

IN THE MATTER OF:	§	INVESTIGATORY PANEL 6-2
	§	
IVAN TRIFONOV NALBANTOV,	§	DISTRICT 6
BAR NO. 24085491	§	
	§	GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

AGREED JUDGMENT OF PUBLIC REPRIMAND

Agreement of Parties

Chief Disciplinary Counsel and Respondent, IVAN TRIFONOV NALBANTOV ("Respondent"), Texas Bar Number 24085491 announce that an agreement has been reached on all matters including the imposition of a **Public Reprimand**.

Jurisdiction and Venue

The Investigatory Panel 6-2, having conducted an Investigatory Hearing on November 5, 2020 on the Complaint filed by Dijon Surma ("Surma"), 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 Dallas County, Texas.

3. On January 6, 2020, Respondent entered a plea for Surma in a misdemeanor criminal case without Surma's knowledge or approval. The plea was entered onto the court record in Surma's criminal case.
4. Respondent failed to explain the criminal matters to Surma to the extent reasonably necessary to permit Surma to make informed decisions regarding the representation.
5. The Chief Disciplinary Counsel of the State Bar of Texas has incurred reasonable attorneys' fees and direct expenses associated with this Disciplinary Proceeding in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00).

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: 1.02(a)(3) 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.

Restitution, Attorney's Fees and Expenses

It is further **AGREED and ORDERED** Respondent shall pay all reasonable and necessary attorney's fees and direct expenses, on or before December 30, 2020, to the State Bar of Texas in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00). The payment of attorney's fees and direct expenses shall be made by certified or cashier's check or money order, made payable to the State Bar of Texas and delivered to the State Bar of Texas, Chief Disciplinary Counsel's Office, 14651 Dallas Parkway, Suite 925, Dallas, Texas 75254.

It is further **AGREED and ORDERED** that all amounts ordered herein are due to the misconduct of Respondent, and are assessed as a part of the sanction in accordance with Rule 1.06(FF) of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure. Any amount not paid shall accrue interest at the maximum legal rate per annum until paid and the State Bar of Texas shall have all writs and other post-judgment remedies against Respondent in order to collect all unpaid amounts.

Publication

This 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.

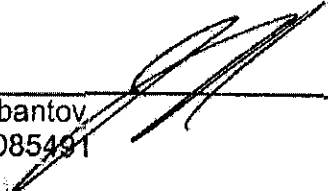
SIGNED this 4th day of January, 2021.

**INVESTIGATORY PANEL 6-2
DISTRICT 6**



Price Lewis Johnson, Jr.
PRESIDING MEMBER

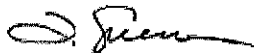
AGREED AS TO FORM AND SUBSTANCE:



Ivan Trifonov Nalbantov
State Bar No. 24085491
RESPONDENT

Stephen Le Brocq

Stephen Kenji Le Brocq
State Bar No. 24094791
COUNSEL FOR RESPONDENT



Laurie Guerra
State Bar No. 24050696
ASSISTANT CHIEF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL