



**BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT  
COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**

IN RE: Tamra L. Barrett, Respondent Attorney  
Arkansas Bar No. 95121  
Case No. CPC-2023-020

**FINDINGS AND ORDER**

The formal charges of misconduct upon which this Findings and Order is based arose from information provided to the Committee by Moses Stevenson (Stevenson) on March 20, 2023. The information related to the representation of Stevenson by Respondent in 2021.

1. On August 10, 2023, Respondent was served with a formal complaint, supported by affidavit from Stevenson.
2. Tamra L. Barrett (Barrett) is licensed by the Supreme Court of Arkansas, and was assigned Arkansas Bar No. 95121.
3. On or about May 18, 2021, Stevenson retained Barrett as counsel to represent him in Garland County District Court, Case No. HTC-20-4571.
4. Stevenson met Barrett at a Sonic in Hot Springs, Arkansas, and paid her \$1,000.00 for said representation.
5. After leaving the Sonic, Stevenson received a text message from Barrett asking if Stevenson "felt that" and letting him know that Barrett wanted to start a relationship with him.
6. Stevenson and Barrett began a sexual relationship, and Barrett returned the money Stevenson paid, by way of paying some of his bills.
7. On many occasions between May, 2021, and October, 2021, Stevenson picked up Barrett from the Courthouse for lunch or after she had finished a hearing or trial, etc.
8. At the time, Stevenson was employed by BKD Oilfield Services, and often worked out of town.

9. On several occasions, Barrett visited Stevenson out of town and paid for hotel rooms for them to stay together.

10. On September 30, 2021, Stevenson appeared with Barrett as his counsel and was sentenced in Case No. HTC-20-4571.

11. That same day, Barrett filed a Notice of Appeal.

12. On November 8, 2021, the Prosecuting Attorney filed a Motion to Revoke the Appeal Bond, as Barrett had failed to perfect the appeal.

13. At the end of November and early December, 2021, Stevenson's relationship with Barrett was ending. During that time, Barrett sent several inappropriate text and email communications to Stevenson.

14. On December 20, 2021, at Barrett's request, Mark Fraiser appeared with Stevenson in Court, and Stevenson was sentenced to one (1) year in jail.

15. While the sexual relationship was ongoing, Barrett's representation was competent and beneficial to Stevenson's case; but, as soon as the relationship ended, Barrett's representation was non-existent and/or detrimental to Stevenson's case.

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, the Arkansas Supreme Court Committee on Professional Conduct finds:

A. The conduct of Tamra L. Barrett, as set forth in the formal complaint, violated Rule 8.4(d) when Barrett failed to perfect the appeal in Stevenson's case. Arkansas Rule 8.4(d) provides that it is professional misconduct for a lawyer to engage in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice.

B. The conduct of Tamra L. Barrett, as set forth in the formal complaint, violated Rule 1.8(j) when Barrett began a sexual relationship with Stevenson after Stevenson became her client. Arkansas Rule 1.8(j) requires that a lawyer shall not have sexual relations with a client unless a consensual sexual relationship existed between them when the client-lawyer relationship commenced.

WHEREFORE, it is the decision and order of the Arkansas Supreme Court Committee on Professional Conduct, acting through its authorized Panel, that Tamra L. Barrett, Arkansas Bar Number 95121, be, and hereby is, REPRIMANDED for her conduct in this matter.

The Panel further assesses a fine of ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$1,500.00) and costs of ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$150.00).

Pursuant to Section 19.A of the Procedures, the Panel considered Respondent's prior disciplinary record as a factor in consideration of its sanctions in this matter.

The fine and costs assessed herein totaling ONE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$1,650.00) 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

By:   
LeAnne P. Burch, Vice-Chair, Panel B

Date: 30 October 2023