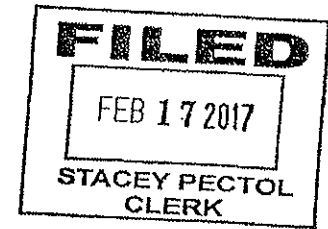


BEFORE THE ARKANSAS SUPREME COURT  
COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT  
PANEL B



IN RE: EUGENE P. CLIFFORD  
Arkansas Bar ID #2012100  
CPC Docket No. 2016-114

CONSENT FINDINGS AND ORDER

The formal charges of misconduct against Eugene P. Clifford upon which this Findings and Order is based arose from a grievance filed by William Duffel. Mr. Clifford is an attorney practicing primarily in Little Rock, Arkansas. Following Mr. Clifford's receipt of the formal complaint, Mr. Clifford entered in to discussion with the Executive Director which resulted in an agreement by consent pursuant to Section 20.B of the Arkansas Supreme Court Procedures Regulating Professional Conduct of Attorneys at Law (2011).

Mr. Clifford represented Mr. Duffel in an ancillary probate matter relating to his deceased mother, Elizabeth Duffel. Mrs. Duffel's estate was probated in Tennessee, and her estate included property in Van Buren County, Arkansas. In 2012, Mr. Duffel retained and paid Mr. Clifford to handle the Arkansas probate. In August 2015, Mr. Clifford mailed Mr. Duffel paperwork to sign, notarize, and return for filing. Mr. Duffel timely signed the Petition for Ancillary Probate and Executor's Deed and mailed the documents back to Mr. Clifford. On March 23, 2016, Mr. Clifford filed for Ancillary Probate in Cleburne County PR-2016-52, but that was not the correct county. On April 12, 2016, Van Buren County filemarked Clifford's Petition for Ancillary Probate of Will Without Administration. On April 13, 2016, the circuit court filed an Order on Petition for Ancillary Probate of Will Without Administration.

Upon consideration of the formal complaint and attached exhibit materials, the response to it, and other matters before it, and the Arkansas Rules of Professional Conduct, Panel B of the Arkansas Supreme Court Committee on Professional Conduct finds:

Eugene Clifford violated Arkansas Rule 1.3 when after being retained and paid in 2012, Eugene Clifford did not act with reasonable diligence and promptness representing William Duffel in failing to timely file a Petition for Ancillary Probate relating to decedent Elizabeth Duffel.

WHEREFORE, it is the decision and order of the Arkansas Supreme Court Committee on Professional Conduct, acting through its authorized Panel B, that Eugene P. Clifford, Arkansas Bar ID# 2012100 be, and hereby is, **CAUTIONED** for his conduct in this matter, and ordered to pay \$500 restitution to William Duffel. The restitution assessed herein shall be payable by cashier's check or money order payable to the "Clerk, Arkansas Supreme Court" delivered to the Office of Professional Conduct within thirty (30) days of the date this Findings and Order is filed of record with the Clerk of the Arkansas Supreme Court.

ARKANSAS SUPREME COURT COMMITTEE  
ON PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT - PANEL B

  
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Michael E. Mullally, Chair Panel B

2/17/17  
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Date