brief as correctly presenting the case and affirm the evidentiary panel's judgment on that brief without examining the record.

Rule 4.06. Oral Argument

(a) Request. A party desiring oral argument must note the request on the front cover of the party's brief. A party's failure to timely request oral argument waives the party's right to argue. A party who has requested argument may later withdraw the request. But even if a party has waived oral argument, BODA may direct the party to appear and argue. If oral argument is granted, the clerk will notify the parties of the time and place for submission.

(b) Right to Oral Argument. A party who has filed a brief and who has timely requested oral argument may argue the case to BODA unless BODA, after examining the briefs, decides that oral argument is unnecessary for any of the following reasons:

- (1) the appeal is frivolous;
- (2) the dispositive issue or issues have been authoritatively decided;
- (3) the facts and legal arguments are adequately presented in the briefs and record; or
- (4) the decisional process would not be significantly aided by oral argument.

(c) Time Allowed. Each party will have 20 minutes to argue. BODA may, on the request of a party or on its own, extend or shorten the time allowed for oral argument. The appellant may reserve a portion of his or her allotted time for rebuttal.

Rule 4.07. Decision and Judgment

(a) Decision. BODA may do any of the following:

- (1) affirm in whole or in part the decision of the evidentiary panel;
- (2) modify the panel's findings and affirm the findings as modified;
- (3) reverse in whole or in part the panel's findings and render the decision that the panel should have rendered; or
- (4) reverse the panel's findings and remand the cause for further proceedings to be conducted by:

- (i) the panel that entered the findings; or
- (ii) 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) Mandate. In every appeal, the BODA Clerk must issue a mandate in accordance with BODA's judgment and send it to the evidentiary panel and to all the parties.

Rule 4.08. Appointment of Statewide Grievance Committee

If BODA remands a cause for further proceedings before a statewide grievance committee, the BODA Chair will appoint the statewide grievance committee in accordance with TRDP 2.27 [2.26]. The committee must consist of six members: four attorney members and two public members randomly selected from the current pool of grievance committee members. Two alternates, consisting of one attorney and one public member, must also be selected. BODA will appoint the initial chair who will serve until the members of the statewide grievance committee elect a chair of the committee at the first meeting. The BODA Clerk will notify the Respondent and the CDC that a committee has been appointed.

Rule 4.09. 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.

V. PETITIONS TO REVOKE PROBATION

Rule 5.01. Initiation and Service

(a) Before filing a motion to revoke the probation of an attorney who has been sanctioned, the CDC must contact the BODA Clerk to confirm whether the next regularly available hearing date will comply with the 30-day requirement of TRDP. The Chair may designate a three-member panel to hear the motion, if necessary, to meet the 30-day requirement of TRDP 2.23 [2.22].

(b) Upon filing the motion, the CDC must serve the Respondent with the motion and any supporting documents in accordance with TRDP 2.23 [2.22], the TRCP, and these rules. The CDC must notify BODA of the date that service is obtained on the Respondent.

Rule 5.02. Hearing

Within 30 days of service of the motion on the Respondent, BODA must docket and set the matter for a hearing and notify the parties of the time and place of the hearing. On a showing of good cause by a party or on its own motion, BODA may continue the case to a future hearing date as circumstances require.

VI. COMPULSORY DISCIPLINE

Rule 6.01. Initiation of Proceeding

Under TRDP 8.03, the CDC must file a petition for compulsory discipline with BODA and serve the Respondent in accordance with the TRDP and Rule 1.06 of these rules.

Rule 6.02. Interlocutory Suspension

(a) **Interlocutory Suspension.** In any compulsory proceeding under TRDP Part VIII in which BODA determines that the Respondent has been convicted of an Intentional Crime and that the criminal conviction is on direct appeal, BODA must suspend the Respondent's license to practice law by interlocutory order. In any compulsory case in which BODA has imposed an interlocutory order of suspension, BODA retains jurisdiction to render final judgment after the direct appeal of the criminal conviction is final. For purposes of rendering final judgment in a compulsory discipline case, the direct appeal of the criminal conviction is final when the appellate court issues its mandate.

(b) **Criminal Conviction Affirmed.** If the criminal conviction made the basis of a compulsory interlocutory suspension is affirmed and becomes final, the CDC must file a motion for final judgment that complies with TRDP 8.05.

(1) If the criminal sentence is fully probated or is an order of deferred adjudication, the motion for final judgment must contain notice of a hearing date. The motion will be set on BODA's next available hearing date.

(2) If the criminal sentence is not fully probated:

- (i) BODA may proceed to decide the motion without a hearing if the attorney does not file a verified denial within ten days of service of the motion; or
- (ii) BODA may set the motion for a hearing on the next available hearing date if the attorney timely files a verified denial.

(c) **Criminal Conviction Reversed.** If an appellate court issues a mandate reversing the criminal conviction while a Respondent is subject to an interlocutory suspension, the Respondent may file a motion to terminate the interlocutory suspension. The motion to terminate the interlocutory suspension must have certified copies of the decision and mandate of the reversing court attached. If the CDC does not file an opposition to the termination within ten days of being served with the motion, BODA may proceed to decide the motion without a hearing or set the matter for a hearing on its own motion. If the CDC timely opposes the motion, BODA must set the motion for a hearing on its next available hearing date. An order terminating an interlocutory order of suspension does not automatically reinstate a Respondent's license.

VII. RECIPROCAL DISCIPLINE

Rule 7.01. Initiation of Proceeding

To initiate an action for reciprocal discipline under TRDP Part IX, the CDC must file a petition with BODA and request an Order to Show Cause. The petition must 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 certified copy of the order or judgment rendered against the Respondent.

Rule 7.02. Order to Show Cause

When a petition is filed, the Chair immediately issues a show cause order and a hearing notice and forwards them to the CDC, who must serve the order and notice on the Respondent. The CDC must notify BODA of the date that service is obtained.

Rule 7.03. Attorney's Response

If the Respondent does not file an answer within 30 days of being served with the order and notice 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.

VIII. DISTRICT DISABILITY COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Rule 8.01. Appointment of District Disability Committee

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

(b) Upon receiving an evidentiary panel's finding or the CDC's referral that an attorney is believed to be suffering from a disability, the BODA Chair must appoint a District Disability Committee in compliance with TRDP 12.02 and designate a chair. BODA will reimburse District Disability Committee members for reasonable expenses directly related to service on the District Disability Committee. The BODA Clerk must notify the CDC and the Respondent that a committee has been appointed and notify the Respondent where to locate the procedural rules governing disability proceedings.

(c) A Respondent who has been notified that a disability referral will be or has been made to BODA may, at any time, waive in writing the appointment of the District Disability Committee or the hearing before the District Disability Committee and enter into an agreed judgment of indefinite disability suspension, provided that the Respondent is competent to waive the hearing. If the Respondent is not represented, the waiver must include a statement affirming that the Respondent has been advised of the right to appointed counsel and waives that right as well.

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

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

Rule 8.02. Petition and Answer

(a) **Petition.** Upon being notified that the District Disability Committee has been appointed by BODA, the CDC must, within 20 days, file with the BODA Clerk and serve on the Respondent a copy of a petition for indefinite disability suspension. Service must comply with Rule 1.06.

(b) **Answer.** The Respondent must, within 30 days after service of the petition for indefinite disability suspension, file an answer with the BODA Clerk and serve a copy of the answer on the CDC.

(c) **Hearing Setting.** The BODA Clerk must set the final hearing as instructed by the chair of the District Disability Committee and send notice of the hearing to the parties.

Rule 8.03. Discovery

(a) **Limited Discovery.** The District Disability Committee may permit limited discovery. The party seeking discovery must file with the BODA Clerk a written request that makes a clear showing of good cause and substantial need and a proposed order. If the District Disability Committee authorizes discovery in a case, it must issue a written order. The order may impose limitations or deadlines on the discovery.

(b) **Physical or Mental Examinations.** On written motion by the Commission or on its own motion, the District Disability Committee may order the Respondent to submit to a physical or mental examination by a qualified healthcare or mental healthcare professional. Nothing in this rule limits the Respondent's right to an examination by a professional of his or her choice in addition to any exam ordered by the District Disability Committee.

(1) Motion. The Respondent must be given reasonable notice of the examination by written order specifying the name, address, and telephone number of the person conducting the examination.

(2) Report. The examining professional must file with the BODA Clerk a detailed, written report that includes the results of all tests performed and the professional's findings, diagnoses, and conclusions. The professional must send a copy of the report to the CDC and the Respondent.

(c) **Objections.** A party must make any objection to a request for discovery within 15 days of receiving the motion by filing a written objection with the BODA Clerk. BODA may decide any objection or contest to a discovery motion.

Rule 8.04. Ability to Compel Attendance

The Respondent and the CDC may confront and cross-examine witnesses at the hearing. Compulsory process to compel the attendance of witnesses by subpoena, enforceable by an order of a district court of proper jurisdiction, is available to the Respondent and the CDC 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 petition for indefinite disability suspension must state that the Respondent may request appointment of counsel by BODA to represent him or her at the disability hearing. BODA will reimburse appointed counsel for reasonable expenses directly related to representation of the Respondent.

(b) To receive appointed counsel under TRDP 12.02, the Respondent must file a written request with the BODA Clerk within 30 days of the date that Respondent is served with the petition for indefinite disability suspension. A late request must demonstrate good cause for the Respondent's failure to file a timely request.

Rule 8.06. Hearing

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 must admit all relevant evidence that is necessary for a fair and complete hearing. The TRE are advisory but not binding on the chair.

Rule 8.07. Notice of Decision

The District Disability Committee must certify its finding regarding disability to BODA, which will issue the final judgment in the matter.

Rule 8.08. Confidentiality

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

IX. 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. The petitioner must serve a copy of the petition on the CDC in the manner required by TRDP 12.06. The TRCP apply to a reinstatement proceeding unless they conflict with these rules.

(b) The petition must include 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 must 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 make all or any part of the record of the proceeding confidential.

Rule 9.02. Discovery

The discovery period is 60 days from the date that the petition for reinstatement is filed. The BODA Clerk will set the petition for a hearing on the first date available after the close of the discovery period and must notify the parties of the time and place of the hearing. BODA may continue the hearing for good cause shown.

Rule 9.03. Physical or Mental Examinations

(a) On written motion by the Commission or on its own, BODA may order the petitioner seeking reinstatement to submit to a physical or mental examination by a qualified healthcare or mental healthcare professional. The petitioner must be served with a copy of the motion and given at least seven days to respond. BODA may hold a hearing before ruling on the motion but is not required to do so.

(b) The petitioner must 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 must file a detailed, written report that includes the results of all tests performed and the professional's findings, diagnoses, and conclusions. The professional must send a copy of the report to the parties.

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

(e) Nothing in this rule limits the petitioner's right to an examination by a professional of his or her 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 other orders necessary to protect the public and the petitioner's potential clients.

X. APPEALS FROM BODA TO THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

Rule 10.01. Appeals to the Supreme Court

(a) A final decision by BODA, except a determination that a statement constitutes an inquiry or a complaint under TRDP 2.10, may be appealed to the Supreme Court of Texas. The clerk of the Supreme Court of Texas must docket an appeal from a decision by BODA in the same manner as a petition for review without fee.

(b) The appealing party must file the notice of appeal directly with the clerk of the Supreme Court of Texas within 14 days of receiving notice of a final determination by BODA. The record must be filed within 60 days after BODA's determination. The appealing party's brief is due 30 days after the record is filed, and the responding party's brief is due 30 days thereafter. The BODA Clerk must send the parties a notice of BODA's final decision that includes the information in this paragraph.

(c) An appeal to the Supreme Court is governed by TRDP 7.11 and the TRAP.