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BEFORE THE  
DISCIPLINARY BOARD  
OF THE  
WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

In re  
**CHRISTOPHER WILLIAM BAWN,**  
Lawyer (Bar No. 13417).

Proceeding No. 15#00088  
ODC File Nos. 13-01983, 14-01216  
STIPULATION TO NINE-MONTH  
SUSPENSION

Under Rule 9.1 of the Rules for Enforcement of Lawyer Conduct (ELC), the following Stipulation to Suspension is entered into by the Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) of the Washington State Bar Association (Association) through Disciplinary Counsel M Craig Bray and respondent lawyer Christopher William Bawn.

Respondent understands that he is entitled under the ELC to a hearing, to present exhibits and witnesses on his behalf, and to have a hearing officer determine the facts, misconduct and sanction in this case. Respondent further understands that he is entitled under the ELC to appeal the outcome of a hearing to the Disciplinary Board, and, in certain cases, the Supreme Court. Respondent further understands that a hearing and appeal could result in an outcome more favorable or less favorable to him. Respondent chooses to resolve this proceeding now by entering into the following stipulation to facts, misconduct and sanction to

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1 avoid the risk, time, and expense attendant to further proceedings.

2 **I. ADMISSION TO PRACTICE**

3 1. Respondent was admitted to practice law in the State of Washington on October 27,  
4 1983.

5 **II. STIPULATED FACTS**

6 **A. ODC File No. 13-01983 – Grievance filed by ODC**

7 2. On October 18, 2013, the Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) received a trust account  
8 overdraft notification (TAON) from Columbia Bank regarding Respondent's lawyer trust  
9 account No. xxxxxx835. The notice stated that check number 1110 for \$200.00 was presented  
10 against an available balance of \$182.64.

11 3. On October 25, 2013, ODC requested that Respondent provide an explanation for the  
12 overdraft and relevant records within 30 days.

13 4. Respondent did not respond.

14 5. ODC sent Respondent a "10-day letter" on January 7, 2014, informing him that if he did  
15 not respond by January 21, 2014, he may be subpoenaed for a deposition, and could be subject  
16 to interim suspension from the practice of law.

17 6. Respondent did not respond.

18 7. On April 1, 2014, ODC subpoenaed Respondent under ELC 5.3(h) for a deposition on  
19 May 1, 2014.

20 8. Respondent appeared at the deposition and brought some, but not all, of the records  
21 ODC requested in its October 25, 2013 request for response and in the deposition subpoena.

22 9. After the deposition, on May 23, 2014, ODC requested that Respondent provide an  
23 additional response and more records within 30 days.

1 10. Respondent did not timely respond.

2 11. ODC sent Respondent a "10-day letter" on June 26, 2014, informing him that if he did  
3 not respond to ODC's May 23, 2014 request by July 9, 2014, he may be subpoenaed for another  
4 deposition and could be subject to interim suspension.

5 12. Respondent did not timely respond.

6 13. On October 28, 2014, ODC filed a petition for interim suspension under Rule 7.2(a)(3)  
7 of the Rules for Enforcement of Lawyer Conduct (ELC) with the Washington Supreme Court  
8 due to Respondent's failure to respond and provide requested records.

9 14. On November 3, 2014, ODC received a second TAON from Columbia Bank regarding  
10 Respondent's trust account no. xxxxxx835, stating that check number 1001 for \$10.88 was  
11 presented against an available balance of \$2.25.

12 15. On November 6, 2014, ODC asked Respondent to provide an explanation for the second  
13 overdraft and to provide additional records.

14 16. He did not respond

15 17. On December 3, 2014, ODC received a third TAON from Columbia Bank regarding  
16 trust account no. xxxxxx835, stating that a \$300.00 deposit item was returned leaving an  
17 overdraft balance in the account of -\$159.63.

18 18. On December 10, 2014, ODC asked Respondent to provide an explanation for the third  
19 overdraft and to provide additional records.

20 19. He did not respond.

21 20. On December 8, 2014, Respondent provided to ODC a response to its May 23, 2014  
22 request and some, but not all, of the additional records that ODC had requested.

23 21. On December 9, 2014, the Court granted ODC's petition for interim suspension and

1 | suspended Respondent from the practice of law on an interim basis effective immediately. That  
2 | suspension remains in effect.

3 | 22. During its investigation, ODC discovered that Respondent also had trust accounts at Key  
4 | Bank and Heritage Bank in addition to Columbia Bank.

5 | 23. ODC subpoenaed bank records from all three banks.

6 | 24. ODC audited all of Respondent's trust accounts for the period of August 31, 2013 to  
7 | December 31, 2014, but was not able to complete a full reconstruction of Respondent's trust  
8 | accounts due to the lack of complete records.

9 | 25. The audit revealed that Respondent:

- 10 | • did not maintain separate trust account check registers or individual client  
11 | ledgers as required by RPC 1.15B(a);
- 12 | • did not properly reconcile trust account check registers to the monthly  
13 | bank statements or to the combined total of all client ledger records as  
14 | required by RPC 1.15A(h)(6); and
- 15 | • did not wait for a deposit to clear the banking system and be collected  
16 | before disbursing funds from trust as required by RPC 1.15A(h)(7).

17 | **B. ODC File No. 14-01216 – Grievance filed by Greg Isaacson**

18 | 26. Greg Isaacson hired Respondent to represent him in a whistleblower complaint against  
19 | the City of Centralia.

20 | 27. An administrative hearing was held in February and March 2001. The administrative law  
21 | judge (ALJ) denied Mr. Isaacson's claims, finding that he failed to report any activity that  
22 | constituted improper governmental action.

23 | 28. In April 2001, Respondent, on behalf of Mr. Isaacson, filed a petition for review by the  
24 | Lewis County Superior Court of the administrative decision.

25 | 29. Respondent also filed a complaint for damages arising out of Mr. Isaacson's allegations  
26 | that the City retaliated against him for bringing his whistleblower complaint.

1 30. On September 19, 2002, the Lewis County Clerk filed and served a notice of dismissal  
2 for want of prosecution because there had been little activity in the case.

3 31. Respondent did not respond.

4 32. On October 22, 2002, the court dismissed Mr. Isaacson's case.

5 33. On November 4, 2002, Respondent filed a motion to reconsider the order of dismissal,  
6 stating that he had not received the clerk's notice.

7 34. The court granted the motion and vacated the order of dismissal. Mr. Isaacson's case was  
8 set for trial on January 5, 2004.

9 35. On May 21, 2003, counsel for the City wrote to Respondent asking that the parties  
10 organize a briefing schedule for Mr. Isaacson's petition for review matter.

11 36. Respondent did not respond.

12 37. The City sent a letter and proposed stipulated briefing schedule to Respondent.

13 38. He did not respond.

14 39. The City filed a motion to request briefing and a hearing schedule on Mr. Isaacson's  
15 petition for review. A hearing was set for June 20, 2003.

16 40. Respondent did not respond to the motion or appear at the hearing.

17 41. The court granted the City's motion and set a briefing schedule, ordering Respondent to  
18 file a brief in support of his client's petition by August 15, 2003.

19 42. Respondent received the court's order setting the briefing schedule.

20 43. Respondent did not file a brief by the August 15, 2003 deadline.

21 44. The City moved to dismiss Mr. Isaacson's petition for review on September 17, 2003.  
22 The court set a hearing for October 3, 2003.

23 45. Respondent did not respond to the motion to dismiss.

1 46. Respondent appeared at the October 3, 2003 hearing with a brief and said that he was  
2 prepared to file it that day.

3 47. The court dismissed Mr. Isaacson's petition for review, finding that Respondent willfully  
4 and deliberately failed to cooperate with the court's briefing schedule, which substantially  
5 prejudiced the City's ability to respond to the issues raised in the petition.

6 48. Respondent appealed.

7 49. The Court of Appeals upheld the dismissal of Mr. Isaacson's petition for review holding  
8 that, "[Respondent] failed to provide any justification whatsoever for his failure to abide by the  
9 court's order in a timely manner," and that he acted deliberately and willfully and thereby  
10 injured the City.

### 11 III. STIPULATION TO MISCONDUCT

#### 12 A. Failure to Cooperate

13 50. By failing to respond to requests by ODC for information related to the TAONs,  
14 Respondent violated RPC 8.4(l) (failing to comply with duties imposed by the ELC).

#### 15 B. Trust Account Violations

16 51. By failing to keep adequate trust account checkbook registers and individual client  
17 ledgers, failing to perform monthly reconciliations of the trust account check register to the  
18 bank statements and to client ledger records, and disbursing funds from trust before a deposit  
19 cleared the banking system, Respondent violated RPC 1.15A(h)(6), RPC 1.15A(h)(7), and RPC  
20 1.15B(a).

#### 21 C. Isaacson Violations

22 52. By failing to comply with the court's scheduling order in the Isaacson petition for  
23 review matter, Respondent violated RPC 3.4(c) (knowingly disobey an obligation under the

1 rules of a tribunal.

2 53. By failing to take action on Mr. Isaacson's matters, resulting in his cases being  
3 dismissed, Respondent violated RPC 1.3 (act with reasonable diligence and promptness in  
4 representing a client), and RPC 3.2 (make reasonable efforts to expedite litigation).

#### 5 IV. PRIOR DISCIPLINE

6 54. Respondent has no prior public discipline.

#### 7 V. APPLICATION OF ABA STANDARDS

8 55. The following American Bar Association Standards for Imposing Lawyer Sanctions  
9 (1991 ed. & Feb. 1992 Supp.) apply to this case: 4.1 – Failure to Preserve the Client's Property;  
10 4.4 – Lack of Diligence; 6.2 – Abuse of the Legal Process; and 7.0 – Violations of Duties Owed  
11 as a Professional. Copies of these Standards are attached as Appendix A.

12 56. Respondent acted knowingly in failing to respond to ODC's requests for response and  
13 documents.

14 57. Respondent's failure to respond to ODC's requests for response and documents injured  
15 the disciplinary system as ODC was forced to expend more limited resources on this matter than  
16 would have been otherwise necessary and was unable to fully investigate the matter.

17 58. The presumptive sanction for knowingly failing to respond to requests for information  
18 from a disciplinary authority causing injury to the discipline system is suspension under ABA  
19 Standard 7.2.

20 59. Respondent acted negligently in failing to maintain adequate trust account records and  
21 failing to maintain client funds in trust.

22 60. His failure to keep adequate records resulted in the loss or potential loss of client funds.

23 61. The presumptive sanction for negligently failing to keep adequate trust account records

1 and failing to wait for deposit items to clear the bank thereby causing injury or potential injury  
2 to client funds is reprimand under ABA Standard 4.13.

3 62. Respondent acted knowingly in failing to comply with the court's order in the Isaacson  
4 matter and in failing to pursue Mr. Isaacson's matter diligently.

5 63. Respondent's actions injured Mr. Isaacson, who lost his day in court.

6 64. The presumptive sanction for knowingly failing to comply with court's orders causing  
7 injury to a client is suspension under ABA Standard 6.22.

8 65. The presumptive sanction for knowingly failing to diligently pursue a client's matter  
9 causing injury to the client is suspension under ABA Standard 4.42(a).

10 66. The following aggravating factors apply under ABA Standard 9.22:

- 11 (a) Substantial experience in the practice of law (admitted in 1983); and  
12 (d) multiple offenses.

13 67. The following mitigating factors apply under ABA Standard 9.32:

- 14 (a) Absence of a prior disciplinary record; and  
15 (b) absence of a dishonest or selfish motive.

16 68. It is an additional mitigating factor that Respondent has agreed to resolve this matter at  
17 an early stage of the proceedings.

18 69. On balance the aggravating and mitigating factors do not require a departure from the  
19 presumptive sanction.

## 20 VI. STIPULATED DISCIPLINE

21 70. The parties stipulate that Respondent shall receive a nine-month suspension for his  
22 conduct.

23 71. As a condition of reinstatement from suspension, Respondent shall complete the  
24 following steps to determine whether any funds are owed to clients or third parties:



- 1 a) Respondent shall reconstruct<sup>1</sup> his trust account records for the time period of August  
2 31, 2013 to December 31, 2014, in compliance with the requirements of RPC 1.15A  
3 and RPC 1.15B, using all available client records and financial records to assist in  
4 the identification of funds received and disbursed. Respondent shall do so at his  
5 own expense. Respondent shall not be eligible for a certification of completion of  
6 specific conditions of suspension under ELC 13.3(b)(1)(B) unless Respondent  
7 provides the complete reconstructed trust-account records to ODC at least 60 days  
8 prior to seeking certification of completion. Respondent shall promptly provide  
9 additional records and information to ODC if requested to facilitate ODC's  
10 assessment of the completeness and accuracy of the reconstruction.<sup>2</sup>  
11
- 12 b) The reconstruction may, or may not, reveal that one or more clients have not  
13 received all funds to which they are entitled. If the reconstructed trust-account  
14 records for the time period of August 21, 2013 to December 31, 2014 indicate that  
15 any client is owed funds, then Respondent shall provide each client, in writing, with  
16 a complete updated accounting of his receipt and disbursement of all funds. The  
17 accounting shall identify the source, date and amount of all funds received, and the  
18 recipient, purpose, date and amount of all funds disbursed. Respondent shall not be  
19 eligible for a certification of completion of specific conditions of suspension under  
20 ELC 13.3(b)(1)(B) unless Respondent provides ODC with proof that he/she has  
21 done so, and with copies of the accountings, at least 60 days prior to seeking  
22 certification of completion.

23 72. Respondent will be subject to probation for a period of two years commencing upon  
24 Respondent's reinstatement to the practice of law, with periodic reviews under ELC 13.8 of his  
trust account practices, and shall comply with the specific probation terms set forth below:

- 15 a) Respondent shall carefully review and fully comply with RPC 1.15A and RPC  
16 1.15B, and shall carefully review the current version of the publication, Managing  
Client Trust Accounts: Rules, Regulations, and Common Sense.
- 17 b) For all client matters, Respondent shall have a written fee agreement signed by the  
18 client, which agreements are to be maintained for least seven years (see RPC  
19 1.15B(a)(3)).

20 <sup>1</sup> "Reconstruction" involves the preparation, for all funds put into and removed from the trust account,  
21 of complete and accurate client ledgers, check register, reconciliations between the check register  
22 balances and the balances of the bank statements, and reconciliations between the check register  
23 balances and the combined total of all the client ledger balances.

24 <sup>2</sup> Respondent acknowledges and agrees that if information in reconstructed trust account records or in  
other information or records provided to ODC under paragraph 54 reveals any acts of misconduct not  
specifically identified in this Stipulation, ODC may investigate and/or prosecute such additional  
misconduct to the extent otherwise authorized by the ELC.

1 c) On a quarterly basis, Respondent shall provide ODC's audit staff with all trust-  
2 account records for the time period to be reviewed by ODC's audit staff and  
disciplinary counsel for compliance with the RPC:

3 i) Months 1 – 3. By no later than the 30<sup>th</sup> day of the fourth month after the  
4 commencement of probation, Respondent shall provide the trust account  
records from the date of his/her reinstatement to the end of the third full  
5 month.

6 ii) Months 4 – 6. By no later than the 30<sup>th</sup> day of the seventh month after the  
7 commencement of probation, Respondent shall provide the trust account  
records from the end of the previously provided quarter through the end of  
8 month six.

9 iii) Months 7 – 9. By no later than the 30<sup>th</sup> day of the tenth month after the  
10 commencement of probation, Respondent shall provide the trust account  
11 records from the end of the previously provided quarter through the end of  
12 month nine.

13 iv) Months 10 – 12. By no later than the 30<sup>th</sup> day of the thirteenth month after  
14 the commencement of probation, Respondent shall provide the trust  
15 account records from the end of the previously provided quarter through  
16 the end of month twelve.

17 v) Months 13– 15. By no later than the 30<sup>th</sup> day of the sixteenth month after  
18 the commencement of probation, Respondent shall provide the trust  
19 account records from the end of the previously provided quarter through  
the end of month fifteen.

20 vi) Months 16 – 18. By no later than the 30<sup>th</sup> day of the nineteenth month after  
21 the commencement of probation, Respondent shall provide the trust  
22 account records from the end of the previously provided quarter through  
23 the end of month eighteen.

24 vii) Months 19 – 21. By no later than the 30<sup>th</sup> day of the twenty-second month  
after the commencement of probation, Respondent shall provide the trust  
account records from the end of the previously provided quarter through  
the end of month twenty-one.

The trust account records Respondent provides to ODC for each quarterly review of  
his trust account will include: (a) a complete checkbook register for his trust  
account covering the period being reviewed, (b) complete individual client ledger  
records for any client with funds in Respondent's trust account during all or part of  
the period being reviewed, as well as for Respondent's own funds in the account (if  
any), (c) copies of all trust-account bank statements, deposit slips, and cancelled  
checks covering the period being reviewed, (d) copies of all trust account client  
ledger reconciliations for the period being reviewed, and (e) copies of

1 reconciliations of Respondent's trust account check register covering the period  
2 being reviewed. The ODC's Audit Manager or designee will review Respondent's  
trust account records for each period.

- 3 d) On the same quarterly time schedule set forth in the preceding paragraph,  
4 Respondent will provide ODC's Audit Manager or designee with copies of any and  
all fee agreements entered into within the time period at issue.
- 5 e) The ODC's Audit Manager or designee may request additional financial or client  
6 records if needed to verify Respondent's compliance with RPC 1.15A and/or 1.15B.  
7 Within twenty days of a request from ODC's Audit Manager or designee for  
additional records needed to verify Respondent's compliance with RPC 1.15A  
and/or RPC 1.15B, Respondent will provide ODC's Audit Manager or designee the  
8 additional records requested.
- 9 f) Respondent will reimburse the Association for time spent by ODC's Audit Manager  
10 or designee in reviewing and reporting on Respondent's records to determine  
his/her compliance with RPC 1.15A and RPC 1.15B, at the rate of \$85 per hour.  
11 Respondent will make payment within thirty days of each written invoice setting  
forth the auditor's time and payment due.

## 11 VII. RESTITUTION

12 73. If the reconstructed trust-account records for the time period of August 31, 2013 to  
13 December 31, 2014 indicate that any client is owed funds, then Respondent is required to make  
14 full restitution to each client of all funds owed. Respondent shall pay to the client interest on  
15 those funds, at a rate of 12%, calculated from the date on which the client (or third party as  
16 directed by the client) was first entitled to receive the funds to the date on which repayment is  
17 made. Reinstatement is conditioned on full payment of restitution, with interest, or on entry of a  
18 periodic payment plan with disciplinary counsel.

19 74. Restitution does not appear to be appropriate in the Isaacson matter because it does not  
20 appear that Mr. Isaacson paid Respondent legal fees after Respondent filed his petition for  
21 review and his civil suit against the City.

## 22 VIII. COSTS AND EXPENSES

23 75. In light of Respondent's willingness to resolve this matter by stipulation at an early stage

1 of the proceedings, Respondent shall pay attorney fees and administrative costs of \$750 in  
2 accordance with ELC 13.9(i). ODC will seek a money judgment under ELC 13.9(l) if these  
3 costs are not paid within 30 days of approval of this stipulation. Reinstatement from suspension  
4 is conditioned on payment of costs and expenses or entry of a periodic payment plan with  
5 disciplinary counsel.

#### 6 **IX. VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT**

7 76. Respondent states that prior to entering into this Stipulation he had an opportunity to  
8 consult independent legal counsel regarding this Stipulation, that Respondent is entering into  
9 this Stipulation voluntarily, and that no promises or threats have been made by ODC, the  
10 Association, nor by any representative thereof, to induce the Respondent to enter into this  
11 Stipulation except as provided herein.

12 77. Once fully executed, this stipulation is a contract governed by the legal principles  
13 applicable to contracts, and may not be unilaterally revoked or modified by either party.

#### 14 **X. LIMITATIONS**

15 78. This Stipulation is a compromise agreement intended to resolve this matter in  
16 accordance with the purposes of lawyer discipline while avoiding further proceedings and the  
17 expenditure of additional resources by the Respondent and ODC. Both the Respondent and  
18 ODC acknowledge that the result after further proceedings in this matter might differ from the  
19 result agreed to herein.

20 79. This Stipulation is not binding upon ODC or the respondent as a statement of all existing  
21 facts relating to the professional conduct of the respondent lawyer, and any additional existing  
22 facts may be proven in any subsequent disciplinary proceedings.

23 80. This Stipulation results from the consideration of various factors by both parties,

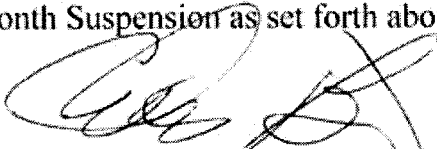
1 including the benefits to both by promptly resolving this matter without the time and expense of  
2 hearings, Disciplinary Board appeals, and Supreme Court appeals or petitions for review. As  
3 such, approval of this Stipulation will not constitute precedent in determining the appropriate  
4 sanction to be imposed in other cases; but, if approved, this Stipulation will be admissible in  
5 subsequent proceedings against Respondent to the same extent as any other approved  
6 Stipulation.

7 81. Under Disciplinary Board policy, in addition to the Stipulation, the Disciplinary Board  
8 shall have available to it for consideration all documents that the parties agree to submit to the  
9 Disciplinary Board, and all public documents. Under ELC 3.1(b), all documents that form the  
10 record before the Board for its review become public information on approval of the Stipulation  
11 by the Board, unless disclosure is restricted by order or rule of law.

12 82. If this Stipulation is approved by the Disciplinary Board and Supreme Court, it will be  
13 followed by the disciplinary action agreed to in this Stipulation. All notices required in the  
14 Rules for Enforcement of Lawyer Conduct will be made.

15 83. If this Stipulation is not approved by the Disciplinary Board and Supreme Court, this  
16 Stipulation will have no force or effect, and neither it nor the fact of its execution will be  
17 admissible as evidence in the pending disciplinary proceeding, in any subsequent disciplinary  
18 proceeding, or in any civil or criminal action.

1 WHEREFORE the undersigned being fully advised, adopt and agree to this Stipulation  
2 to Nine-Month Suspension as set forth above.

3 

Dated: 1/22/2016

4 Christopher William Bawn, Bar No. 13417  
5 Respondent

6 

Dated: 1/28/2016

7 M Craig Bray, Bar No. 20821  
8 Disciplinary Counsel

1 **Appendix A**

2 **Applicable ABA Standards**

3 ***4.1 Failure to Preserve the Client's Property***

- 4 4.11 Disbarment is generally appropriate when a lawyer knowingly converts  
client property and causes injury or potential injury to a client.
- 5 4.12 Suspension is generally appropriate when a lawyer knows or should  
know that he is dealing improperly with client property and causes injury  
or potential injury to a client.
- 6 4.13 Reprimand is generally appropriate when a lawyer is negligent in dealing  
with client property and causes injury or potential injury to a client.
- 7 4.14 Admonition is generally appropriate when a lawyer is negligent in  
dealing with client property and causes little or no actual or potential  
8 injury to a client.

9 ***4.4 Lack of Diligence***

- 10 4.41 Disbarment is generally appropriate when:
- 11 (a) a lawyer abandons the practice and causes serious or potentially  
serious injury to a client; or
  - 12 (b) a lawyer knowingly fails to perform services for a client and  
causes serious or potentially serious injury to a client; or
  - 13 (c) a lawyer engages in a pattern of neglect with respect to client  
matters and causes serious or potentially serious injury to a client.
- 14 4.42 Suspension is generally appropriate when:
- 15 (a) a lawyer knowingly fails to perform services for a client and  
causes injury or potential injury to a client, or
  - 16 (b) a lawyer engages in a pattern of neglect and causes injury or  
potential injury to a client.
- 17 4.43 Reprimand is generally appropriate when a lawyer is negligent and does  
not act with reasonable diligence in representing a client, and causes  
18 injury or potential injury to a client.
- 19 4.44 Admonition is generally appropriate when a lawyer is negligent and does  
not act with reasonable diligence in representing a client, and causes little  
or no actual or potential injury to a client.

20 ***6.2 Abuse of the Legal Process***

- 21 6.21 Disbarment is generally appropriate when a lawyer knowingly violates a  
court order or rule with the intent to obtain a benefit for the lawyer or  
another, and causes serious injury or potentially serious injury to a party  
or causes serious or potentially serious interference with a legal  
proceeding.
- 22 6.22 Suspension is generally appropriate when a lawyer knows that he or she  
is violating a court order or rule, and causes injury or potential injury to a  
client or a party, or causes interference or potential interference with a  
23 legal proceeding.

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6.23 Reprimand is generally appropriate when a lawyer negligently fails to comply with a court order or rule, and causes injury or potential injury to a client or other party, or causes interference or potential interference with a legal proceeding.

6.24 Admonition is generally appropriate when a lawyer engages in an isolated instance of negligence in complying with a court order or rule, and causes little or no actual or potential injury to a party, or causes little or no actual or potential interference with a legal proceeding.

**7.0 Violations of Duties Owed as a Professional**

7.1 Disbarment is generally appropriate when a lawyer knowingly engages in conduct that is a violation of a duty owed as a professional with the intent to obtain a benefit for the lawyer or another, and causes serious or potentially serious injury to a client, the public, or the legal system.

7.2 Suspension is generally appropriate when a lawyer knowingly engages in conduct that is a violation of a duty owed as a professional and causes injury or potential injury to a client, the public, or the legal system.

7.3 Reprimand is generally appropriate when a lawyer negligently engages in conduct that is a violation of a duty owed as a professional and causes injury or potential injury to a client, the public, or the legal system.

7.4 Admonition is generally appropriate when a lawyer engages in an isolated instance of negligence that is a violation of a duty owed as a professional, and causes little or no actual or potential injury to a client, the public, or the legal system