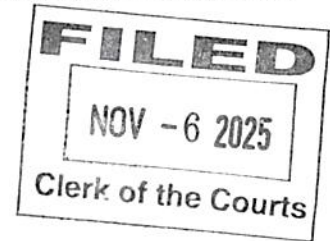


**BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT
PANEL D**

IN RE: TABATHA SHEREE BRANCH
 ARKANSAS BAR ID # 2002155
 CPC Docket No. 2025-005



FINDINGS AND ORDER

The formal charges of misconduct upon which this Findings and Order is based arose from information provided to the Committee by the Arkansas Court of Appeals. The information is related to Tabatha Branch's ("Branch") representation of Craig Criswell ("Criswell") on an appeal.

1. Criswell was convicted in 2020 of felony drug offenses and was sentenced to 144 months suspended imposition of sentence.
2. On January 5, 2025, the State of Arkansas filed a Petition to Impose Suspended Sentence after Criswell's 2023 arrest for felony drug possession and failure to pay court ordered fines.
3. Criswell was found guilty and sentenced to a total of 84 months in the Arkansas Department of Corrections.
4. Criswell's trial counsel filed a timely Notice of Appeal and Designation of Record.
5. On April 11, 2024, Branch entered her appearance as attorney for Criswell and filed a second Notice of Appeal and Designation of Record. (Exhibit 6)
6. On July 9, 2024, Branch lodged the record making Criswell's brief due August 18, 2024.
7. Branch failed to file the brief by August 18, 2024. Branch took no further action after lodging the record until approximately eight (8) months later, when she filed a Motion to File Belated Brief on March 4, 2025.

8. On March 19, 2025, the Arkansas Court of Appeals entered its Formal Order granting the Motion to File Belated Brief and referred Branch to the Arkansas Supreme Court Committee on Professional Conduct.

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

1. That Branch's conduct violated Rule 1.3 when she failed to take any action on behalf of her client after lodging the record on July 9, 2024. She filed a Motion to File Belated Brief approximately eight (8) months later on March 4, 2025. Arkansas Rule 1.3 states a lawyer shall act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client.

2. That Branch's conduct violated Rule 3.2 when she failed to take any action on Criswell's appeal for approximately eight (8) months after lodging the record resulting in her failure to file her client's appellate brief within the required time frame. Arkansas Rule 3.2 states a lawyer shall make reasonable efforts to expedite litigation consistent with the interests of the client.

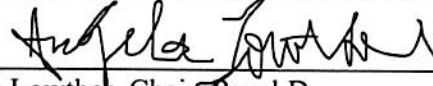
3. That Branch's conduct violated Rule 8.4(d) when she failed to take any action on her client's appellate case for approximately eight (8) months after lodging the record which resulted in her having to file a Motion to File Belated Brief and causing a delay in the appeals process for her client. Arkansas Rule 8.4(d) states that it is professional misconduct for a lawyer to engage in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice.

WHEREFORE, it is the decision and order of the Arkansas Supreme Court Committee on Professional Conduct, acting through its authorized Panel D, that Tabatha Sheree Branch, Arkansas Bar Number 2002155, be, and hereby is **Cautioned** for her conduct in this matter. Branch

shall pay costs in the amount of \$150.00 (ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS) pursuant to Section 18.A of the Procedures. In assessing a sanction, the attorney's prior disciplinary record was a factor.

The costs 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



Angela S. Cole Lowther, Chair, Panel D

10/15/2025

Date