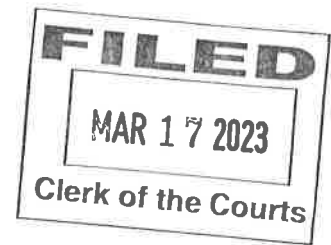


BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT
PANEL B

IN RE: J.F. "JAMES" VALLEY
ARKANSAS BAR ID #96052
CPC Docket No. 2022-024



FINDINGS AND ORDER

The formal charges of misconduct upon which this Findings and Order is based arose from a grievance filed by Henderson Baker II. James Valley is an Arkansas licensed attorney licensed in 1996.

1. Baker and his family met with Valley and then hired Valley to assist with issues they were having with an unauthorized trailer located on the family lot, reimbursement of expenses incurred, and also to contact the adjacent property owners regarding removal of a no trespassing sign and blockage of a public access road.

2. Valley was paid a \$900.00 attorney fee by check dated September 8, 2021. The check was cashed by Valley on September 13, 2021.

3. Since paying the \$900.00, Baker, nor his family, have had any contact with Valley. Valley has not taken any action in the matter for which he was hired.

4. Baker made several attempts at contacting Valley through calls and emails that went unanswered.

5. After not hearing from Valley, Baker drafted a letter to Valley detailing attempts at contacting him and requesting that he advise if he could continue representing them in the matter. The letter was mailed to two different addresses for Valley by certified mail. The green cards were signed on January 11, 2022, and January 27, 2022.

6. Valley failed to respond to the letter sent to him, nor had Valley taken any action on the Baker matter.

7. On March 2, 2022, the Office of Professional Conduct (OPC”) sent an email request to Valley for information as part of its investigation into the grievance filed by Baker. Valley failed or refused to respond.

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

1. That Valley’s conduct violated Rule 1.3 when he failed to take diligent action on the matter for which his client hired him, between the time he was paid his fee of \$900.00 and currently, which is an approximately 10-month time span. Arkansas Rule 1.3 states a lawyer shall act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client.

2. That Valley’s conduct violated Rule 1.4(a)(3) when he failed to advise his client of the status of the case. Valley had no communication with his client after receiving the \$900.00 fee. Arkansas Rule 1.4(a)(3) states a lawyer shall keep the client reasonably informed about the status of the matter.

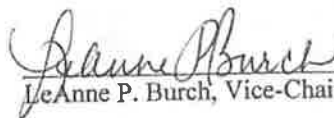
3. That Valley’s conduct violated Rule 1.4(a)(4) when he failed to respond to his client’s several attempts to contact him. Valley did not return telephone calls, respond to emails, or certified letters sent to him by his client who was attempting to get a status update on his case. Arkansas Rule 1.4(a)(4) states a lawyer shall promptly comply with reasonable requests for information.

4. That Valley’s conduct violated Rule 8.1(b) when he failed to respond to OPC’s request for information in their investigation of the allegations made against him by Baker. Arkansas Rule 8.1(b) states an applicant for admission to the bar, or a lawyer in connection with a bar admission application or in connection with a disciplinary matter, shall not fail to disclose a fact

necessary to correct a misapprehension known by the person to have arisen in the matter, or knowingly fail to respond to a lawful demand for information from an admissions or disciplinary authority, except that this rule does not require disclosure of information otherwise protected by Rule 1.6.

WHEREFORE, it is the decision and order of the Arkansas Supreme Court Committee on Professional Conduct, acting through its authorized Panel B, that **JAMES VALLEY**, Arkansas Bar ID #96052, be, and hereby is, **SUSPENDED FOR A TOTAL OF THREE (3) MONTHS**, to be served upon the expiration of the six (6) month suspension to be served in CPC-2022-020, for his conduct in this matter. Valley shall pay costs in the amount of ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$150.00) in accordance with Section 18.A of the Procedures. In assessing a sanction, the attorney's prior disciplinary record was a factor. The cost assessed herein totaling ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$150.00) 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 B



JeAnne P. Burch, Vice-Chair, Panel B

Date: 17 March 2023