

FILE NO. 202001232

IN THE MATTER OF:	§	INVESTIGATORY PANEL 7-3
	§	
JOHN WILLIAM STICKELS,	§	DISTRICT 7
	§	
BAR NO. 19225300	§	GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

AGREED JUDGMENT OF PUBLIC REPRIMAND

Agreement of Parties

Chief Disciplinary Counsel and Respondent, **JOHN WILLIAM STICKELS**, Texas Bar Number **19225300** (Respondent), announce that an agreement has been reached on all matters including the imposition of a Public Reprimand.

Jurisdiction and Venue

The Investigatory Panel 7-3, having conducted an Investigatory Hearing on November 23, 2020, on the Complaint filed by Joseph Martin, 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 Tarrant County, Texas.

3. In April 2016, Respondent was hired to represent Complainant Joseph Martin (Martin) in a criminal appeal.
4. Respondent neglected the legal matter entrusted to him by failing to correct and resubmit a writ of certiorari petition that the Supreme Court rejected for inadequacies.
5. Respondent failed to explain the legal matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit Martin to make informed decisions regarding the representation.
6. Respondent failed to hold funds in connection with the representation belonging in whole or in part to Martin separate from Respondent's own property.
7. Respondent owes restitution in the amount of Two Thousand Five Hundred and No/100 Dollars (\$2,500.00) payable to Cirila Martin.
8. The Chief Disciplinary Counsel of the State Bar of Texas has incurred reasonable attorney's fees and direct expenses associated with this Disciplinary Proceeding in the amount of Five Hundred and No/100 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: 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(b), and 1.14(a).

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.

Additional Continuing Legal Education

In addition to complying with the Minimum Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) requirements of the State Bar of Texas, Respondent shall complete six (6) additional hours of continuing legal education in the area of Law Office Management. These additional hours of CLE shall be completed by January 31, 2021. Within ten (10) days of

the completion of these additional CLE hours, Respondent shall verify completion of the course to the State Bar of Texas, Chief Disciplinary Counsel's Office, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, TX 78711-2487 (1414 Colorado St., Suite 200, Austin, TX 78701).

Respondent shall make contact with the Chief Disciplinary Counsel's Office's Compliance Monitor at 877-953-5535, ext. 1334 and Special Programs Coordinator at 877- 953-5535, ext. 1323, not later than seven (7) days after receipt of a copy of this judgment to coordinate Respondent's compliance.

Restitution, Attorney's Fees and Expenses

It is further **AGREED** and **ORDERED** Respondent shall pay restitution to Cirila Martin in the amount of Two Thousand Five Hundred and No/100 Dollars (\$2,500.00). The restitution payment shall be paid by cashier's check or money order, made payable to Cirila Martin, and submitted contemporaneously with the signing of this judgment, to the State Bar of Texas, Chief Disciplinary Counsel's Office, 14651 Dallas Parkway, Suite 925, Dallas, Texas 75254.

It is further **ORDERED** Respondent shall pay all reasonable and necessary attorney's fees and direct expenses to the State Bar of Texas in the amount of Five Hundred and No/100 Dollars (\$500.00). Said attorney's fees and expenses shall be paid by cashier's check or money order, made payable to the State Bar of Texas, and submitted contemporaneously with the signing of this judgment, 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 15th day of January, 2021.

**INVESTIGATORY PANEL 7-3
DISTRICT 7**

/s/ Jeff Cochran
**JEFFREY WARREN COCHRAN
PRESIDING MEMBER**

AGREED AS TO FORM AND SUBSTANCE:

John William Stickels
John William Stickels
State Bar No. 19225300
RESPONDENT

Roger Heath
Roger Heath
State Bar No. 24067271
COUNSEL FOR RESPONDENT

Kristin V. Brady
Kristin V. Brady
State Bar No. 24082719
ASSISTANT DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL