BEFORE THE
DISCIPLINARY BOARD
OF THE
WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

In re **PAUL DAVID PLESS,** Lawyer (Bar No. 34629).	Proceeding No. 12#00117 REPRIMAND

Under the Rules for Enforcement of Lawyer Conduct promulgated by the Supreme Court of the State of Washington, you have been directed to receive this FORMAL REPRIMAND.

You were the Assistant Dean for Admissions and Financial Aid for the University of Illinois College of Law from 2004 until 2011. You managed the admissions process and were chiefly responsible for recruiting and enrolling College of Law classes, for compiling admissions data and preparing statistical reports based on that data, and causing this data to be included in information regarding its student body that the College of Law provided to the American Bar Association and U.S. News and World Report, among others. You also supervised other employees of the College of Law Admissions Office.

During your tenure it was discovered that statistical information the College of Law publically reported for the Class of 2008 and the Classes of 2011 through 2014 was inaccurate.

1   Subsequent investigation revealed that LSAT scores and GPAs of individual students had been

2   inflated on spreadsheets kept in your office after the College of Law received the students' data

3   from the Law School Admission Council (LSAC), and that other numbers for the Classes of

4   2011 through 2014 were altered and misreported, giving the appearance that the College of Law

5   was more selective and enrolled more highly credentialed students than was actually the case.

6   You negligently failed to make reasonable effort to put procedures in place that would

7   ensure that student data was accurate and properly reported and that staff members you

8   supervised who had access to student data would not falsely alter that data. You also knowingly

9   altered some student data yourself, then failed to correct that data, contributing to giving the

10   outward appearance that incoming College of Law students had better credentials than they did

11   in reality, and that COL goals had been met when they had not.

12   Your conduct in failing to adopt proper procedures to ensure that conduct of Admission

13   Office staff was compatible with your professional obligations, and your alteration of certain

14   student data, violated RPC 5.3(b) and RPC 8.4(c).

15   These actions merit a Formal Reprimand. Your actions discredit you and the legal

16   profession and show a disregard for the high traditions of honor expected from a member of the
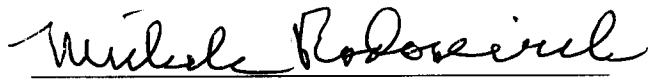
17   Association.

18   NOW, THEREFORE, YOU ARE HEREBY REPRIMANDED by the Washington State

19   Bar Association for this misconduct. This Reprimand will be made a part of your permanent

20   record with the Association, and will be considered along with other evidence regarding any

21   future grievances against you.

22   Your privilege to practice law in the State of Washington is based on the finding that

23   you are a person of good moral character, and on your commitment to abide by the rules

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1 | governing the conduct of members of the Association. The Association expects all your future

2 | conduct as a lawyer to be consistent with that finding as to your character, and with a continuing

3 | commitment on your part to the letter and spirit of those rules.

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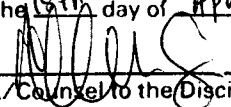5 | Dated this 12th day of April , 2013.

6 | WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION,

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8 | Michele Radosevich, President

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

14 | I certify that I caused a copy of the Reprimand
to be delivered to the Office of Disciplinary Counsel and to be mailed

15 | to Paul Mes , Respondent/Respondent's Counsel
at 100 S. University St. Normal, IL 61761 , by Certified/first class mail,

16 | postage prepaid on the 15th day of April , 2013

17 | Clerk/Counsel to the Disciplinary Board

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Memorandum

To: Allison Sato, Clerk to Disciplinary Board

From: Craig Bray, Disciplinary Counsel

Date: April 11, 2013

Re: Service of Reprimand on Paul David Pless

I am attaching an original reprimand for service on Paul David Pless. I have had the duplicate
original filed in the public file.

Thank you.