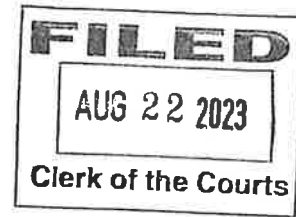


BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT
PANEL D

IN RE: MAURICE L. TAGGART
ARKANSAS BAR ID #2021042
CPC Docket No. 2023-013



FINDINGS AND ORDER

The formal charges of misconduct upon which this Findings and Order is based arose from a grievance filed by Mohammed Bensassi, on behalf of MBH Realty LLC (“MBH”). Maurice L. Taggart, of Pine Bluff, Arkansas is an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Arkansas and assigned Bar Number 2021042.

1. On September 12, 2022, MBH hired Taggart to file a lawsuit against a previous tenant for failure to pay rent and breaking a lease. Taggart was paid \$3,757.00 for the representation.

2. MBH attempted several times to contact Taggart to get a status update on their case.

Their several attempts are:

a. February 27, 2023, MBH texted Taggart requesting a telephone call. Taggart replied yes but did not call MBH.

b. February 28, 2023, MBH again texted Taggart, with Taggart responding, “I’m sorry who is this”. When advised who it was texting him, Taggart replied, “My sincere apologies. I will be in touch soon.”

c. March 2, 2023, MBH texted Taggart with no response.

3. On March 3, 2023, MBH sent a letter dated March 1, 2023, Exhibit “4”, requesting Taggart refund the \$3757.00 fee they paid him as he has not performed any services for them.

4. Taggart has not refunded the fee paid, nor has he taken any action on MBH’s behalf.

5. On April 4, 2023, the Office of Professional Conduct (OPC”) sent an email request to Taggart for information as part of its investigation into the grievance filed by Bensassi. The April

4 email was followed by a second email that same day, correcting the due date for Taggart's response from March 13, 2023 to April 13, 2023. Both emails were delivered to [REDACTED] the email address of record on file with the Arkansas Supreme Court Clerk. Taggart failed or refused to respond.

6. Taggart contacted MBH after they filed a grievance with OPC to say he would refund the fee paid. He has not refunded the fee, nor have they been able to contact him.

7. Taggart was served with the Formal Complaint in this matter on May 23, 2023, and failed to file a response.

Upon consideration of the formal complaint and attached exhibit materials and the Arkansas Rules of Professional Conduct, Panel D of the Arkansas Supreme Court Committee on Professional Conduct finds:

1. That Taggart's conduct violated Rule 1.3 when he failed to take diligent action on the matter for which his client hired him. Arkansas Rule 1.3 states a lawyer shall act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client.

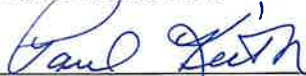
2. That Taggart's conduct violated Rule 1.4(a)(3) when he failed to advise his client of the status of the case. Taggart had no communication with his client after receiving the \$3,757.00 fee. Arkansas Rule 1.4(a)(3) states a lawyer shall keep the client reasonably informed about the status of the matter.

3. That Taggart's conduct violated Rule 1.4(a)(4) when he failed to respond to his client's several attempts to contact him. Taggart did not return telephone calls and vaguely acknowledged texts, if at all, without giving an update on the case. Arkansas Rule 1.4(a)(4) state a lawyer shall promptly comply with reasonable requests for information.

4. That Taggart's conduct constitutes "serious misconduct" as defined in the Procedures Section 17.B.

WHEREFORE, it is the decision and order of the Arkansas Supreme Court Committee on Professional Conduct, acting through its authorized Panel D, to **INITIATE DISBARMENT PROCEEDINGS AGAINST MAURICE L TAGGART**, Arkansas Bar ID #2021042, for his conduct in this matter. Taggart shall pay restitution in the amount of **THREE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY-SEVEN DOLLARS (\$3,757.00)** in accordance with Section 18.C of the Procedures. Taggart shall also pay costs in the amount of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$150.00)** in accordance with Section 18.A of the Procedures. The restitution and cost assessed herein totaling **THREE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED SEVEN DOLLAR (\$3,907.00)** 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 D



Paul W. Keith, Chair, Panel D

Date: August 22, 2023