



## **Arkansas Supreme Court Committee on Professional Conduct**

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# **2023 Annual Report**

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### **Office of Professional Conduct**

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Arkansas Attorney Discipline Homepage  
<https://www.arcourts.gov/professional-conduct>

# I. Introduction

**Authority:** Pursuant to the Procedures of the Arkansas Supreme Court Regulating Professional Conduct of Attorneys at Law (“Procedures”), the Committee on Professional Conduct (“Committee”) is granted the authority to investigate all complaints alleging violation of the Arkansas Model Rules of Professional Conduct and impose any sanctions permitted and deemed appropriate. During 2002, major revisions to the Procedures adopted by *Per Curiam* Order of the Arkansas Supreme Court on July 9, 2001, effective on January 1, 2002, were implemented. The Committee again submitted major proposed revisions of the Procedures to the Court on December 15, 2010, which were adopted by the Court in its *Per Curiam* issued and effective May 26, 2011, found at 2011 Ark. 242.

**History:** Amendment 28 to the Arkansas Constitution was adopted by the voters in 1938. The amendment placed with the Arkansas Supreme Court the authority to regulate the practice of law in Arkansas and to regulate, and thereby discipline, attorneys. In 1939, the Bar Rules Committee, an entity of the Arkansas Bar Association and the forerunner of the present Committee on Professional Conduct, was established. In 1940, the Canons for Professional Conduct of Lawyers was approved. The Arkansas version of the American Bar Association’s Model Code of Professional Responsibility was first adopted by the Arkansas Supreme Court in 1970. A revised version of the Code became effective July 1, 1976. The Arkansas version of the American Bar Association’s Model Rules of Professional Conduct was adopted by the Arkansas Supreme Court and became effective January 1, 1986. Various revisions have been made to the Arkansas version of the Model Rules since 1986. Comprehensive revisions became effective May 1, 2005, as the Arkansas Rules of Professional Conduct, now found at pages 401-531 of the 2023 Court Rules, Volume 2, of the Arkansas Code. The attorney discipline Procedures implementing these Rules are in the same Volume 2, at pages 351-401. On May 26, 2011, the Supreme Court adopted and made effective significant revisions to the Procedures, in a *Per Curiam* found at 2011 Ark. 242.

**Mission:** The purpose of lawyer discipline and disability proceedings is to maintain appropriate standards of professional conduct in order to protect the public and the administration of justice from lawyers who have demonstrated by their conduct that they are unable or are likely to be unable to properly discharge their professional duties. Standard 1.1 of the ABA’s 1979 Standards for Lawyer Discipline and Disability Proceedings.

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## II. Structure

### 1. COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

For the year 2023, the Committee continued to operate in the model of four Panels authorized by the Supreme Court as of January 1, 2002, designated Panels A, B, C, and D. Each panel is composed of seven members appointed by the Arkansas Supreme Court. Five members are lawyers, with one lawyer appointed from each Congressional District and one from the State at large. The remaining two positions are filled by persons who are not lawyers and are selected by the Court from the state at large. Panel membership in 2023 was as follows:

**Panel A:** Don R. Etherly, Helena, Attorney, First Congressional District  
Larry Jegley, Little Rock, Attorney, Second Congressional District  
Marshall S. Ney, Rogers, Attorney, Third Congressional District  
Michael W. Boyd, Magnolia, Attorney, Fourth Congressional District  
Erin E. Cassinelli, Little Rock, Attorney at Large  
Paul W. Hoggard, Piggott, Non-attorney at Large  
Megan Beeson Turner, Little Rock, Non-attorney at Large

**Panel B:** Mark W. Rees, Jonesboro, Attorney, First Congressional District  
David P. Glover, Little Rock, Attorney, Second Congressional District  
Wendy R. Howerton, Attorney, Third Congressional District  
Leanne P. Burch, Monticello, Attorney, Fourth Congressional District  
Timothy F. Snively, Fayetteville, Attorney, Attorney at Large  
Elmer Ritchie, Little Rock, Non-attorney at Large  
Carlton Saffa, Little Rock, Non-attorney at Large

**Panel C:** Robert Bridewell, Lake Village, Attorney, First Congressional District  
JaNan Arnold Thomas, Little Rock, Attorney, Second Congressional District  
Candice A. Settle, Van Buren, Attorney, Third Congressional District  
Jackie B. Harris, Pine Bluff, Attorney, Fourth Congressional District  
Susan Keller Kendall, Springdale, Attorney, At Large  
Mark F. Smith, Marianna, Non-attorney at Large  
Judith Humphries, Little Rock, Non-attorney at Large

**Panel D:** James Gregory Crumpton, Cabot, Attorney, First Congressional District  
Scott S. Hilburn, Little Rock, Attorney, Second Congressional District  
Timothy C. Hutchinson, Fayetteville, Attorney, Third Congressional District  
Paul W. Keith, Monticello, Attorney, Fourth Congressional District  
Angela S. Cole Lowther, Little Rock, Attorney at Large  
Joe Jett, Success, Non-attorney at large  
William A. Finer, Fayetteville, Non-attorney at large

The **2023 Executive Committee** consisted of:

David P. Glover, Panel B, Committee Chair  
Megan Beeson Turner, Little Rock, Panel A, Committee Secretary  
Marshall S. Ney, Rogers, Panel A Chair  
Mark W. Rees, Jonesboro, Panel B Chair  
Robert Bridewell, Lake Village, Panel C Chair

The **2024 Executive Committee** will consist of:

Michael W. Boyd, Magnolia, Panel A, Committee Chair  
Timothy F. Snively, Fayetteville, Panel B, Committee Secretary  
Marshall S. Ney, Rogers, Panel A Chair  
Mark W. Rees, Jonesboro, Panel B Chair  
Robert Bridewell, Lake Village, Panel C Chair

Panel C primarily serves: (1) as the review panel for dismissals of grievances by the staff, (2) as a fourth hearing panel as needed, and (3) individual Panel C members are used as substitute panel members when a member of Panel A, B, or D is not available or has disqualified in any case on a ballot vote or a hearing.

### **COMMITTEE MEETING CALENDAR:**

Panel A meets on the third Friday of the months of January, March, May, July, September, and November.

Panel B meets on the third Friday of the months of February, April, June, August, October, and the second Friday of December.

Panel D meets on the second Friday of the months of February, April, June, August, October, and the first Friday of December.

Panel C meets “on call” for special settings of hearings.

## **2. OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**

The Committee employs an attorney Executive Director and staff who function as the Office of Professional Conduct, which is housed in offices at the Riverdale Plaza at 2100 Riverfront Drive, Little Rock, Arkansas 72202. The Office of Professional Conduct receives all grievances involving attorneys licensed to practice law in the State of Arkansas, investigates the grievances, provides assistance in the preparation of formal complaints, and processes formal complaints for submission to the Committee. The budget of the Committee and Office for 2023-2024 is about \$965,450 (allocated as: \$530,000 for personnel and \$435,450 for operations), completely funded by the Supreme Court by a portion of the annual license fee paid by Arkansas-licensed attorneys to the Arkansas Supreme Court. No state or taxpayer funds are directly provided to support the office and committee.

The Office of Professional Conduct is staffed by four staff attorneys, a paralegal, an investigator, and one grievance coordinator. The staff attorneys perform all duties and possess such authority of the Executive Director as the Executive Director may delegate, except for the final determination of sufficiency of formal complaints. In addition to Executive Director, Lisa Ballard, the Office staff attorneys during 2023 were Charlene Fleetwood - Deputy Director, Anna Catherine Cargile - Senior Staff Attorney, and Cameron Thomas Bowden - Staff Attorney.

In 2023, as in previous years, the staff presented several “continuing legal education” programs or speeches on law-related topics across the state.

The Arkansas Supreme Court has not authorized the Office of Professional Conduct to give advice or legal opinions, formal or informal, on legal or ethical issues to anyone.

The Office of Professional Conduct also provides staff support for the Supreme Court’s Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee and the Client Security Fund Committee.

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### **III. Administration**

The Office of Professional Conduct receives telephone calls, letters, e-mails and faxes from individuals across the country requesting information on how to initiate grievances against attorneys licensed to practice law in the State of Arkansas. During the 2023 calendar year, the Office opened 689 new grievance files on alleged attorney misconduct. This number was an increase from 620 new files opened in 2022. See attached Appendix A.

In 2023, 540 grievance files were closed, down from 684 files closed in 2022. For additional statistical information, see attached Appendix B.

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### **IV. 2023 Formal Actions Initiated**

In 2023, there were thirty-three (33) new formal Complaint cases opened, down from the thirty-five (35) new formal Complaint cases opened in 2022. In 2023, thirty-seven (37) formal Complaint cases were closed, compared to twenty-four (24) closed in 2022.

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### **V. 2023 Final Committee Actions**

Final action was taken in twenty-four (24) formal Complaint cases involving Arkansas attorneys during the 2023 calendar year by the Office and the Committee on Professional Conduct. There are five primary forms of action, or sanction, that the Committee on Professional Conduct may take. The lowest sanction, a warning, is non-public. The other forms of sanction - caution, reprimand, license suspension, and disbarment - are public sanctions. In 2023, sixteen (16) attorneys received at least one public sanction, up from fourteen (14) in 2022.

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## VI. 2023 - Most Common Rule Violations

In 2023, the most common rule violations involved Arkansas Rules 1.3 (acting with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client), 1.4(a) (client communication), 8.4(d) (engaging in conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice), and 8.1(b) (failure to respond). A list containing the Arkansas Rule alleged and the number of times the Committee found the rule to have been violated in 2023 is attached as Appendix “C”.

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## VII. “Practice Aging” of Attorneys Disciplined (2023)

Of the 2023 final disciplinary actions by the Committee, based on number of years licensed in Arkansas, fourteen (14) attorneys were publicly sanctioned as follows. (Attorney age information is not available):

Years Licensed	No. of Attorneys Publicly Sanctioned	Percentage
01-10 (2013-2022)	3	18.75%
11-20 (2003-2012)	4	25.00%
21-30 (1993-2002)	6	37.50%
31-40 (1983-1992)	3	18.75%
41+ (before 1983)	0	0.00%
Total	16	100%

(Some attorneys were publicly sanctioned more than once in 2023.)

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## VIII. 2023 Fines, Restitution & Costs

Type	Amount Imposed (2023)	Amount Collected (2023)
FINES:	\$ 16,929.52	\$ 9,500.00
RESTITUTION:	\$ 61,253.65	\$ 22,235.35
COSTS:	\$ 2,700.00	\$ 7,052.75
TOTALS:	\$ 80,883.17	\$ 38,788.10

(Note: Some of the collections in 2023 were assessed in cases finalized in earlier years.)

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## **IX. 2023 Trust Account “Overdraft” Reporting**

There were thirty-two (32) notices received in 2023 from all banks and reporters, compared to twenty-five (25) in 2022. Most of these files were closed after a summary investigation and explanation by the attorney involved. None of the 2023 files has resulted in filing a formal Complaint to date.

There are a few 2023 files still “open” to some extent, such as awaiting additional documentation from the attorney. Of those, none are believed to involve a loss of client funds.

The overwhelming majority of overdraft reports were due to some form of “attorney/firm error” such as bookkeeping math mistakes, failure to make timely deposits of settlement funds, release of settlement checks to clients and third parties before settlement funds were available in the trust account, depositing checks into the wrong account, failure to account for IOLTA interest withdrawals or bank service fees, client fee and expense checks bouncing, etc. Some admitted bank errors are reported.

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## **X. Summaries of 2023 Public Sanctions – Appendix “D”**

	Number	Designation	Description	Annual Total
2		<b>Attorney</b>		
3	001	A-A/C	Attorney Conduct	38
4	002	A-A/S	Advertisement / Solicitation	0
5		<b>Criminal</b>		
6	003	CR-D	Criminal Defense	190
7	004	CR-P	Criminal Prosecution	72
8	005	CR-A	Criminal Appeal	7
9		<b>Domestic Relations</b>		
10	006	DR-D	Divorce	60
11	007	DR-C	Custody	47
12	008	DR-C/S	Child Support	5
13	009	DR-QDRO	Qualified Domestic Relations Order	0
14	010	DR-V	Visitation	6
15	011	DR-DA/OP	Domestic Abuse / Order of Protection	3
16	012	DR-P	Paternity	5
17		<b>Juvenile</b>		
18	013	J-DHS	Department of Human Services	5
19	014	J-FINS	Families in Need of Services	0
20		<b>Probate</b>		
21	015	PR-E	Estate	36
22	016	PR-T	Trust	13
23	017	PR-W	Will	4
24	018	PR-POA	Power of Attorney	1
25	019	PR-G	Guardianship	10
26	020	PR-A	Adoption	7
27	021	PR-CC	Civil Commitment	1
28		<b>Bankruptcy</b>		
29	022	BNK-7	Chapter 7	5
30	023	BNK-11	Chapter 11	1
31	024	BNK-13	Chapter 13	4
32		<b>Civil</b>		
33	025	CV-A	Appeal	2
34	026	CV-C	Contract	14
35	027	CV-DC	Debt Collection	8
36	028	CV-F	Foreclosure	0
37	029	CV-J	Judgment	4
38	030	CV-LL/TN	Landlord / Tenant	4
39	031	CV-MM	Medical Malpractice	6
40	032	CV-MVA	Motor Vehicle Accident	12
41	033	CV-FED	Civil - Federal	3
42	034	CV-PI	Personal Injury	10
43	035	CV-PR	Property	23
44	036	CV-T	Tort	5



45	037	CV-UD	<a href="#">Unlawful Detainer</a>	5
46	038	CV-N	Negligence	2
47	039	CV-INJ	<a href="#">Injunction</a>	0
48	040	CV-MISC	Miscellaneous	50
49		<b>Miscellaneous</b>		
50	041	SSD-SSI	Social Security Disability / Income	3
51	042	WC	<a href="#">Workers Compensation</a>	4
52	043	ACC	Arkansas Claims Commission	0
53	044	IMGN	<a href="#">Immigration</a>	7
54	045	SCPC	Supreme Court Per Curiam	0
55	046	ARGV	<a href="#">Arkansas State Government</a>	2
56	047	IRS	Federal or State Taxes	0
57	048	EMP	<a href="#">Employment</a>	3
58	049	DC-SC	District Court - Small Claims	1
59	050	INT-PR	<a href="#">Intellectual Property</a>	1
60	051	BS-CP	Business / Corporation	0
61	052	USVA	<a href="#">Veterans Administration</a>	0
			TOTAL GRIEVANCES:	689
No.	Disposition	Description		
12	Formal	Formal Complaint		
3	Diversion	Diversion / Probation		
4	ACL	Atty/Client Resolution Letter		
351	NPC*	No Probable Cause		
13	W/D*	Withdrawn by Complainant		
0	Merged-S	Merged with Surrender		
0	Merged-D	Merged with Disbarment		
0	Disbarred	Closed - Disbarred		
10	Closed-D	Closed - Deceased		
0	Closed-S	Closed - Surrendered		
0	FTR	Complainant Failed to Respond		
0	UPL	Unauthorized Practice of Law		
276	Open*	Investigation Pending	*There are 159 additional cases still open from previous years	
1	FWD	Transfer to Alt. Jurisdiction		
19	Closed-A	Administrative Close		
689	Total			

## APPENDIX "B"

Category	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Files opened	892	826	804	819	859	861	888	735	794	716	744	657	725	616	697	607	559	569	620	689
Closed by staff	796	868	1137	784	786	742	845	806	646	478	732	595	663	550	549	557	675	796	684	540
Complaints filed	164	159	156	140	114	144	119	97	85	67	51	57	52	34	33	44	30	32	35	33
Appellate Referrals	40	34	39	50	33	41	18	17	40	7	14	7	14	3	2	1	3	0	0	1
Judicial Referrals	8	8	19	6	4	4	6	10	18	3	8	11	7	13	13	4	9	9	4	13
Attorney Referrals	24	7	16	9	15	15	7	14	38	37	28	33	14	9	16	2	13	2	22	14
Complaints closed	211	181	173	182	122	128	119	106	74	78	63	45	53	47	41	26	21	16	24	37
Withdrawn	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	6	2	0
No Actions	24	18	19	13	10	11	10	7	4	4	5	2	3	5	2	0	1	2	5	1
Warnings	38	33	53	41	37	46	26	20	13	8	10	17	14	10	6	2	1	12	5	1
Cautions	53	41	29	34	20	28	15	24	8	10	17	10	7	6	9	3	4	8	2	1
Reprimands	36	31	30	26	14	14	19	20	11	11	5	7	7	11	9	2	5	10	5	4
Suspensions	9	17	12	23	12	10	10	11	9	12	4	3	5	13	14	6	4	3	9	9
Surrenders	11	6	7	1	6	5	3	14	8	3	2	6	6	1	0	9	5	3	0	5
Merge / surrender	29	5	4	0	6	18	6	9	1	1	2	3	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Deemed Surrendered (Rule 7)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3	0	0	0	1	0	41
Disbarment initiated	3	7	2	1	1	2	1	2	1	4	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Disbarments	3	0	2	2	2	4	3	0	0	5	2	0	0	2	1	0	1	1	0	0
Reinstated	10	13	11	6	0	6	2	2	5	9	7	11	2	2	2	0	1	2	1	4
Consents	71	51	64		45	50	28	29	18	7	8	13	13	14	7	4	6	7	4	0
Refer to ArJLAP	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
No. of Attys Publicly Sanctioned*	101	102	68	67	49	44	44	60	29	30	27	25	21	18	23	20	18	17	14	16

\* Some attorneys were publicly sanctioned more than once.

## 2023 RULE VIOLATIONS

## APPENDIX "C"

Alleged	No.	Alleged	No.	Found	No.	Found	No.
1.1	8	1.16(a)(2)		1.1	6	1.16(a)(2)	
1.1(d)		1.16(c)		1.1(d)		1.16(c)	
1.2		1.16(d)	7	1.2		1.16(d)	3
1.2(a)		1.19(a)		1.2(a)		1.19(a)	
1.2(b)		1.19(a)(3)	1	1.2(b)		1.19(a)(3)	1
1.2(d)		1.19(b)(1)		1.2(d)		1.19(b)(1)	
1.3	15	2.1		1.3	13	2.1	
1.4(a)		3.1		1.4(a)		3.1	
1.4(a)(1)		3.2	4	1.4(a)(1)		3.2	3
1.4(a)(2)		3.3(a)		1.4(a)(2)	1	3.3(a)	
1.4(a)(3)	11	3.3(a)(1)	1	1.4(a)(3)	10	3.3(a)(1)	
1.4(a)(4)	7	3.3(a)(3)		1.4(a)(4)	7	3.3(a)(3)	
1.4(a)(5)		3.4(a)		1.4(a)(5)		3.4(a)	
1.4(b)		3.4(b)		1.4(b)		3.4(b)	
1.5	2	3.4(c)	1	1.5		3.4(c)	
1.5(a)	2	3.4(d)		1.5(a)		3.4(d)	1
1.5(a)(5)	1	3.7(a)		1.5(a)(5)	1	3.7(a)	
1.5(b)(2)		4.1(a)		1.5(b)(2)		4.1(a)	
1.5(c)	1	4.1(b)		1.5(c)		4.1(b)	
1.5(d)		4.2		1.5(d)		4.2	
1.6(a)		4.3		1.6(a)	1	4.3	
1.6(c)		4.4		1.6(c)		4.4	
1.7(a)		4.4(a)		1.7(a)	1	4.4(a)	
1.7(a)(2)		5.3(b)		1.7(a)(2)		5.3(b)	
1.8(a)		5.4(a)		1.8(a)		5.4(a)	
1.8(b)		5.4(a)(2)		1.8(b)		5.4(a)(2)	
1.8(c)		5.5(a)		1.8(c)		5.5(a)	
1.8(e)		5.7		1.8(e)		5.7	
1.8(i)		7.1		1.8(i)		7.1	
1.8(j)	1	7.1(b)		1.8(j)	1	7.1(b)	
1.9(a)		7.2(e)		1.9(a)		7.2(e)	
1.9(b)		7.3(a)		1.9(b)		7.3(a)	
1.14(a)		7.5(d)		1.14(a)		7.5(d)	
1.14(b)		8.1		1.14(b)		8.1	
1.15(a)(1)	1	8.1(a)	1	1.15(a)(1)		8.1(a)	1
1.15(a)(2)		8.1(b)	8	1.15(a)(2)		8.1(b)	6
1.15(a)(4)	1	8.2(a)		1.15(a)(4)	1	8.2(a)	
1.15(a)(5)	1	8.3(a)		1.15(a)(5)	1	8.3(a)	
1.15(a)(6)		8.4(a)		1.15(a)(6)		8.4(a)	
1.15(b)(1)	1	8.4(b)	3	1.15(b)(1)		8.4(b)	3
1.15(b)(3)		8.4(c)	5	1.15(b)(3)		8.4(c)	3
1.15(b)(9)	1	8.4(d)	10	1.16(a)		8.4(d)	7
1.16(a)		8.4(e)		1.16(a)(1)		8.4(e)	
1.16(a)(1)							
Subtotal	53	Subtotal	41	Subtotal	43	Subtotal	28
		TOTAL*	94			TOTAL**	71

\*Total **alleged** may include pending allegations that haven't been found yet.

\*\*Total found may include alleged rule violations from previous years resolved in 2023.

## Appendix “D” – 2023 Cases

### REFERRED TO DISBARMENT

**MUSGRAVES, ZACHARY ADAM, of Fayetteville, ABN: 2018201**, in Committee Case No. CPC-2022-018, on a complaint before the Committee, by Findings & Order filed May 9, 2023, for violation of AR Rule 8.4(b), was referred on May 9, 2023, to disbarment proceedings to be initiated by OPC if Musgraves does not first surrender his law license.

**TAGGART, MAURICE L., of Pine Bluff, ABN: 2021042**, in Committee Case No. CPC-2023-010, on a complaint by Cynthia Allison, by Findings & Order filed August 22, 2023, for violation of AR Rules 1.1, 1.3, 1.4(a)(3), 1.4(a)(4), 1.5(a), 3.2, 8.1(b), and 8.4(d), was ordered to pay restitution of \$8,200.00, assessed costs of \$150.00, and was referred on August 22, 2023, for disbarment proceedings to be initiated by OPC. Taggart failed to appear in court for the client, then filed a notice of appeal and failed to perfect the appeal, to the irreversible detriment of the client’s interests.

**TAGGART, MAURICE L., of Pine Bluff, ABN: 2021042**, in Committee Case No. CPC-2023-011, on a complaint by Hosia Thomas, by Findings & Order filed August 22, 2023, for violation of AR Rules 1.1, 1.3, 1.4(a)(4), 1.16(d), 1.19(a)(3), and 8.1(b), was ordered to pay restitution of \$3,250.00, assessed costs of \$150.00, and was referred on August 22, 2023, for disbarment proceedings to be initiated by OPC. Taggart failed to provide the services for which he was paid and failed or refused to refund the monies paid, as well as the client’s file.

**TAGGART, MAURICE L., of Pine Bluff, ABN: 2021042**, in Committee Case No. CPC-2023-013, on a complaint by Mohammed Bensassi, by Findings & Order filed August 22, 2023, for violation of AR Rules 1.3, 1.4(a)(3), and 1.4(a)(4), was ordered to pay restitution of \$3,757.00, assessed costs of \$150.00, and was referred on August 22, 2023, for disbarment proceedings to be initiated by OPC. Taggart failed or refused to provide the services for which he was paid and failed or refused to refund the monies paid.

**TAGGART, MAURICE L., of Pine Bluff, ABN: 2021042**, in Committee Case No. CPC-2023-015, on a complaint by Lon Denton, by Findings & Order filed August 22, 2023, for violation of AR Rules 1.3, 1.4(a)(4), 8.1(b), and 8.4(c), was ordered to pay restitution of \$1,837.00, assessed costs of \$150.00, and was referred on August 22, 2023, for disbarment proceedings to be initiated by OPC. Taggart failed or refused to provide the services for which he was paid and failed or refused to refund the monies paid.

**MORRIS, VICTORIA KAY, of Bentonville, ABN: 87029**, in Committee Case No. CPC-2023-026, on a complaint by Naghmeh Erfani, by Findings & Order filed December 18, 2023, for violation of AR Rules 1.1, 1.3, 1.4(a)(3), 1.15(a)(4), 1.15(a)(5), 8.1(a), 8.4(b), 8.4(c), and 8.4(d), was ordered to pay restitution of \$21,324.30, a fine of \$5,929.52, assessed costs of \$150.00, and was referred on December 18, 2023, for disbarment proceedings to be initiated by OPC. Morris misappropriated/converted her clients’ settlement funds.

## **SURRENDER (IN LIEU OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION)**

**LITTLEJOHN, DAVID M., ABN: 2008038**, was granted a disciplinary surrender in Supreme Court Case No. D-22-802 on February 2, 2023.

**HAYNES, JEFFREY LEE, ABN: 95243**, was granted a disciplinary surrender in Supreme Court Case No. D-23-78 on March 2, 2023.

**McKAY, MATTHEW PORTER, ABN: 2007146**, was granted a disciplinary surrender in Supreme Court Case No. D-23-453 on September 14, 2023.

**STEWART, DANIEL ARTHUR, ABN: 95024**, was granted a disciplinary surrender in Supreme Court Case No. D-23-523 on September 14, 2023.

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## **INTERIM SUSPENSION**

**CARRUTH, THOMAS DAVID, of Clarendon, ABN: 87027**, in Committee Case No. CPC-2023-002, on a petition before the Committee, by Order of Interim Suspension issued January 9, 2023, was placed on Interim Suspension for allegations of false statements, bribery, and obstruction of justice, detailed in a federal court indictment, and posed a substantial threat of serious harm to the public and to his clients.

**HUTCHINSON, WILLIAM ASA, III, of Bentonville, ABN: 2001115**, in Committee Case No. CPC-2023-003, on a petition before the Committee, by Order of Interim Suspension issued January 20, 2023 (and amended March 30, 2023), was placed on Interim Suspension for allegations of criminal conduct, detailed in a felony information in Benton County Circuit Court, and posed a substantial threat of serious harm to the public and to his clients.

**HARRELL, CALVIN FRANCIS, III, of Jonesboro, ABN: 2017187**, in Committee Case No. CPC-2023-008, on a petition before the Committee, by Order of Interim Suspension issued May 11, 2023, was placed on Interim Suspension for allegations of criminal conduct, detailed in Craighead County court records, and posed a substantial threat of serious harm to the public and to his clients.

**TAGGART, MAURICE, of Pine Bluff, ABN: 2021042**, in Committee Case No. CPC-2023-016, on a petition before the Committee, by Order of Interim Suspension issued June 8, 2023, was placed on Interim Suspension for allegations of criminal conduct, detailed in a felony information in Jefferson County Circuit Court, and posed a substantial threat of serious harm to the public and to his clients.

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## SUSPENSION

**HURST, JUSTIN BYRUM, of Hot Springs, ABN: 2005021**, in Committee Case No. CPC-2022-017, on a complaint by Darren Magness, by Findings & Order filed January 11, 2023, was SUSPENDED for two (2) months, ordered to pay \$5,000.00 restitution to Darren Magness, assessed costs of \$150.00 for violations of AR Rules 1.3, 1.4(a)(3), 1.4(a)(4), and 3.2. Hurst received an additional REPRIMAND for his failure to respond to the formal complaint. Hurst failed to provide diligent and prompt representation to his client when he failed to take action in his client's case for approximately four (4) years.

**BOYD, MOSEMARIE DORA, of Fort Smith, ABN: 2008078**, in Committee Case No. CPC-2021-038, on a complaint by Judge Greg Magness, by Findings & Order filed January 30, 2023, was SUSPENDED for six (6) months, and assessed costs of \$1,164.50 for violations of AR Rules 3.1 and 8.4(d). In Sebastian County Circuit Court, Boyd filed a more than 200-page petition for guardianship [and amended petition] with scurrilous allegations involving minor children, not based in law and fact, and failed to protect the confidential information of minor children. Boyd further distributed a copy of the unredacted petition to the minor children's school principal. Boyd's conduct was prejudicial to the administration of justice.

**VALLEY, JAMES F., of Helena-West Helena, ABN: 96052**, in Committee Case No. CPC-2022-009, on a complaint by Judge Joseph Volpe, by Findings & Order filed February 17, 2023, was SUSPENDED for two (2) months, and assessed costs of \$450.00 for violations of AR Rules 1.3, 3.4(d), and 8.4(d). Valley disregarded multiple deadlines required under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, which resulted in an adverse ruling for his client. Valley's disciplinary history was a significant aggravating factor in the sanction given in this matter.

**VALLEY, JAMES F., of Helena-West Helena, ABN: 96052**, in Committee Case No. CPC-2022-020, on a complaint by Cassandra Hillery, by Findings & Order filed March 17, 2023, was SUSPENDED for six (6) months, and assessed costs of \$150.00 for violations of AR Rules 1.3, 1.4(a)(3), 8.1(b), and 8.4(d). Valley failed to provide competent representation to a client, which resulted in the permanent dismissal of his client's bankruptcy. Further, Valley failed to respond to OPC's investigative requests. Valley's disciplinary history was a significant aggravating factor in the sanction given in this matter.

**VALLEY, JAMES F., of Helena-West Helena, ABN: 96052**, in Committee Case No. CPC-2022-024, on a complaint by Henderson Baker, II, by Findings & Order filed March 17, 2023, was SUSPENDED for three (3) months, consecutive to the suspension in CPC-2022-020, and assessed costs of \$150.00 for violations of AR Rules 1.3, 1.4(a)(3), 1.4(a)(4), and 8.1(b). Valley failed to provide the representation for which he was paid. Valley's disciplinary history was a significant aggravating factor in the sanction given in this matter.

**LANGLEY, MICHAEL WILLIAMS, of Little Rock, ABN: 94010**, in Committee Case No. CPC-2022-035, on a complaint by Jason Polk, by Findings & Order filed May 5, 2023, was SUSPENDED for six (6) months, followed by eighteen (18) months' probation, ordered to pay a fine of \$1,000.00, assessed costs of \$150.00 for violations of AR Rules 1.4(a)(2), 1.4(a)(3), 1.6(a), and 1.7(a). Langlely failed to communicate with his client and simultaneously represented another client in direct competition to the client Langlely already represented.

**WISELY, WILLIAM ROSS, of Hot Springs, ABN: 83186**, in Committee Case No. CPC-2023-019, on a complaint before the Committee, by Findings & Order filed November 21, 2023, was **SUSPENDED**, ordered to pay a fine of \$500.00, and assessed costs of \$150.00, for violations of AR Rules 8.4(b) and 8.4(c). Wisely forged loan documents with the purpose to defraud a commercial mortgage company.

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### **REPRIMAND**

**SKINNER, MARY ELIZABETH, of Stuttgart, ABN: 2003178**, in Committee Case No. CPC-2022-034, on a complaint by Nathan Ray Blankenship, by Findings & Order filed April 10, 2023, was **REPRIMANDED**, ordered to pay a fine of \$2,000.00, and assessed costs of \$150.00, for violations of AR Rules 1.1, 1.3, and 8.4(d). Skinner failed to diligently and competently represent her client, to the irreversible detriment of the client's interests.

**SKARDA, CECILY PATTERSON, of North Little Rock, ABN: 98114**, in Committee Case No. CPC-2023-004, on a complaint by Barbara Patterson, by Findings & Order filed July 12, 2023, was **REPRIMANDED**, ordered to pay restitution of \$10,735.00, and assessed costs of \$150.00, for violations of AR Rules 1.1, 1.3, 1.4(a)(3), and 1.16(d). Skarda failed to timely lodge a record, which resulted in the dismissal of the client's appeal. Skarda further failed to inform the client of the dismissal and failed or refused to refund the monies paid to her for the appellate representation.

**MASON, MONICA LEE, of Sherwood, ABN: 98104**, in Committee Case No. CPC-2023-007, on a complaint by Xaniah Turner Conley, by Findings & Order filed November 9, 2023, was **REPRIMANDED**, ordered to pay a fine of \$5,000.00, restitution of \$2,500.00, and assessed costs of \$150.00, for violations of AR Rules 1.3 and 1.4(a)(3). Mason prepared legal documents and failed or refused to file them with the Court and failed or refused to communicate with the client.

**BARRETT, TAMRA L., of Hot Springs, ABN: 95121**, in Committee Case No. CPC-2023-020, on a complaint by Moses Stevenson, by Findings & Order filed November 21, 2023, was **REPRIMANDED**, ordered to pay a fine of \$1,500.00, and assessed costs of \$150.00, for violations of AR Rules 1.8(j) and 8.4(d). Barrett failed to perfect an appeal, to the irreversible detriment of the client's interests, and violated Rule 1.8(j).

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### **CAUTION**

**STORY, TRAVIS WAYNE, of Fayetteville, Arkansas ABN: 2008274**, in Committee Case No. CPC-2023-014, on a complaint by Tracy Harris-Brashears, by Findings & Order filed November 21, 2023, was **CAUTIONED**, ordered to pay restitution of \$3,500.00, a fine of \$1,000.00 and assessed costs of \$150.00, for violations of AR Rules 1.1, 1.3, 1.4(a)(3), 1.4(a)(4), 1.16(d), 3.2, and 8.4(d). Story failed to complete a divorce action for which he was hired, which resulted in the court dismissing the divorce complaint, and failed to communicate with his client regarding her case.