



**Houston Office
Chief Disciplinary Counsel**

**BEFORE EVIDENTIARY PANEL 3-2 OF THE
STATE BAR DISTRICT NO. 3 GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE**

COMMISSION FOR LAWYER DISCIPLINE,	§	201903156 [LADAY]
Petitioner,	§	201903731 [COLLINS]
	§	201907616 [TOUCHET]
v.	§	202000598 [BROWN]
	§	
GAYLYN LEON COOPER,	§	
Respondent.	§	JEFFERSON COUNTY, TEXAS

JUDGMENT OF DISBARMENT

Parties and Appearance

On September 17, 2021, came to be heard the above styled and numbered cause. Petitioner, the Commission for Lawyer Discipline, appeared by and through its attorney of record and announced ready. Respondent, Gaylyn Leon Cooper, Texas Bar Number 04774700, appeared in person and announced ready.

Jurisdiction and Venue

Evidentiary Panel 3-2, having been duly appointed to hear this complaint by the chair of the Grievance Committee for State Bar of Texas District No. 3, 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 all of the pleadings, evidence, stipulations, and argument, finds Respondent has committed Professional Misconduct as defined by Rule 1.06(CC) of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

Findings of Fact

The Evidentiary Panel, having considered the pleadings, evidence, and argument of counsel, makes the following findings of fact and conclusions of law:

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 Jefferson County, Texas.
3. The Chief Disciplinary Counsel of the State Bar of Texas has incurred reasonable attorneys' fees in the amount of \$1,812.40 and direct expenses in the amount of \$103.85 associated with this Disciplinary Proceeding.

COUNT ONE: 201903156 – Takesha Yarnell Laday matter

4. In representing Takesha Yarnell Laday, Respondent neglected the legal matter entrusted to him.
5. Respondent failed to keep Takesha Yarnell Laday reasonably informed about the status of her legal matter and failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information.
6. Respondent failed to timely furnish to the Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel a response or other information as required by the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

COUNT TWO: 201903731 – Lillian Collins matter

7. In representing Lillian Collins, Respondent neglected the legal matter entrusted to him.
8. Respondent failed to keep Lillian Collins reasonably informed about the status of her legal matter and failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information.
9. Upon termination of representation, Respondent failed to refund advance payments of fee that had not been earned.
10. Respondent owes restitution in the amount of \$825.00 payable to Lillian Collins.

COUNT THREE: 201907616 – Donald Touchet matter

11. In representing Donald Touchet, Respondent neglected the legal matter entrusted to him.
12. Respondent failed to keep Donald Touchet reasonably informed about the status of his legal matter and failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information.
13. Upon termination of representation, Respondent failed to surrender papers and property to which Donald Touchet was entitled.

COUNT FOUR: 202000598 – Virgil Brown matter

14. In representing Virgil Brown, Respondent neglected the legal matter entrusted to him.
15. Respondent failed to keep Virgil Brown reasonably informed about the status of his legal matter and failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information.
16. Upon termination of representation, Respondent failed to refund advance payments of fee that had not been earned.
17. Respondent failed to timely furnish to the Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel a response or other information as required by the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.
18. Respondent owes restitution in the amount of \$1,000.00 payable to Virgil Brown.

Conclusions of Law

The Evidentiary Panel concludes that, based on foregoing findings of fact, the following Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct have been violated: Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(8).

Sanction

The Evidentiary Panel, having found Respondent has committed Professional Misconduct, heard and considered additional evidence regarding the appropriate sanction to be imposed against Respondent. After hearing all evidence and argument, the Evidentiary Panel finds that proper discipline of the Respondent for each act of Professional Misconduct is DISBARMENT.

Disbarment

It is therefore ORDERED, ADJUDGED, and DECREED that effective the date of this judgment, Respondent, Gaylyn Leon Cooper, State Bar Number 04774700, is hereby DISBARRED from the practice of law in the State of Texas.

It is further ORDERED that Respondent is prohibited from practicing law in Texas, holding himself out as an attorney at law, performing any legal services for others, accepting any fee directly or indirectly for legal services, appearing as counsel or in any representative capacity

in any proceeding in any Texas court or before any administrative body or holding himself out to others or using his name, in any manner, in conjunction with the words “attorney at law,” “attorney,” “counselor at law,” or “lawyer.”

Notification

It is further ORDERED that Respondent shall immediately notify each of his current clients in writing of this disbarment. In addition to such notification, Respondent is ORDERED to return any files, papers, unearned monies and other property belonging to clients and former clients in the Respondent’s possession to the respective clients or former clients or to another attorney at the client’s or former client’s request.

Respondent is further ORDERED to file with the State Bar of Texas, Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, TX 78711-2487 (1414 Colorado St., Austin, TX 78701) within thirty (30) days of the signing of this judgment by the Panel Chair, an affidavit stating that all current clients have been notified of Respondent’s disbarment and that all files, papers, unearned monies and other property belonging to all clients and former clients have been returned as ordered herein. If it is Respondent’s assertion that at the time of disbarment he possessed no current clients and/or Respondent was not in possession of any files, papers, unearned monies or other property belonging to clients, Respondent shall submit an affidavit attesting that, at the time of disbarment, Respondent had no current clients and did not possess any files, papers, unearned monies, and/or other property belonging to clients.

It is further ORDERED that Respondent shall, on or before thirty (30) days from the signing of this judgment by the Panel Chair, notify in writing each and every justice of the peace, judge, magistrate, administrative judge or officer and chief justice of each and every court or tribunal in which Respondent has any matter pending of the terms of this judgment, the style and

cause number of the pending matter(s), and the name, address, and telephone number of the client(s) Respondent is representing. Respondent is further ORDERED to file with the State Bar of Texas, Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, TX 78711-2487 (1414 Colorado St., Austin, TX 78701), within thirty (30) days of the signing of this judgment by the Panel Chair, an affidavit stating that each and every justice of the peace, judge, magistrate, administrative judge or officer and chief justice has received written notice of the terms of this judgment.

Surrender of License

It is further ORDERED that Respondent shall, within thirty (30) days of the signing of this judgment by the Panel Chair, surrender his law license and permanent State Bar Card to the State Bar of Texas, Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, TX 78711-2487 (1414 Colorado St., Austin, TX 78701), to be forwarded to the Supreme Court of the State of Texas.

Restitution, Attorneys' Fees, and Expenses

It is further ORDERED that Respondent shall pay restitution on or before thirty (30) days from the date of this judgment, to Lillian Collins in the amount of \$825.00. Respondent shall pay the restitution by certified or cashier's check or money order made payable to Lillian Collins and delivered to the State Bar of Texas, Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, TX 78711-2487 (1414 Colorado St., Austin, TX 78701).

It is further ORDERED that Respondent shall pay restitution on or before thirty (30) days from the date of this judgment, to Virgil Brown in the amount of \$1,000.00. Respondent shall pay the restitution by certified or cashier's check or money order made payable to Virgil Brown and delivered to the State Bar of Texas, Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel, P.O. Box 12487,

Austin, TX 78711-2487 (1414 Colorado St., Austin, TX 78701).

It is further ORDERED that Respondent shall pay reasonable and necessary attorneys' fees in the amount of \$1,812.40 and direct expenses in the amount of \$103.85 to the State Bar of Texas. The payment shall be due and payable on or before thirty (30) days from the date of this judgment, and shall be made by certified or cashier's check or money order. Respondent shall forward the funds, made payable to the State Bar of Texas, to the Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, TX 78711-2487 (1414 Colorado St., Austin, TX 78701).

It is further 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

It is further ORDERED this disbarment shall be made a matter of record and appropriately published in accordance with the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

Conditions Precedent to Reinstatement

It is further ORDERED payment of the foregoing restitution and attorneys' fees and expenses amounts shall be a condition precedent to any consideration of reinstatement from disbarment as provided by Rules 2.19, 2.20 and 11.02(D) of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

Other Relief

All requested relief not expressly granted herein is expressly DENIED.

SIGNED this 5 day of October, 2021.

**EVIDENTIARY PANEL 3-2
DISTRICT NO. 3
STATE BAR OF TEXAS**


BARBARA J. NORWOOD
3-2 Panel Chair