# BEFORE THE DISTRICT 6 GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE EVIDENTIARY PANEL 6-2 STATE BAR OF TEXAS

COMMISSION FOR LAWYER

DISCIPLINE,

Petitioner

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V.

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CASE NO. 201303385

BERNARD JORDAN GRANT,

Respondent

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## AGREED JUDGMENT OF PROBATED SUSPENSION

## Parties and Appearance

On this date, came to be heard the above-styled and numbered cause. Petitioner, Commission for Lawyer Discipline, and Respondent, BERNARD JORDAN GRANT ("Respondent"), Texas Bar Number 24031635, announce that an agreement has been reached on all matters including the imposition of a Probated Suspension.

## Jurisdiction and Venue

The Evidentiary Panel 6-2, having been duly appointed to hear this complaint by the chair of the Grievance Committee for State Bar of Texas District 6, finds that it has jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter of this action, and that venue is proper.

#### **Professional Misconduct**

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

## Findings of Fact

Petitioner and Respondent agree to the following findings of fact. Accordingly, the Evidentiary 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 resides in and maintains his principal place of practice in Dallas County, Texas.
- 3. On August 19, 2011, Nathan Nwobi hired Respondent to represent Nwobi's brother-in-law, Celestine Ihuoma ("Ihuoma"), in connection with a foreclosure matter.
- 4. In representing thuoma, Respondent neglected the legal matter entrusted to him by failing to provide the agreed upon legal services.
- 5. Respondent engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation by representing to Ihuoma that a petition had been filed in the matter, when it had not.
- 6. 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 One Thousand Four Hundred Ninety-Seven and 63/100 Dollars (\$1,497.63).

### **Conclusions of Law**

Petitioner and Respondent agree that, based on the foregoing findings of fact, the following Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct have been violated. Accordingly, the Evidentiary Panel concludes that the following Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct have been violated: Rules 1.01(b)(1) and 8.04(a)(3).

#### Sanction

It is **AGREED** and **ORDERED** that the sanction of a Probated Suspension shall be imposed against Respondent in accordance with the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

Accordingly, it is ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED that Respondent be suspended from the practice of law for a period of six (6) months, with the suspension

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being fully probated pursuant to the terms stated below. The period of probated

suspension shall begin on March 1, 2015, and shall end on August 30, 2015.

Terms of Probation

It is further ORDERED that during all periods of suspension, Respondent shall be under the following terms and conditions:

- 1. Respondent shall not violate any term of this judgment.
- 2. Respondent shall not engage in professional misconduct as defined by Rule 1.06(W) of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.
- 3. Respondent shall not violate any state or federal criminal statutes.
- 4. Respondent shall keep State Bar of Texas membership department notified of current mailing, residence and business addresses and telephone numbers.
- 5. Respondent shall comply with Minimum Continuing Legal Education requirements.
- 6. Respondent shall comply with Interest on Lawyers Trust Account (IOLTA) requirements.
- Respondent shall promptly respond to any request for information from the Chief Disciplinary Counsel in connection with any investigation of any allegations of professional misconduct.
- 8. Respondent shall pay all reasonable and necessary attorneys' fees and direct expenses to the State Bar of Texas in the amount of One Thousand Four Hundred Ninety-Seven and 63/100 Dollars (\$1,497.63). The payment shall be made by certified or cashier's check or money order and made payable to the State Bar of Texas. Respondent shall forward the funds to the State Bar of Texas, Chief Disciplinary Counsel's Office, 14651 Dallas Parkway, Suite 925, Dallas, Texas 75254, on or before the date this judgment is presented to the Evidentiary Panel for execution.
- Respondent shall make contact with the Chief Disciplinary Counsel's Offices'
  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.

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**Probation Revocation** 

Upon information that Respondent has violated a term of this judgment, the Chief

Disciplinary Counsel may, in addition to all other remedies available, file a motion to revoke

probation pursuant to Rule 2.23 of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure with the

Board of Disciplinary Appeals ("BODA") and serve a copy of the motion on Respondent

pursuant to Tex.R.Civ.P. 21a.

BODA shall conduct an evidentiary hearing. At the hearing, BODA shall determine

by a preponderance of the evidence whether Respondent has violated any term of this

Judgment. If BODA finds grounds for revocation, BODA shall enter an order revoking

probation and placing Respondent on active suspension from the date of such revocation

order. Respondent shall not be given credit for any term of probation served prior to

revocation.

It is further ORDERED that any conduct on the part of Respondent which serves as

the basis for a motion to revoke probation may also be brought as independent grounds for

discipline as allowed under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct and

Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

Attorneys' Fees and Expenses

It is further ORDERED Respondent shall pay all reasonable and necessary

attorneys' fees and direct expenses to the State Bar of Texas in the amount of One

Thousand Four Hundred Ninety-Seven and 63/100 Dollars (\$1,497.63). The payment shall

be made by certified or cashier's check or money order, and made payable to the State Bar

of Texas. Respondent shall forward the funds to the Chief Disciplinary Counsel's Office,

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14651 Dallas Parkway, Suite 925, Dallas, Texas 75254, on or before the date this judgment is presented to the Evidentiary Panel for execution.

It is further ORDERED that all amounts ordered herein are due to the misconduct of Respondent, are assessed as a part of the sanction in accordance with Rule 1.08(Z) 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 suspension shall be made a matter of 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 February, 2015.

EVIDENTIARY PANEL 6-2 DISTRICT NO. 6 STATE BAR OF TEXAS

Angeline L. Bain

District 6-2 Presiding Member

# AGREED AS TO BOTH FORM AND SUBSTANCE:

Bernard Jordan Grant State Bar No. 24031635

Respondent

Tana K. Van Hamme State Bar No. 20494960 Counsel for Petitioner

John V. McShane

State Bar No. 13859000 Counsel for Respondent