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NORTH CAROLINA)
WAKE COUNTY

BEFORE THE
GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE
OF THE
NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR
05G0557

IN THE MATTER OF)

Stafford R. Peebles,
Attorney At Law)

REPRIMAND

On July 20, 2006 the Grievance Committee of the North Carolina State Bar met and considered the grievances filed against you by G. H.

Pursuant to Section .0113(a) of the Discipline and Disability Rules of the North Carolina State Bar, the Grievance Committee conducted a preliminary hearing. After considering the information available to it, including your response to the letter of notice, the Grievance Committee found probable cause. Probable cause is defined in the rules as "reasonable cause to believe that a member of the North Carolina State Bar is guilty of misconduct justifying disciplinary action."

The rules provide that after a finding of probable cause, the Grievance Committee may determine that the filing of a complaint and a hearing before the Disciplinary Hearing Commission are not required, and the Grievance Committee may issue various levels of discipline depending upon the misconduct, the actual or potential injury caused, and any aggravating or mitigating factors. The Grievance Committee may issue an admonition, a reprimand, or a censure to the respondent attorney.

A reprimand is a written form of discipline more serious than an admonition issued in cases in which an attorney has violated one or more provisions of the Rules of Professional Conduct and has caused harm or potential harm to a client, the administration of justice, the profession, or a member of the public, but the misconduct does not require a censure.

The Grievance Committee was of the opinion that a censure is not required in this case and issues this reprimand to you. As chairman of the Grievance Committee of the North Carolina State Bar, it is now my duty to issue this reprimand.

G. H. and his wife came to your office in November 2004 relative to a separation agreement, divorce, and the filing of a joint Chapter 7 bankruptcy petition. You represented Mrs. H in the negotiation and signing of a separation agreement and property settlement on January 3, 2005. You filed a joint Chapter 7 bankruptcy petition on behalf of both Mr. and Mrs. H on January 7, 2005. On January 6, 2006, you filed a complaint for absolute divorce in Forsyth

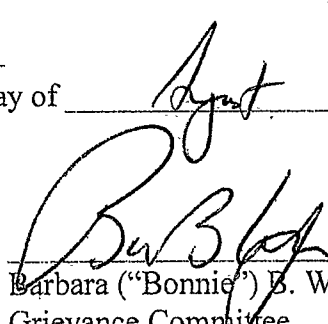
County, wherein you purported to represent Mrs. H as the plaintiff. The Grievance Committee found that you had a conflict of interest, in violation of Rule 1.7(a), as you filed a joint bankruptcy petition for both Mr. and Mrs. H, and then represented Mrs. H in the domestic matters. Although Mr. and Mrs. H's interests may have been aligned with respect to the Chapter 7 bankruptcy petition, their interests were antagonistic to each other respecting alimony, child support and child custody.

In your response to this grievance, you indicated that you represented both Mr. and Mrs. H in all matters. However, there was no evidence that Mr. H and Mrs. H had given informed consent, confirmed in writing, as required by Rule 1.7(b)(4) of the Revised Rules of Professional Conduct, to any joint representation of their interests.

You are hereby reprimanded by the North Carolina State Bar for your professional misconduct. The Grievance Committee trusts that you will heed this reprimand, that it will be remembered by you, that it will be beneficial to you, and that you will never again allow yourself to depart from adherence to the high ethical standards of the legal profession.

In accordance with the policy adopted October 15, 1981 by the Council of the North Carolina State Bar regarding the taxing of the administrative and investigative costs to any attorney issued a reprimand by the Grievance Committee, the costs of this action in the amount of \$50.00 are hereby taxed to you.

Done and ordered, this the 28th day of August, 2006


Barbara ("Bonnie") B. Weyher, Chair
Grievance Committee

BBW/lr