

DISCIPLINARY QUARTERLY REPORT

Reporting Period: January 1, 2021 – March 31, 2021

REPORT BY DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL

Final Decisions

Final Decisions of the NM Supreme Court3

Matter of Eric Morrow, Esq., (No. S-1-SC-38658). The New Mexico Supreme Court issued an order on March 10, 2021 indefinitely suspending Respondent for a period of no less than two (2) years from the practice of law. This matter was brought before the Court on a Conditional Agreement.

Matter of James Klipstine, Esq., (No. S-1-SC-38655). The New Mexico Supreme Court issued an order on March 29, 2021 indefinitely suspending Respondent for a period of no less than three (3) years. This matter was brought before the Court on the Disciplinary Board’s request to adopt its recommendation for discipline.

Matter of Barbara Ann Patterson, Esq., (No. S-1-SC-38648). The New Mexico Supreme Court issued an order on March 29, 2021 indefinitely suspending Respondent from the practice of law. This matter was brought before the Court on the Disciplinary Board’s request to adopt its recommendation for discipline.

Summary Suspensions

Total number of attorneys summarily suspended (reciprocal).....1

Matter of Richard A. Madril, Esq. (No. S-1-SC-38725). The New Mexico Supreme Court entered an order on March 15, 2021 summarily suspending Respondent from the practice of law. Respondent was found guilty of a felonious serious crime in the State of Arizona. US v. Madril, CR-18-01309-002-TUC-RM (LAB)

Administrative Suspensions

Total number of attorneys administratively suspended.....3

Matter of Margaret Yvonne Romero, Esq. (No. S-1-SC-38676). The New Mexico Supreme Court entered an order on March 26, 2021 administratively suspending Respondent from the practice of law for the failure to cooperate with Disciplinary Counsel

Matter of Thomas Patrick McLarty, Esq. (No. S-1-SC-38631). The New Mexico Supreme Court entered an order on March 26, 2021 administratively suspending Respondent from the practice of law for the failure to cooperate with Disciplinary Counsel

Matter of Joel Alan Gaffney, Esq. (No. S-1-SC-38619). The New Mexico Supreme Court entered an order on March 26, 2021 administratively suspending Respondent from the practice of law for the failure to cooperate with Disciplinary Counsel

Disability Inactive Status

Total number of attorneys removed from disability inactive states0

Charges Filed

Charges were filed against an attorney for allegedly failing to competently represent a client; charging an excessive fee, representing a client when there was a significant risk that his representation was materially limited by his own personal interests.

Charges were filed against an attorney for allegedly failing to competently represent the client, failing to act with reasonable diligence and promptness, failing to keep the client reasonably informed, and engaging in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice.

Charges were filed against an attorney for allegedly acquiring a propriety interest in property that is the subject of litigation, failing to notify a third person of the receipt of property in which the third person has an interest, and engaging in conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice.

Charges were filed against an attorney for allegedly charging an excessive fee, failing to hold a client’s property separate from the lawyer’s own property and by failing to keep complete records of the account funds, dishonestly converting a client funds for his own use, and engaging in conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice.

Charges were filed against an attorney for allegedly filing a frivolous lawsuit, engaging in conduct intended to disrupt a tribunal, and engaging in conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice.

Injunctive Relief

Total number of injunctions prohibiting the unauthorized practice of law0

Reinstatement from Probation

Petitions for reinstatement filed0

Formal Reprimands

Total number of attorneys formally reprimanded1

Informal Admonitions

Total number of attorneys admonished2

Letters of Caution

Total number of attorneys cautioned10

Attorneys were cautioned for the following conduct: (1) lack of competence; (2) excessive fees; (3) dishonesty, deceit, fraud or misrepresentation, (3) lack of candor (4) lack of fairness to opposing party, (5) trust account violation (6) failure to communicate, and (7) ex parte contact with court.

Complaints Received

<i>Allegations</i>	<i>No. of Complaints</i>
Trust Account Violations.....	2
Conflict of Interest.....	2
Neglect and/or Incompetence.....	20
Misrepresentation or Fraud.....	10
Relationship with Client or Court.....	0
Fees.....	9
Improper Communications.....	10
Criminal Activity.....	1
Personal Behavior.....	3
Other.....	32
Total number of complaints received.....	89