

IN THE MATTER OF:	§	INVESTIGATORY PANEL 6-4
THOMAS J. TURNER,	§	DISTRICT 6
BAR NO. 20331500	§	GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

AGREED JUDGMENT OF PUBLIC REPRIMAND

Agreement of Parties

Chief Disciplinary Counsel and Respondent, **THOMAS J. TURNER** ("Respondent"), Texas Bar Number **20331500**, announce that an agreement has been reached on all matters including the imposition of a Public Reprimand.

Jurisdiction and Venue

The Investigatory Panel 6-4, having conducted an Investigatory Hearing on April 15, 2021, on the Complaint filed by Michael Martinez ("Martinez"), 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

Chief Disciplinary Counsel 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. Martinez hired Respondent in 2015 to clear the title on a house and property that he owned in order to sell it.
4. In representing Martinez, Respondent neglected the legal matter entrusted to him.
5. In representing Martinez, Respondent frequently failed to carry out completely the obligations he owed to Martinez.
6. Respondent failed to keep Martinez reasonably informed about the status of his legal matter and failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information from him.
7. Respondent owes restitution in the amount of Ten Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$10,000.00) payable to Michael Martinez.
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 Six Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$600.00).

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), 1.01(b)(2), and 1.03(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.

Return of Client File

It is further **AGREED and ORDERED** Respondent shall return the client file to Michael Martinez. Respondent shall provide verification of this return, 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.

Restitution, Attorney's Fees and Expenses

It is further **AGREED and ORDERED** Respondent shall pay restitution to Michael Martinez in the amount of Ten Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$10,000.00). The restitution payment shall be made by certified or cashier's check or money order, made payable to Michael Martinez and delivered 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** Respondent shall pay all reasonable and necessary attorney's fees and direct expenses to the State Bar of Texas in the amount of Six Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$600.00). 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 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**.

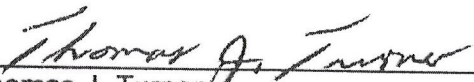
SIGNED this 3rd day of June, 2021.

INVESTIGATORY PANEL 6-4
DISTRICT 6

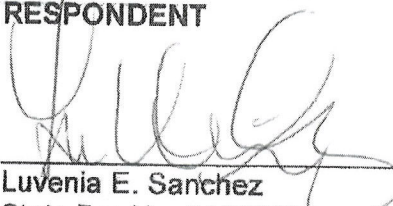


THOMAS HOWERY
PRESIDING MEMBER

AGREED AS TO FORM AND SUBSTANCE:



Thomas J. Turner
State Bar No. 20331500
RESPONDENT



Luvernia E. Sanchez
State Bar No. 24079266
ASSISTANT DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL