

**Austin Office**  
**Chief Disciplinary Counsel**

FILE NO. 202000684

IN THE MATTER OF:	§	INVESTIGATORY PANEL 9-2
	§	
TONY DIAZ,	§	DISTRICT 9
BAR NO. 05805350	§	
	§	GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

**AGREED JUDGMENT OF PUBLIC REPRIMAND****Agreement of Parties**

Chief Disciplinary Counsel and Respondent, Tony Diaz, Texas Bar Number 05805350, announce that an agreement has been reached on all matters including the imposition of a Public Reprimand.

**Jurisdiction and Venue**

The Investigatory Panel 9-2, having conducted an Investigatory Hearing on December 10, 2020, on the Complaint filed by A. Cerna Melendez, finds that it has jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter of this action, and that venue is proper.

**Professional Misconduct**

The Investigatory Panel, having considered the admissions, stipulations and agreements of the parties, finds Respondent has committed Professional Misconduct as defined by Rule 1.06(CC) of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

**Findings of Fact**

Petitioner and Respondent agree to the following findings of fact. Accordingly, the Investigatory 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's Professional Misconduct occurred, in whole or in part, in Travis County, Texas.

3. August of 2013, Complainant, Alvaro William Cerna-Rivas, paid \$3,000 to Respondent, Tony Diaz, to file a petition for an U-Visa on behalf of his son, Alvaro Ernesto Cerna-Meléndez. In April 2019, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) requested additional evidence in Complainant's matter. Thereafter, Respondent failed to inform Complainant of the USCIS request for more information, and failed to timely submit the evidence requested.

#### Conclusions of Law

Based on the agreed foregoing findings of fact, the Investigatory Panel finds that the following Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct have been violated: 1.01(b)(1) and 1.03(b).

#### Sanction

It is AGREED and ORDERED that the sanction of a Public Reprimand shall be imposed against Respondent and is in accordance with Part XV of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

#### Publication


This reprimand shall be made a matter of public 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.

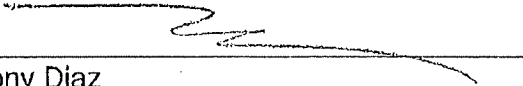
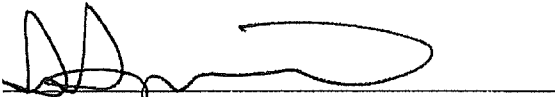
SIGNED this 18<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2020.

INVESTIGATORY PANEL 9-2  
DISTRICT 9



SUSAN PERRY BURTON  
PRESIDING MEMBER

AGREED AS TO FORM AND SUBSTANCE:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tony Diaz  
State Bar No. 05805350  
RESPONDENT  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Amanda M. Kates  
State Bar No. 24075987  
ASSISTANT CHIEF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL