

JFletcher

From: JFletcher [judgefletcher402@mywoodcounty.com]
Sent: Friday, March 8, 2019 11:32 AM
To: Buddy Loyd (owloyd@gmail.com)
Cc: 'Angela Albers'; 'Joseph Fenlaw'; 'Kim Carpenter'
Subject: Status Docket 3/8
Attachments: 20190308100129226.pdf

Mr. Loyd:

The following cases were called this morning:

23,714-2018; State v. Applegate
23,759-2018; State v. Molina
23,590-2018; State v. Osbourn

You were absent for the status docket this morning. This is after appearing late at the last docket (you would likely not have appeared then either after had my Court Coordinator not called you). I have attached the reset forms bearing your signature from the last hearing that put you and your client on actual notice that your cases were reset for today. Your clients were present today and these cases have been reset to the April 5 status docket. It would be prudent to attempt to reach a resolution or set these cases for trial as they have each been called at least twice before without any firm announcement other than to pass them to the next status docket.

As you were absent again this morning, I asked my coordinator to contact you to appear after I had called all the other cases on the docket. She reported that you lied and told her you had been told by "that office" that you did not have to appear today. When questioned about who it was that told you that you did not have to appear, you could not give an answer. This is because you did not talk to anyone in my office regarding these cases. This conduct is both extremely unprofessional and dishonest and will not be tolerated. The Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct, Rule 8.04a(3), states "*...a Lawyer shall not "...engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation..."*" Your failure to properly manage your cases and calendar, coupled with lying to my staff requires me to comply with the responsibilities required of me as District Judge pursuant to the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct. Canon D(3)(2) states in pertinent part "*... A judge who receives information clearly establishing that a lawyer has committed a violation of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct should take appropriate action. A judge having knowledge that a lawyer has committed a violation of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct that raises a substantial question as to the lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a lawyer in other respects shall inform the Office of the General Counsel of the State Bar of Texas or take other appropriate action.*" As this Canon allows me to choose to report you to the State Bar or to take action as I deem appropriate, I am going to fine you \$500 dollars to be paid to the Wood County District Clerk on or before March 15, 2019, for your failure to appear as ordered and dishonesty toward my staff that reflects your utter disregard for your duties as a lawyer, your lack of

candor with my staff and your conduct unbecoming the profession. Please be aware that should you fail to follow Court orders, you will be in contempt of this Court. Let this communication put you on notice that any future conduct of the nature described hereinbefore will result in more serious consequences.

Sincerely,

Jeff Fletcher
402nd District Judge
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Quitman, Texas 75783
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