



*Kevin Goode, #37063, Case No. 17-PDJ059, that states in pertinent part as follows:*

Pursuant to C.R.C.P. 251.28(a), the Court ORDERS that WILLIAM KEVIN GOODE, attorney registration number 37063, is SUSPENDED from the practice of law for a period of TWO YEARS, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, and his name shall be stricken from the list of attorneys authorized to practice in the Stat of Colorado.

5. The Opinion and Decision Imposing Sanctions Under C.R.C.P. 251.19(c) states that Goode was convicted of twenty-eight felony counts of cruelty to animals, based on the pain and suffering he inflicted on twenty dogs and eight cats in his care. Under C.R.C.P. 251.20(b), Goode was required to report his conviction to the People no later than March 31, 2015. He failed to report his conviction to disciplinary authorities and the People learned of his conviction independently in late 2016. Through this conduct, Goode violated Colo. RPC 3.4(c) (a lawyer shall not knowingly disobey an obligation under the rules of a tribunal); Colo. RPC 8.4(b) (it is professional misconduct for a lawyer to commit a criminal act that reflects adversely on the lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness, or fitness as a lawyer in other respects); and C.R.C.P. 251.5(b) (any criminal act reflecting adversely on a lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness, or fitness as a lawyer in other respects is grounds for discipline).

6. Certified copies of the Opinion and Decision Imposing Sanctions Under C.R.C.P. 251.19(b), and Order and Notice of Suspension are attached hereto as Petitioner's Exhibits 1 and 2, and made a part hereof for all intents and purposes as if the same were copied verbatim herein. Petitioner expects to introduce certified copies of Exhibits 1 and 2 at the time of the hearing in this case.

7. Petitioner prays that, pursuant to Rule 9.02, Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, that this Board issue notice to Respondent, containing a copy of this Petition with exhibits, and an order directing Respondent to show cause within thirty (30) days from the date of the mailing of the notice, why the imposition of the identical discipline in this state would be unwarranted.

Petitioner further prays that upon trial of this matter that this Board enter a judgment imposing discipline identical with that imposed by the Supreme Court of the State of Colorado and that Petitioner have such other and further relief to which it may be entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

**Linda A. Acevedo**  
Chief Disciplinary Counsel

**Amanda M. Kates**  
**Assistant Disciplinary Counsel**  
Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel  
State Bar of Texas  
P.O. Box 12487  
Austin, Texas 78711  
Telephone: 512.427.1350  
Telecopier: 512.427.4167  
Email: akates@texasbar.com




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Amanda M. Kates  
Bar Card No. 24075987  
ATTORNEYS FOR PETITIONER

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that upon receipt of the Order to Show Cause from the Board of Disciplinary Appeals, I will serve a copy of this Petition for Reciprocal Discipline and the Order to Show Cause on William Kevin Goode, by personal service.

William Kevin Goode  
3825 Cambridge Street, #367  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89119



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Amanda M. Kates

# INTERNAL PROCEDURAL RULES

## BOARD OF DISCIPLINARY APPEALS

*Current through June 21, 2018*

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# INTERNAL PROCEDURAL RULES

## Board of Disciplinary Appeals

*Current through June 21, 2018*

### I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### Rule 1.01. Definitions

- (a) “BODA” is the Board of Disciplinary Appeals.
- (b) “Chair” is the member elected by BODA to serve as chair or, in the Chair’s absence, the member elected by BODA to serve as vice-chair.
- (c) “Classification” is the determination by the CDC under TRDP 2.10 or by BODA under TRDP 7.08(C) whether a grievance constitutes a “complaint” or an “inquiry.”
- (d) “BODA Clerk” is the executive director of BODA or other person appointed by BODA to assume all duties normally performed by the clerk of a court.
- (e) “CDC” is the Chief Disciplinary Counsel for the State Bar of Texas and his or her assistants.
- (f) “Commission” is the Commission for Lawyer Discipline, a permanent committee of the State Bar of Texas.
- (g) “Executive Director” is the executive director of BODA.
- (h) “Panel” is any three-member grouping of BODA under TRDP 7.05.
- (i) “Party” is a Complainant, a Respondent, or the Commission.
- (j) “TDRPC” is the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.
- (k) “TRAP” is the Texas Rules of Appellate Procedure.
- (l) “TRCP” is the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure.
- (m) “TRDP” is the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.
- (n) “TRE” is the Texas Rules of Evidence.

#### Rule 1.02. General Powers

Under TRDP 7.08, BODA has and may exercise all the powers of either a trial court or an appellate court, as the case may be, in hearing and determining disciplinary proceedings. But TRDP 15.01 [17.01] applies to the enforcement of a judgment of BODA.

#### Rule 1.03. Additional Rules in Disciplinary Matters

Except as varied by these rules and to the extent applicable, the TRCP, TRAP, and TRE apply to all disciplinary matters before BODA, except for appeals from classification decisions, which are governed by TRDP 2.10 and by Section 3 of these rules.

#### Rule 1.04. Appointment of Panels

- (a) BODA may consider any matter or motion by panel,

except as specified in (b). The Chair may delegate to the Executive Director the duty to appoint a panel for any BODA action. Decisions are made by a majority vote of the panel; however, any panel member may refer a matter for consideration by BODA sitting en banc. Nothing in these rules gives a party the right to be heard by BODA sitting en banc.

- (b) Any disciplinary matter naming a BODA member as Respondent must be considered by BODA sitting en banc. A disciplinary matter naming a BODA staff member as Respondent need not be heard en banc.

#### Rule 1.05. Filing of Pleadings, Motions, and Other Papers

- (a) **Electronic Filing.** All documents must be filed electronically. Unrepresented persons or those without the means to file electronically may electronically file documents, but it is not required.

- (1) Email Address. The email address of an attorney or an unrepresented party who electronically files a document must be included on the document.

- (2) Timely Filing. Documents are filed electronically by emailing the document to the BODA Clerk at the email address designated by BODA for that purpose. A document filed by email will be considered filed the day that the email is sent. The date sent is the date shown for the message in the inbox of the email account designated for receiving filings. If a document is sent after 5:00 p.m. or on a weekend or holiday officially observed by the State of Texas, it is considered filed the next business day.

- (3) It is the responsibility of the party filing a document by email to obtain the correct email address for BODA and to confirm that the document was received by BODA in legible form. Any document that is illegible or that cannot be opened as part of an email attachment will not be considered filed. If a document is untimely due to a technical failure or a system outage, the filing party may seek appropriate relief from BODA.

- (4) Exceptions.

- (i) An appeal to BODA of a decision by the CDC to classify a grievance as an inquiry is not required to be filed electronically.

- (ii) The following documents must not be filed electronically:

- a) documents that are filed under seal or subject to a pending motion to seal; and

- b) documents to which access is otherwise restricted by court order.

- (iii) For good cause, BODA may permit a party to file other documents in paper form in a particular case.

- (5) Format. An electronically filed document must:

- (i) be in text-searchable portable document format (PDF);
- (ii) be directly converted to PDF rather than scanned, if possible; and
- (iii) not be locked.

(b) A paper will not be deemed filed if it is sent to an individual BODA member or to another address other than the address designated by BODA under Rule 1.05(a)(2).

(c) **Signing.** Each brief, motion, or other paper filed must be signed by at least one attorney for the party or by the party pro se and must give the State Bar of Texas card number, mailing address, telephone number, email address, and fax number, if any, of each attorney whose name is signed or of the party (if applicable). A document is considered signed if the document includes:

- (1) an “/s/” and name typed in the space where the signature would otherwise appear, unless the document is notarized or sworn; or
- (2) an electronic image or scanned image of the signature.

(d) **Paper Copies.** Unless required by BODA, a party need not file a paper copy of an electronically filed document.

(e) **Service.** Copies of all documents filed by any party other than the record filed by the evidentiary panel clerk or the court reporter must, at or before the time of filing, be served on all other parties as required and authorized by the TRAP.

#### **Rule 1.06. Service of Petition**

In any disciplinary proceeding before BODA initiated by service of a petition on the Respondent, the petition must be served by personal service; by certified mail with return receipt requested; or, if permitted by BODA, in any other manner that is authorized by the TRCP and reasonably calculated under all the circumstances to apprise the Respondent of the proceeding and to give him or her reasonable time to appear and answer. To establish service by certified mail, the return receipt must contain the Respondent’s signature.

#### **Rule 1.07. Hearing Setting and Notice**

(a) **Original Petitions.** In any kind of case initiated by the CDC’s filing a petition or motion with BODA, the CDC may contact the BODA Clerk for the next regularly available hearing date before filing the original petition. If a hearing is set before the petition is filed, the petition must state the date, time, and place of the hearing. Except in the case of a petition to revoke probation under TRDP 2.23 [2.22], the hearing date must be at least 30 days from the date that the petition is served on the Respondent.

(b) **Expedited Settings.** If a party desires a hearing on a matter on a date earlier than the next regularly available BODA hearing date, the party may request an expedited setting in a written motion setting out the reasons for the

request. Unless the parties agree otherwise, and except in the case of a petition to revoke probation under TRDP 2.23 [2.22], the expedited hearing setting must be at least 30 days from the date of service of the petition, motion, or other pleading. BODA has the sole discretion to grant or deny a request for an expedited hearing date.

(c) **Setting Notices.** BODA must notify the parties of any hearing date that is not noticed in an original petition or motion.

(d) **Announcement Docket.** Attorneys and parties appearing before BODA must confirm their presence and present any questions regarding procedure to the BODA Clerk in the courtroom immediately prior to the time docket call is scheduled to begin. Each party with a matter on the docket must appear at the docket call to give an announcement of readiness, to give a time estimate for the hearing, and to present any preliminary motions or matters. Immediately following the docket call, the Chair will set and announce the order of cases to be heard.

#### **Rule 1.08. Time to Answer**

The Respondent may file an answer at any time, except where expressly provided otherwise by these rules or the TRDP, or when an answer date has been set by prior order of BODA. BODA may, but is not required to, consider an answer filed the day of the hearing.

#### **Rule 1.09. Pretrial Procedure**

##### **(a) Motions.**

(1) Generally. To request an order or other relief, a party must file a motion supported by sufficient cause with proof of service on all other parties. The motion must state with particularity the grounds on which it is based and set forth the relief sought. All supporting briefs, affidavits, or other documents must be served and filed with the motion. A party may file a response to a motion at any time before BODA rules on the motion or by any deadline set by BODA. Unless otherwise required by these rules or the TRDP, the form of a motion must comply with the TRCP or the TRAP.

(2) For Extension of Time. All motions for extension of time in any matter before BODA must be in writing, comply with (a)(1), and specify the following:

- (i) if applicable, the date of notice of decision of the evidentiary panel, together with the number and style of the case;
- (ii) if an appeal has been perfected, the date when the appeal was perfected;
- (iii) the original deadline for filing the item in question;
- (iv) the length of time requested for the extension;
- (v) the number of extensions of time that have been granted previously regarding the item in question; and

(vi) the facts relied on to reasonably explain the need for an extension.

(b) **Pretrial Scheduling Conference.** Any party may request a pretrial scheduling conference, or BODA on its own motion may require a pretrial scheduling conference.

(c) **Trial Briefs.** In any disciplinary proceeding before BODA, except with leave, all trial briefs and memoranda must be filed with the BODA Clerk no later than ten days before the day of the hearing.

(d) **Hearing Exhibits, Witness Lists, and Exhibits Tendered for Argument.** A party may file a witness list, exhibit, or any other document to be used at a hearing or oral argument before the hearing or argument. A party must bring to the hearing an original and 12 copies of any document that was not filed at least one business day before the hearing. The original and copies must be:

- (1) marked;
- (2) indexed with the title or description of the item offered as an exhibit; and
- (3) if voluminous, bound to lie flat when open and tabbed in accordance with the index.

All documents must be marked and provided to the opposing party before the hearing or argument begins.

#### **Rule 1.10. Decisions**

(a) **Notice of Decisions.** The BODA Clerk must give notice of all decisions and opinions to the parties or their attorneys of record.

(b) **Publication of Decisions.** BODA must report judgments or orders of public discipline:

- (1) as required by the TRDP; and
- (2) on its website for a period of at least ten years following the date of the disciplinary judgment or order.

(c) **Abstracts of Classification Appeals.** BODA may, in its discretion, prepare an abstract of a classification appeal for a public reporting service.

#### **Rule 1.11. Board of Disciplinary Appeals Opinions**

(a) BODA may render judgment in any disciplinary matter with or without written opinion. In accordance with TRDP 6.06, all written opinions of BODA are open to the public and must be made available to the public reporting services, print or electronic, for publishing. A majority of the members who participate in considering the disciplinary matter must determine if an opinion will be written. The names of the participating members must be noted on all written opinions of BODA.

(b) Only a BODA member who participated in the decision of a disciplinary matter may file or join in a written opinion concurring in or dissenting from the judgment of BODA. For purposes of this rule, in hearings in which evidence is taken, no member may participate in

the decision unless that member was present at the hearing. In all other proceedings, no member may participate unless that member has reviewed the record. Any member of BODA may file a written opinion in connection with the denial of a hearing or rehearing en banc.

(c) A BODA determination in an appeal from a grievance classification decision under TRDP 2.10 is not a judgment for purposes of this rule and may be issued without a written opinion.

#### **Rule 1.12. BODA Work Product and Drafts**

A document or record of any nature—regardless of its form, characteristics, or means of transmission—that is created or produced in connection with or related to BODA’s adjudicative decision-making process is not subject to disclosure or discovery. This includes documents prepared by any BODA member, BODA staff, or any other person acting on behalf of or at the direction of BODA.

#### **Rule 1.13. Record Retention**

Records of appeals from classification decisions must be retained by the BODA Clerk for a period of at least three years from the date of disposition. Records of other disciplinary matters must be retained for a period of at least five years from the date of final judgment, or for at least one year after the date a suspension or disbarment ends, whichever is later. For purposes of this rule, a record is any document, paper, letter, map, book, tape, photograph, film, recording, or other material filed with BODA, regardless of its form, characteristics, or means of transmission.

#### **Rule 1.14. Costs of Reproduction of Records**

The BODA Clerk may charge a reasonable amount for the reproduction of nonconfidential records filed with BODA. The fee must be paid in advance to the BODA Clerk.

#### **Rule 1.15. Publication of These Rules**

These rules will be published as part of the TDRPC and TRDP.

## **II. ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS**

#### **Rule 2.01. Representing or Counseling Parties in Disciplinary Matters and Legal Malpractice Cases**

(a) A current member of BODA must not represent a party or testify voluntarily in a disciplinary action or proceeding. Any BODA member who is subpoenaed or otherwise compelled to appear at a disciplinary action or proceeding, including at a deposition, must promptly notify the BODA Chair.

(b) A current BODA member must not serve as an expert witness on the TDRPC.

(c) A BODA member may represent a party in a legal malpractice case, provided that he or she is later recused in accordance with these rules from any proceeding before BODA arising out of the same facts.



## **Rule 2.02. Confidentiality**

(a) BODA deliberations are confidential, must not be disclosed by BODA members or staff, and are not subject to disclosure or discovery.

(b) Classification appeals, appeals from evidentiary judgments of private reprimand, appeals from an evidentiary judgment dismissing a case, interlocutory appeals or any interim proceedings from an ongoing evidentiary case, and disability cases are confidential under the TRDP. BODA must maintain all records associated with these cases as confidential, subject to disclosure only as provided in the TRDP and these rules.

(c) If a member of BODA is subpoenaed or otherwise compelled by law to testify in any proceeding, the member must not disclose a matter that was discussed in conference in connection with a disciplinary case unless the member is required to do so by a court of competent jurisdiction

## **Rule 2.03. Disqualification and Recusal of BODA Members**

(a) BODA members are subject to disqualification and recusal as provided in TRCP 18b.

(b) BODA members may, in addition to recusals under (a), voluntarily recuse themselves from any discussion and voting for any reason. The reasons that a BODA member is recused from a case are not subject to discovery.

(c) These rules do not disqualify a lawyer who is a member of, or associated with, the law firm of a BODA member from serving on a grievance committee or representing a party in a disciplinary proceeding or legal malpractice case. But a BODA member must recuse him or herself from any matter in which a lawyer who is a member of, or associated with, the BODA member's firm is a party or represents a party.

## **III. CLASSIFICATION APPEALS**

### **Rule 3.01. Notice of Right to Appeal**

(a) If a grievance filed by the Complainant under TRDP 2.10 is classified as an inquiry, the CDC must notify the Complainant of his or her right to appeal as set out in TRDP 2.10 or another applicable rule.

(b) To facilitate the potential filing of an appeal of a grievance classified as an inquiry, the CDC must send the Complainant an appeal notice form, approved by BODA, with the classification disposition. The form must include the docket number of the matter; the deadline for appealing; and information for mailing, faxing, or emailing the appeal notice form to BODA. The appeal notice form must be available in English and Spanish.

### **Rule 3.02. Record on Appeal**

BODA must only consider documents that were filed with the CDC prior to the classification decision. When a notice of appeal from a classification decision has been filed, the CDC must forward to BODA a copy of the grievance and

all supporting documentation. If the appeal challenges the classification of an amended grievance, the CDC must also send BODA a copy of the initial grievance, unless it has been destroyed.

## **IV. APPEALS FROM EVIDENTIARY PANEL HEARINGS**

### **Rule 4.01. Perfecting Appeal**

(a) **Appellate Timetable.** The date that the evidentiary judgment is signed starts the appellate timetable under this section. To make TRDP 2.21 [2.20] consistent with this requirement, the date that the judgment is signed is the "date of notice" under Rule 2.21 [2.20].

(b) **Notification of the Evidentiary Judgment.** The clerk of the evidentiary panel must notify the parties of the judgment as set out in TRDP 2.21 [2.20].

(1) The evidentiary panel clerk must notify the Commission and the Respondent in writing of the judgment. The notice must contain a clear statement that any appeal of the judgment must be filed with BODA within 30 days of the date that the judgment was signed. The notice must include a copy of the judgment rendered.

(2) The evidentiary panel clerk must notify the Complainant that a judgment has been rendered and provide a copy of the judgment, unless the evidentiary panel dismissed the case or imposed a private reprimand. In the case of a dismissal or private reprimand, the evidentiary panel clerk must notify the Complainant of the decision and that the contents of the judgment are confidential. Under TRDP 2.16, no additional information regarding the contents of a judgment of dismissal or private reprimand may be disclosed to the Complainant.

(c) **Filing Notice of Appeal.** An appeal is perfected when a written notice of appeal is filed with BODA. If a notice of appeal and any other accompanying documents are mistakenly filed with the evidentiary panel clerk, the notice is deemed to have been filed the same day with BODA, and the evidentiary panel clerk must immediately send the BODA Clerk a copy of the notice and any accompanying documents.

(d) **Time to File.** In accordance with TRDP 2.24 [2.23], the notice of appeal must be filed within 30 days after the date the judgment is signed. In the event a motion for new trial or motion to modify the judgment is timely filed with the evidentiary panel, the notice of appeal must be filed with BODA within 90 days from the date the judgment is signed.

(e) **Extension of Time.** A motion for an extension of time to file the notice of appeal must be filed no later than 15 days after the last day allowed for filing the notice of appeal. The motion must comply with Rule 1.09.

## **Rule 4.02. Record on Appeal**

(a) **Contents.** The record on appeal consists of the evidentiary panel clerk's record and, where necessary to the appeal, a reporter's record of the evidentiary panel hearing.

(b) **Stipulation as to Record.** The parties may designate parts of the clerk's record and the reporter's record to be included in the record on appeal by written stipulation filed with the clerk of the evidentiary panel.

### **(c) Responsibility for Filing Record.**

#### **(1) Clerk's Record.**

(i) After receiving notice that an appeal has been filed, the clerk of the evidentiary panel is responsible for preparing, certifying, and timely filing the clerk's record.

(ii) Unless the parties stipulate otherwise, the clerk's record on appeal must contain the items listed in TRAP 34.5(a) and any other paper on file with the evidentiary panel, including the election letter, all pleadings on which the hearing was held, the docket sheet, the evidentiary panel's charge, any findings of fact and conclusions of law, all other pleadings, the judgment or other orders appealed from, the notice of decision sent to each party, any postsubmission pleadings and briefs, and the notice of appeal.

(iii) If the clerk of the evidentiary panel is unable for any reason to prepare and transmit the clerk's record by the due date, he or she must promptly notify BODA and the parties, explain why the clerk's record cannot be timely filed, and give the date by which he or she expects the clerk's record to be filed.

#### **(2) Reporter's Record.**

(i) The court reporter for the evidentiary panel is responsible for timely filing the reporter's record if:

- a) a notice of appeal has been filed;
- b) a party has requested that all or part of the reporter's record be prepared; and
- c) the party requesting all or part of the reporter's record has paid the reporter's fee or has made satisfactory arrangements with the reporter.

(ii) If the court reporter is unable for any reason to prepare and transmit the reporter's record by the due date, he or she must promptly notify BODA and the parties, explain the reasons why the reporter's record cannot be timely filed, and give the date by which he or she expects the reporter's record to be filed.

### **(d) Preparation of Clerk's Record.**

(1) To prepare the clerk's record, the evidentiary panel clerk must:

- (i) gather the documents designated by the parties'

written stipulation or, if no stipulation was filed, the documents required under (c)(1)(ii);

(ii) start each document on a new page;

(iii) include the date of filing on each document;

(iv) arrange the documents in chronological order, either by the date of filing or the date of occurrence;

(v) number the pages of the clerk's record in the manner required by (d)(2);

(vi) prepare and include, after the front cover of the clerk's record, a detailed table of contents that complies with (d)(3); and

(vii) certify the clerk's record.

(2) The clerk must start the page numbering on the front cover of the first volume of the clerk's record and continue to number all pages consecutively—including the front and back covers, tables of contents, certification page, and separator pages, if any—until the final page of the clerk's record, without regard for the number of volumes in the clerk's record, and place each page number at the bottom of each page.

(3) The table of contents must:

(i) identify each document in the entire record (including sealed documents); the date each document was filed; and, except for sealed documents, the page on which each document begins;

(ii) be double-spaced;

(iii) conform to the order in which documents appear in the clerk's record, rather than in alphabetical order;

(iv) contain bookmarks linking each description in the table of contents (except for descriptions of sealed documents) to the page on which the document begins; and

(v) if the record consists of multiple volumes, indicate the page on which each volume begins.

(e) **Electronic Filing of the Clerk's Record.** The evidentiary panel clerk must file the record electronically. When filing a clerk's record in electronic form, the evidentiary panel clerk must:

(1) file each computer file in text-searchable Portable Document Format (PDF);

(2) create electronic bookmarks to mark the first page of each document in the clerk's record;

(3) limit the size of each computer file to 100 MB or less, if possible; and

(4) directly convert, rather than scan, the record to PDF, if possible.

(f) **Preparation of the Reporter's Record.**

(1) The appellant, at or before the time prescribed for

perfecting the appeal, must make a written request for the reporter's record to the court reporter for the evidentiary panel. The request must designate the portion of the evidence and other proceedings to be included. A copy of the request must be filed with the evidentiary panel and BODA and must be served on the appellee. The reporter's record must be certified by the court reporter for the evidentiary panel.

(2) The court reporter or recorder must prepare and file the reporter's record in accordance with TRAP 34.6 and 35 and the Uniform Format Manual for Texas Reporters' Records.

(3) The court reporter or recorder must file the reporter's record in an electronic format by emailing the document to the email address designated by BODA for that purpose.

(4) The court reporter or recorder must include either a scanned image of any required signature or "/s/" and name typed in the space where the signature would otherwise

(6<sup>1</sup>) In exhibit volumes, the court reporter or recorder must create bookmarks to mark the first page of each exhibit document.

(g) **Other Requests.** At any time before the clerk's record is prepared, or within ten days after service of a copy of appellant's request for the reporter's record, any party may file a written designation requesting that additional exhibits and portions of testimony be included in the record. The request must be filed with the evidentiary panel and BODA and must be served on the other party.

(h) **Inaccuracies or Defects.** If the clerk's record is found to be defective or inaccurate, the BODA Clerk must inform the clerk of the evidentiary panel of the defect or inaccuracy and instruct the clerk to make the correction. Any inaccuracies in the reporter's record may be corrected by agreement of the parties without the court reporter's recertification. Any dispute regarding the reporter's record that the parties are unable to resolve by agreement must be resolved by the evidentiary panel.

(i) **Appeal from Private Reprimand.** Under TRDP 2.16, in an appeal from a judgment of private reprimand, BODA must mark the record as confidential, remove the attorney's name from the case style, and take any other steps necessary to preserve the confidentiality of the private reprimand.

<sup>1</sup> So in original.

#### **Rule 4.03. Time to File Record**

(a) **Timetable.** The clerk's record and reporter's record must be filed within 60 days after the date the judgment is signed. If a motion for new trial or motion to modify the judgment is filed with the evidentiary panel, the clerk's record and the reporter's record must be filed within 120 days from the date the original judgment is signed, unless

a modified judgment is signed, in which case the clerk's record and the reporter's record must be filed within 60 days of the signing of the modified judgment. Failure to file either the clerk's record or the reporter's record on time does not affect BODA's jurisdiction, but may result in BODA's exercising its discretion to dismiss the appeal, affirm the judgment appealed from, disregard materials filed late, or apply presumptions against the appellant.

#### **(b) If No Record Filed.**

(1) If the clerk's record or reporter's record has not been timely filed, the BODA Clerk must send notice to the party responsible for filing it, stating that the record is late and requesting that the record be filed within 30 days. The BODA Clerk must send a copy of this notice to all the parties and the clerk of the evidentiary panel.

(2) If no reporter's record is filed due to appellant's fault, and if the clerk's record has been filed, BODA may, after first giving the appellant notice and a reasonable opportunity to cure, consider and decide those issues or points that do not require a reporter's record for a decision. BODA may do this if no reporter's record has been filed because:

(i) the appellant failed to request a reporter's record; or

(ii) the appellant failed to pay or make arrangements to pay the reporter's fee to prepare the reporter's record, and the appellant is not entitled to proceed without payment of costs.

#### **(c) Extension of Time to File the Reporter's Record.**

When an extension of time is requested for filing the reporter's record, the facts relied on to reasonably explain the need for an extension must be supported by an affidavit of the court reporter. The affidavit must include the court reporter's estimate of the earliest date when the reporter's record will be available for filing.

(d) **Supplemental Record.** If anything material to either party is omitted from the clerk's record or reporter's record, BODA may, on written motion of a party or on its own motion, direct a supplemental record to be certified and transmitted by the clerk for the evidentiary panel or the court reporter for the evidentiary panel.

#### **Rule 4.04. Copies of the Record**

The record may not be withdrawn from the custody of the BODA Clerk. Any party may obtain a copy of the record or any designated part thereof by making a written request to the BODA Clerk and paying any charges for reproduction in advance.

#### **Rule 4.05. Requisites of Briefs**

(a) **Appellant's Filing Date.** Appellant's brief must be filed within 30 days after the clerk's record or the reporter's record is filed, whichever is later.

(b) **Appellee's Filing Date.** Appellee's brief must be filed

within 30 days after the appellant's brief is filed.

**(c) Contents.** Briefs must contain:

- (1) a complete list of the names and addresses of all parties to the final decision and their counsel;
- (2) a table of contents indicating the subject matter of each issue or point, or group of issues or points, with page references where the discussion of each point relied on may be found;
- (3) an index of authorities arranged alphabetically and indicating the pages where the authorities are cited;
- (4) a statement of the case containing a brief general statement of the nature of the cause or offense and the result;
- (5) a statement, without argument, of the basis of BODA's jurisdiction;
- (6) a statement of the issues presented for review or points of error on which the appeal is predicated;
- (7) a statement of facts that is without argument, is supported by record references, and details the facts relating to the issues or points relied on in the appeal;
- (8) the argument and authorities;
- (9) conclusion and prayer for relief;
- (10) a certificate of service; and
- (11) an appendix of record excerpts pertinent to the issues presented for review.

**(d) Length of Briefs; Contents Included and Excluded.**

In calculating the length of a document, every word and every part of the document, including headings, footnotes, and quotations, must be counted except the following: caption, identity of the parties and counsel, statement regarding oral argument, table of contents, index of authorities, statement of the case, statement of issues presented, statement of the jurisdiction, signature, proof of service, certificate of compliance, and appendix. Briefs must not exceed 15,000 words if computer-generated, and 50 pages if not, except on leave of BODA. A reply brief must not exceed 7,500 words if computer-generated, and 25 pages if not, except on leave of BODA. A computer generated document must include a certificate by counsel or the unrepresented party stating the number of words in the document. The person who signs the certification may rely on the word count of the computer program used to prepare the document.

**(e) Amendment or Supplementation.** BODA has discretion to grant leave to amend or supplement briefs.

**(f) Failure of the Appellant to File a Brief.** If the appellant fails to timely file a brief, BODA may:

- (1) dismiss the appeal for want of prosecution, unless the appellant reasonably explains the failure, and the appellee is not significantly injured by the appellant's

failure to timely file a brief;

(2) decline to dismiss the appeal and make further orders within its discretion as it considers proper; or

(3) if an appellee's brief is filed, regard that brief as correctly presenting the case and affirm the evidentiary panel's judgment on that brief without examining the record.

**Rule 4.06. Oral Argument**

**(a) Request.** A party desiring oral argument must note the request on the front cover of the party's brief. A party's failure to timely request oral argument waives the party's right to argue. A party who has requested argument may later withdraw the request. But even if a party has waived oral argument, BODA may direct the party to appear and argue. If oral argument is granted, the clerk will notify the parties of the time and place for submission.

**(b) Right to Oral Argument.** A party who has filed a brief and who has timely requested oral argument may argue the case to BODA unless BODA, after examining the briefs, decides that oral argument is unnecessary for any of the following reasons:

- (1) the appeal is frivolous;
- (2) the dispositive issue or issues have been authoritatively decided;
- (3) the facts and legal arguments are adequately presented in the briefs and record; or
- (4) the decisional process would not be significantly aided by oral argument.

**(c) Time Allowed.** Each party will have 20 minutes to argue. BODA may, on the request of a party or on its own, extend or shorten the time allowed for oral argument. The appellant may reserve a portion of his or her allotted time for rebuttal.

**Rule 4.07. Decision and Judgment**

**(a) Decision.** BODA may do any of the following:

- (1) affirm in whole or in part the decision of the evidentiary panel;
- (2) modify the panel's findings and affirm the findings as modified;
- (3) reverse in whole or in part the panel's findings and render the decision that the panel should have rendered; or
- (4) reverse the panel's findings and remand the cause for further proceedings to be conducted by:

- (i) the panel that entered the findings; or
- (ii) a statewide grievance committee panel appointed by BODA and composed of members selected from the state bar districts other than the district from which the appeal was taken.

**(b) Mandate.** In every appeal, the BODA Clerk must issue a mandate in accordance with BODA’s judgment and send it to the evidentiary panel and to all the parties.

**Rule 4.08. Appointment of Statewide Grievance Committee**

If BODA remands a cause for further proceedings before a statewide grievance committee, the BODA Chair will appoint the statewide grievance committee in accordance with TRDP 2.27 [2.26]. The committee must consist of six members: four attorney members and two public members randomly selected from the current pool of grievance committee members. Two alternates, consisting of one attorney and one public member, must also be selected. BODA will appoint the initial chair who will serve until the members of the statewide grievance committee elect a chair of the committee at the first meeting. The BODA Clerk will notify the Respondent and the CDC that a committee has been appointed.

**Rule 4.09. Involuntary Dismissal**

Under the following circumstances and on any party’s motion or on its own initiative after giving at least ten days’ notice to all parties, BODA may dismiss the appeal or affirm the appealed judgment or order. Dismissal or affirmance may occur if the appeal is subject to dismissal:

- (a) for want of jurisdiction;
- (b) for want of prosecution; or
- (c) because the appellant has failed to comply with a requirement of these rules, a court order, or a notice from the clerk requiring a response or other action within a specified time.

**V. PETITIONS TO REVOKE PROBATION**

**Rule 5.01. Initiation and Service**

(a) Before filing a motion to revoke the probation of an attorney who has been sanctioned, the CDC must contact the BODA Clerk to confirm whether the next regularly available hearing date will comply with the 30-day requirement of TRDP. The Chair may designate a three-member panel to hear the motion, if necessary, to meet the 30-day requirement of TRDP 2.23 [2.22].

(b) Upon filing the motion, the CDC must serve the Respondent with the motion and any supporting documents in accordance with TRDP 2.23 [2.22], the TRCP, and these rules. The CDC must notify BODA of the date that service is obtained on the Respondent.

**Rule 5.02. Hearing**

Within 30 days of service of the motion on the Respondent, BODA must docket and set the matter for a hearing and notify the parties of the time and place of the hearing. On a showing of good cause by a party or on its own motion, BODA may continue the case to a future hearing date as circumstances require.

**VI. COMPULSORY DISCIPLINE**

**Rule 6.01. Initiation of Proceeding**

Under TRDP 8.03, the CDC must file a petition for compulsory discipline with BODA and serve the Respondent in accordance with the TRDP and Rule 1.06 of these rules.

**Rule 6.02. Interlocutory Suspension**

(a) **Interlocutory Suspension.** In any compulsory proceeding under TRDP Part VIII in which BODA determines that the Respondent has been convicted of an Intentional Crime and that the criminal conviction is on direct appeal, BODA must suspend the Respondent’s license to practice law by interlocutory order. In any compulsory case in which BODA has imposed an interlocutory order of suspension, BODA retains jurisdiction to render final judgment after the direct appeal of the criminal conviction is final. For purposes of rendering final judgment in a compulsory discipline case, the direct appeal of the criminal conviction is final when the appellate court issues its mandate.

(b) **Criminal Conviction Affirmed.** If the criminal conviction made the basis of a compulsory interlocutory suspension is affirmed and becomes final, the CDC must file a motion for final judgment that complies with TRDP 8.05.

(1) If the criminal sentence is fully probated or is an order of deferred adjudication, the motion for final judgment must contain notice of a hearing date. The motion will be set on BODA’s next available hearing date.

(2) If the criminal sentence is not fully probated:

- (i) BODA may proceed to decide the motion without a hearing if the attorney does not file a verified denial within ten days of service of the motion; or
- (ii) BODA may set the motion for a hearing on the next available hearing date if the attorney timely files a verified denial.

(c) **Criminal Conviction Reversed.** If an appellate court issues a mandate reversing the criminal conviction while a Respondent is subject to an interlocutory suspension, the Respondent may file a motion to terminate the interlocutory suspension. The motion to terminate the interlocutory suspension must have certified copies of the decision and mandate of the reversing court attached. If the CDC does not file an opposition to the termination within ten days of being served with the motion, BODA may proceed to decide the motion without a hearing or set the matter for a hearing on its own motion. If the CDC timely opposes the motion, BODA must set the motion for a hearing on its next available hearing date. An order terminating an interlocutory order of suspension does not automatically reinstate a Respondent’s license.

## VII. RECIPROCAL DISCIPLINE

### Rule 7.01. Initiation of Proceeding

To initiate an action for reciprocal discipline under TRDP Part IX, the CDC must file a petition with BODA and request an Order to Show Cause. The petition must request that the Respondent be disciplined in Texas and have attached to it any information concerning the disciplinary matter from the other jurisdiction, including a certified copy of the order or judgment rendered against the Respondent.

### Rule 7.02. Order to Show Cause

When a petition is filed, the Chair immediately issues a show cause order and a hearing notice and forwards them to the CDC, who must serve the order and notice on the Respondent. The CDC must notify BODA of the date that service is obtained.

### Rule 7.03. Attorney's Response

If the Respondent does not file an answer within 30 days of being served with the order and notice but thereafter appears at the hearing, BODA may, at the discretion of the Chair, receive testimony from the Respondent relating to the merits of the petition.

## VIII. DISTRICT DISABILITY COMMITTEE HEARINGS

### Rule 8.01. Appointment of District Disability Committee

(a) If the evidentiary panel of the grievance committee finds under TRDP 2.17(P)(2), or the CDC reasonably believes under TRDP 2.14(C), that a Respondent is suffering from a disability, the rules in this section will apply to the de novo proceeding before the District Disability Committee held under TRDP Part XII.

(b) Upon receiving an evidentiary panel's finding or the CDC's referral that an attorney is believed to be suffering from a disability, the BODA Chair must appoint a District Disability Committee in compliance with TRDP 12.02 and designate a chair. BODA will reimburse District Disability Committee members for reasonable expenses directly related to service on the District Disability Committee. The BODA Clerk must notify the CDC and the Respondent that a committee has been appointed and notify the Respondent where to locate the procedural rules governing disability proceedings.

(c) A Respondent who has been notified that a disability referral will be or has been made to BODA may, at any time, waive in writing the appointment of the District Disability Committee or the hearing before the District Disability Committee and enter into an agreed judgment of indefinite disability suspension, provided that the Respondent is competent to waive the hearing. If the Respondent is not represented, the waiver must include a statement affirming that the Respondent has been advised of the right to appointed counsel and waives that right as well.

(d) All pleadings, motions, briefs, or other matters to be filed with the District Disability Committee must be filed with the BODA Clerk.

(e) Should any member of the District Disability Committee become unable to serve, the BODA Chair must appoint a substitute member.

### Rule 8.02. Petition and Answer

(a) **Petition.** Upon being notified that the District Disability Committee has been appointed by BODA, the CDC must, within 20 days, file with the BODA Clerk and serve on the Respondent a copy of a petition for indefinite disability suspension. Service must comply with Rule 1.06.

(b) **Answer.** The Respondent must, within 30 days after service of the petition for indefinite disability suspension, file an answer with the BODA Clerk and serve a copy of the answer on the CDC.

(c) **Hearing Setting.** The BODA Clerk must set the final hearing as instructed by the chair of the District Disability Committee and send notice of the hearing to the parties.

### Rule 8.03. Discovery

(a) **Limited Discovery.** The District Disability Committee may permit limited discovery. The party seeking discovery must file with the BODA Clerk a written request that makes a clear showing of good cause and substantial need and a proposed order. If the District Disability Committee authorizes discovery in a case, it must issue a written order. The order may impose limitations or deadlines on the discovery.

(b) **Physical or Mental Examinations.** On written motion by the Commission or on its own motion, the District Disability Committee may order the Respondent to submit to a physical or mental examination by a qualified healthcare or mental healthcare professional. Nothing in this rule limits the Respondent's right to an examination by a professional of his or her choice in addition to any exam ordered by the District Disability Committee.

(1) Motion. The Respondent must be given reasonable notice of the examination by written order specifying the name, address, and telephone number of the person conducting the examination.

(2) Report. The examining professional must file with the BODA Clerk a detailed, written report that includes the results of all tests performed and the professional's findings, diagnoses, and conclusions. The professional must send a copy of the report to the CDC and the Respondent.

(c) **Objections.** A party must make any objection to a request for discovery within 15 days of receiving the motion by filing a written objection with the BODA Clerk. BODA may decide any objection or contest to a discovery motion.

#### **Rule 8.04. Ability to Compel Attendance**

The Respondent and the CDC may confront and cross-examine witnesses at the hearing. Compulsory process to compel the attendance of witnesses by subpoena, enforceable by an order of a district court of proper jurisdiction, is available to the Respondent and the CDC as provided in TRCP 176.

#### **Rule 8.05. Respondent's Right to Counsel**

(a) The notice to the Respondent that a District Disability Committee has been appointed and the petition for indefinite disability suspension must state that the Respondent may request appointment of counsel by BODA to represent him or her at the disability hearing. BODA will reimburse appointed counsel for reasonable expenses directly related to representation of the Respondent.

(b) To receive appointed counsel under TRDP 12.02, the Respondent must file a written request with the BODA Clerk within 30 days of the date that Respondent is served with the petition for indefinite disability suspension. A late request must demonstrate good cause for the Respondent's failure to file a timely request.

#### **Rule 8.06. Hearing**

The party seeking to establish the disability must prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the Respondent is suffering from a disability as defined in the TRDP. The chair of the District Disability Committee must admit all relevant evidence that is necessary for a fair and complete hearing. The TRE are advisory but not binding on the chair.

#### **Rule 8.07. Notice of Decision**

The District Disability Committee must certify its finding regarding disability to BODA, which will issue the final judgment in the matter.

#### **Rule 8.08. Confidentiality**

All proceedings before the District Disability Committee and BODA, if necessary, are closed to the public. All matters before the District Disability Committee are confidential and are not subject to disclosure or discovery, except as allowed by the TRDP or as may be required in the event of an appeal to the Supreme Court of Texas.

### **IX. DISABILITY REINSTATEMENTS**

#### **Rule 9.01. Petition for Reinstatement**

(a) An attorney under an indefinite disability suspension may, at any time after he or she has been suspended, file a verified petition with BODA to have the suspension terminated and to be reinstated to the practice of law. The petitioner must serve a copy of the petition on the CDC in the manner required by TRDP 12.06. The TRCP apply to a reinstatement proceeding unless they conflict with these rules.

(b) The petition must include the information required by TRDP 12.06. If the judgment of disability suspension

contained terms or conditions relating to misconduct by the petitioner prior to the suspension, the petition must affirmatively demonstrate that those terms have been complied with or explain why they have not been satisfied. The petitioner has a duty to amend and keep current all information in the petition until the final hearing on the merits. Failure to do so may result in dismissal without notice.

(c) Disability reinstatement proceedings before BODA are not confidential; however, BODA may make all or any part of the record of the proceeding confidential.

#### **Rule 9.02. Discovery**

The discovery period is 60 days from the date that the petition for reinstatement is filed. The BODA Clerk will set the petition for a hearing on the first date available after the close of the discovery period and must notify the parties of the time and place of the hearing. BODA may continue the hearing for good cause shown.

#### **Rule 9.03. Physical or Mental Examinations**

(a) On written motion by the Commission or on its own, BODA may order the petitioner seeking reinstatement to submit to a physical or mental examination by a qualified healthcare or mental healthcare professional. The petitioner must be served with a copy of the motion and given at least seven days to respond. BODA may hold a hearing before ruling on the motion but is not required to do so.

(b) The petitioner must be given reasonable notice of the examination by written order specifying the name, address, and telephone number of the person conducting the examination.

(c) The examining professional must file a detailed, written report that includes the results of all tests performed and the professional's findings, diagnoses, and conclusions. The professional must send a copy of the report to the parties.

(d) If the petitioner fails to submit to an examination as ordered, BODA may dismiss the petition without notice.

(e) Nothing in this rule limits the petitioner's right to an examination by a professional of his or her choice in addition to any exam ordered by BODA.

#### **Rule 9.04. Judgment**

If, after hearing all the evidence, BODA determines that the petitioner is not eligible for reinstatement, BODA may, in its discretion, either enter an order denying the petition or direct that the petition be held in abeyance for a reasonable period of time until the petitioner provides additional proof as directed by BODA. The judgment may include other orders necessary to protect the public and the petitioner's potential clients.

## **X. APPEALS FROM BODA TO THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS**

### **Rule 10.01. Appeals to the Supreme Court**

(a) A final decision by BODA, except a determination that a statement constitutes an inquiry or a complaint under TRDP 2.10, may be appealed to the Supreme Court of Texas. The clerk of the Supreme Court of Texas must docket an appeal from a decision by BODA in the same manner as a petition for review without fee.

(b) The appealing party must file the notice of appeal directly with the clerk of the Supreme Court of Texas within 14 days of receiving notice of a final determination by BODA. The record must be filed within 60 days after BODA's determination. The appealing party's brief is due 30 days after the record is filed, and the responding party's brief is due 30 days thereafter. The BODA Clerk must send the parties a notice of BODA's final decision that includes the information in this paragraph.

(c) An appeal to the Supreme Court is governed by TRDP 7.11 and the TRAP.



<p>SUPREME COURT, STATE OF COLORADO</p> <p>ORIGINAL PROCEEDING IN DISCIPLINE BEFORE THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDING DISCIPLINARY JUDGE 1300 BROADWAY, SUITE 250 DENVER, CO 80203</p>		<p><b>Supreme Court</b> State of Colorado Certified to be a full, true and correct copy</p> <p><b>NOV 16 2018</b></p> <p>Office of the Presiding Disciplinary Judge By <u>[Signature]</u></p>
<p><b>Complainant:</b> THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO</p> <p><b>Respondent:</b> WILLIAM KEVIN GOODE, #37063</p>		<p>Case Number: 17PDJ059</p>
<p><b>OPINION AND DECISION IMPOSING SANCTIONS UNDER C.R.C.P. 251.19(c)</b></p>		

William Kevin Goode (“Respondent”) was convicted of twenty-eight felony counts of cruelty to animals, based on the pain and suffering he inflicted on twenty dogs and eight cats in his care. He never reported his conviction to disciplinary authorities and declined to participate in this proceeding. Respondent’s misconduct warrants a suspension of two years.

### I. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On August 16, 2017, Sara C. Van Deusen, Office of Attorney Regulation Counsel (“the People”), filed a complaint with the Presiding Disciplinary Judge (“the Court”). The same day, the People sent copies of the complaint to Respondent via certified and regular mail at his registered business address and his last-known addresses. Respondent failed to answer, and the Court granted the People’s motion for default on October 27, 2017. Upon the entry of default, the Court deemed all facts set forth in the complaint admitted and all rule violations established by clear and convincing evidence.<sup>1</sup>

On March 6, 2017, the Court held a sanctions hearing under C.R.C.P. 251.15(b). Van Deusen represented the People. Respondent did not appear. The People represented that Respondent had left them voicemails the night before and the morning of the hearing in which he stated that he did not wish to participate.<sup>2</sup> At the sanctions hearing, the People’s exhibits 1-3 were admitted into evidence.

<sup>1</sup> See C.R.C.P. 251.15(b); *People v. Richards*, 748 P.2d 341, 346 (Colo. 1987).

<sup>2</sup> At the hearing, the People mentioned that Respondent’s Colorado law license has been administratively suspended since 2007 for failure to pay attorney registration dues.



## II. ESTABLISHED FACTS AND RULE VIOLATIONS

Respondent took the oath of admission and was admitted to practice law in Colorado on November 22, 2005, under attorney registration number 37063. He is thus subject to the Court's jurisdiction in this disciplinary proceeding.<sup>3</sup>

On November 25, 2014, Respondent was charged with twenty-eight separate misdemeanor counts of cruelty to animals under C.R.S. section 18-9-202(1)(a) as well as twenty-nine separate felony counts of cruelty to animals under C.R.S. section 18-9-202(1.5)(b). Each of these fifty-seven counts relates to a dog or a cat that prosecutors alleged was in the care of Respondent.

From July 14, 2014, through January 7, 2015, Respondent was represented by the public defender. During a hearing held on January 7, 2015, Respondent testified that he had been practicing criminal defense law for thirty-two years. The court granted Respondent's leave to proceed pro se, concluding that his waiver of his right to counsel was knowing, intelligent, and voluntary.

A two-day jury trial took place on March 16 and 17, 2015. Respondent was found guilty on all fifty-seven counts. On May 13, 2015, Respondent was sentenced to eighteen months in the custody of the Department of Corrections ("DOC") on count 29, as well as an additional twelve months in the custody of the DOC on counts 30-57, to run consecutively to the sentence for count 29. Respondent was sentenced to six months in DOC's custody for each of the misdemeanor counts, to run concurrently with the sentence for count 29. He was also sentenced to one year of mandatory parole.

Under C.R.C.P. 251.20(b), Respondent was required to report his conviction to the People no later than March 31, 2015. But he failed to report the conviction at all: the People learned of Respondent's conviction independently in late 2016.

Respondent was released from the DOC and placed on parole in early 2017. On March 9, 2017, the court of appeals vacated Respondent's convictions on criminal counts 28 and 57; all other convictions were affirmed.

On July 13, 2017, Respondent was immediately suspended from the practice of law under C.R.C.P. 251.8(a).

Through his misconduct, Respondent violated Colo. RPC 3.4(c), which forbids a lawyer from knowingly disobeying an obligation under the rules of a tribunal—here, his duty to report his conviction. He also violated Colo. RPC 8.4(b), which states that it is professional misconduct for a lawyer to commit a criminal act that reflects adversely on the lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness, or fitness as a lawyer in other respects, and C.R.C.P. 251.5(b), which

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<sup>3</sup> See C.R.C.P. 251.1(b).

provides that any criminal act reflecting adversely on a lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness, or fitness as a lawyer in other respects is grounds for discipline.

### SANCTIONS

The American Bar Association *Standards for Imposing Lawyer Sanctions* ("ABA Standards")<sup>4</sup> and Colorado Supreme Court case law guide the imposition of sanctions for lawyer misconduct.<sup>5</sup> When imposing a sanction after a finding of lawyer misconduct, the Court must consider the duty violated, the lawyer's mental state, and the actual or potential injury caused by the misconduct. These three variables yield a presumptive sanction that may be adjusted based on aggravating and mitigating factors.

#### **ABA Standard 3.0 – Duty, Mental State, and Injury**

*Duty:* Lawyers are expected to uphold the law in their professional and personal conduct. By committing multiple criminal acts, Respondent violated a duty he owes to the public to maintain standards of integrity. He also violated his professional duty to the legal system by failing to report his criminal conviction to the People.

*Mental State:* The order of default establishes that Respondent knowingly failed to report his criminal conviction in contravention of Colo. RPC 3.4(c). Respondent's conviction under C.R.S. section 18-9-202(1.5)(b), which states that "[a] person commits aggravated cruelty to animals if he or she knowingly tortures, needlessly mutilates, or needlessly kills an animal," establishes that Respondent committed these criminal acts with a knowing mental state.

*Injury:* Respondent seriously harmed dozens of innocent animals in his care. The appellate court, reviewing Respondent's criminal case, concluded that the evidence was sufficient to prove that Respondent had "tortured" these animals, based on these details:

- "[T]he home was covered in feces and urine, and all of the doors and windows were blocked or barricaded, which prevented any airflow. This caused an odor so strong that the investigators could not enter the home without respirators and hazmat suits. The investigators further testified that the odor burned their throats and made their eyes water even from outside the house."<sup>6</sup>
- "[T]he dogs appeared to have insufficient food . . . the animals appeared to have been eating the drywall for nourishment. All of the investigators testified that there was no food left out for the animals, and the available water was dingy and

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<sup>4</sup> Found in ABA *Annotated Standards for Imposing Lawyer Sanctions* (2015).

<sup>5</sup> See *In re Roose*, 69 P.3d 43, 46-47 (Colo. 2003).

<sup>6</sup> Ex. 2 ¶ 12.

dirty. Moreover, . . . the carcass of a dead dog found in the home appeared to have been eaten by the other animals.”<sup>7</sup>

- “[S]everal animals were found locked in closets . . . the dogs were cramped and one of the dogs could not stand up in the space.”<sup>8</sup>
- “[T]he animals were covered in feces, smelled like urine, and were extremely frightened . . . several of the animals showed signs of upper respiratory infections. However, the veterinarian was unable to perform a full physical exam because the animals were ‘so fearful and flighty’ that they were ‘unhandleable.’”<sup>9</sup>

The court of appeals concluded that a reasonable jury could infer that animals living in these conditions, hungry and underfed, would have experienced pain and suffering.<sup>10</sup>

Respondent also caused harm to the legal profession, as the reputation of the profession is undermined when lawyers engage in criminal acts.

#### **ABA Standards 4.0-7.0 – Presumptive Sanction**

Respondent’s felony conviction is best addressed by ABA Standards 5.12 and 7.2, which both call for suspension. The former recommends suspension when a lawyer knowingly engages in criminal conduct that does not involve, inter alia, misrepresentation, and that seriously adversely reflects on the lawyer’s fitness to practice law. The latter recommends suspension when a lawyer knowingly violates a professional duty, causing injury or potential injury to a client, the public, or the legal system. Suspension is also the presumptive sanction for Respondent’s failure to report his conviction. ABA Standard 6.22 states that suspension is appropriate when a lawyer knowingly violates a court order or rule, thereby causing injury or potential injury to a client or party, or causing interference or potential interference with a legal proceeding.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Ex. 2 ¶ 13.

<sup>8</sup> Ex. 2 ¶ 14.

<sup>9</sup> Ex. 2 ¶ 15.

<sup>10</sup> Ex. 2 ¶ 16 (citing *Hynes v. State*, 1 So. 3d 328, 330 (Fla. Dist. Ct. App. 2009) (“[T]he animal’s pain or suffering due to starvation is a matter of common sense and ordinary experience . . .”).

<sup>11</sup> The People suggest that ABA Standard 6.24 is more apt here. That Standard recommends admonition when a lawyer engages in an isolated instance of negligence in complying with a court order or rules and causes little to no actual or potential interference with a legal proceeding. The People reason that Respondent’s failure to report only delayed commencement of his disciplinary proceeding, which resulted in little harm because he was administratively suspended at the time. The Court cannot endorse this rationale: the entry of default establishes that Respondent acted knowingly, not negligently. Further, because Respondent never reported his conviction, there was real potential that disciplinary authorities might not learn of his criminal acts. In any event, the Court’s starting point in his case is suspension, because “[t]he ultimate sanction imposed should at least be consistent with the sanction for the most serious instance of misconduct among a number of violations; it might well be and generally should be greater than the sanction for the most serious misconduct.” ABA *Annotated Standards for Imposing Lawyer Sanctions* xx.

### ABA Standard 9.0 – Aggravating and Mitigating Factors

Aggravating circumstances include any considerations or factors that may justify an increase in the degree of the presumptive sanction to be imposed, while mitigating circumstances may warrant a reduction in the severity of the sanction.<sup>12</sup> Five aggravating factors are present here: Respondent’s pattern of misconduct, his multiple offenses, the vulnerability of his victims, his substantial experience in the practice of law, and his illegal conduct.<sup>13</sup> Respondent’s absence of prior discipline and the imposition of other penalties or sanctions are the only two mitigating factors of which the Court is aware.<sup>14</sup>

### Analysis Under ABA Standards and Colorado Case Law

The Court recognizes the Colorado Supreme Court’s directive to exercise discretion in imposing a sanction and to carefully apply aggravating and mitigating factors,<sup>15</sup> mindful that “individual circumstances make extremely problematic any meaningful comparison of discipline ultimately imposed in different cases.”<sup>16</sup> Though prior cases are helpful by way of analogy, the Court is charged with determining the appropriate sanction for a lawyer’s misconduct on a case-by-case basis.

The Court starts with the presumptive sanction of suspension and the People’s recommendation of a one-year-and-one-day suspension. Because there is a dearth of case law weighing appropriate disciplinary sanctions for lawyers convicted of cruelty to animals, the Court must analogize to other cases and employ parallel reasoning.

*Attorney Grievance Commission of Maryland v. Protokowicz* provides a suitable starting point.<sup>17</sup> In that case, a lawyer assisted a former client in breaking into the home of the former client’s wife; while there, the two men ransacked the home, clogged the toilet, stole personal property, and, as relevant here, killed the family kitten.<sup>18</sup> The lawyer pleaded guilty to charges including misdemeanor cruelty to animals and was sentenced to ninety days for that conduct.<sup>19</sup> During an appeal of the lawyer’s disciplinary proceeding, the Maryland appeals court, reacting to the fact that the lawyer had “placed the . . . cat in the microwave oven and activated the oven, killing the cat,” remarked, “[t]his is outrageous behavior, a world apart from what this Court, the profession, and the public is entitled to expect from members of the bar.”<sup>20</sup> The appeals court recognized that the lawyer’s behavior was aberrant, the product

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<sup>12</sup> See ABA Standards 9.21 & 9.31.

<sup>13</sup> ABA Standards 9.22(c)-(d), (h)-(i), and (k).

<sup>14</sup> ABA Standards 9.32(a) and (k).

<sup>15</sup> See *In re Attorney F.*, 285 P.3d 322, 327 (Colo. 2012); *In re Fischer*, 89 P.3d 817, 822 (Colo. 2004) (finding that a hearing board had overemphasized the presumptive sanction and undervalued the importance of mitigating factors in determining the needs of the public).

<sup>16</sup> *In re Attorney F.*, 285 P.3d at 327 (quoting *In re Rosen*, 198 P.3d 116, 121 (Colo. 2008)).

<sup>17</sup> 619 A.2d 100 (Md. 1993).

<sup>18</sup> *Id.* at 102.

<sup>19</sup> *Id.*

<sup>20</sup> *Id.* at 104.

of “alcoholism” for which the lawyer sought treatment; that the lawyer enjoyed an excellent reputation in the legal community with no prior instances of discipline; and that the lawyer had made restitution and expressed true remorse for his actions.<sup>21</sup> Nevertheless, the appeals court concluded that the egregious nature of the lawyer’s conduct warranted a significant sanction.<sup>22</sup> Taking into consideration the lawyer’s suspension for eight months before the court of appeals’ opinion issued, that tribunal suspended the lawyer from the practice of law indefinitely, with the right to apply for reinstatement not less than one year from the date of the opinion’s filing.<sup>23</sup>

The sanction levied in *Protokowicz* appears to be roughly in line with Colorado authorities. In *In re Hickox*, the Colorado Supreme Court cautioned that a lawyer’s conduct “involving the infliction of bodily harm on another” typically warrants suspension of the lawyer’s license, with the suspension’s duration predicated on the seriousness of the harm along with the presence of mitigating and aggravating factors.<sup>24</sup> The Court also takes into account *People v. McPhee*, a case that predates issuance of the ABA Standards so has less precedential weight in this sanctions analysis.<sup>25</sup> In *McPhee*, a case involving not physical infliction of bodily harm but rather a lawyer’s conviction of two drug-related felonies, the Colorado Supreme Court stated that “[f]or the most common cases, involving lawyers who commit felonies other than those listed in [ABA] Standard 5.11, . . . a three-year suspension is appropriate.”<sup>26</sup>

Here, as in *Protokowicz*, Respondent’s underlying criminal conduct was particularly egregious: the slow starvation that dozens of animals faced while in his care was arguably more barbaric than the near-instant death of the family cat in *Protokowicz*. The horror those twenty dogs and eight cats endured at Respondent’s hands should not be understated. But beyond Respondent’s breach of fundamental obligations inherent in our humanity, his actions “do not resemble, by any standard, those of a mature, trustworthy” lawyer who can be relied on to faithfully and competently represent clients.<sup>27</sup> The serious harm Respondent’s conduct has caused these vulnerable animals, and the stain that his conduct has left on the legal profession’s reputation, is patent. Indeed, that harm was answered in the criminal justice system with two felony convictions and a sentence of eighteen months in the DOC’s custody on count 29, as well as an additional twelve months on counts 30-57, to run consecutively.

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<sup>21</sup> *Id.*

<sup>22</sup> *Id.* at 105.

<sup>23</sup> *Id.*

<sup>24</sup> 57 P.3d 403, 405 (Colo. 2002).

<sup>25</sup> 728 P.2d 1292, 1294 (Colo. 1986).

<sup>26</sup> *Id.*

<sup>27</sup> *Attorney Grievance Comm’n of Maryland v. Thompson*, 786 A.2d 763, 769, 771 (Md. 2001) (indefinitely suspending a lawyer following the lawyer’s conviction for stalking a thirteen-year-old boy, and noting, “The concept of trust is an inseparable element of any attorney’s practice. It is inconceivable, therefore, how we presently may authorize and entrust Respondent with the enumerable confidential, fiduciary, and trust-based relationships that attorneys, by their profession, are required to maintain in their dealings with their clients or the public.”).

Unlike in *Protokowicz*, however, here there is no showing of remorse, no showing of restitution, no showing of rehabilitation, and no showing of personal or emotional problems that might have led to Respondent's appalling treatment of the animals in his care. The record before the Court offers no basis to find any mitigation yet ample evidence to show that Respondent was in sufficient control of his faculties such that he knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily waived his right to counsel and thereafter defended himself in his criminal trial and appeal. Respondent's felonious conduct was arguably more egregious than the misdemeanor offense in *Protokowicz*, where, in effect, the lawyer was permitted to seek reinstatement after twenty months of suspension. Yet Respondent's conduct is not mitigated by any of the factors described in that opinion. Rather, the five aggravators in this case far outweigh the two mitigators. Moreover, Respondent failed to report his felony conviction to disciplinary authorities and never participated in this proceeding, though he was well aware of its course. Most central to this Court's analysis, however, is the serious harm Respondent caused twenty-eight innocent creatures and the detriment his behavior has had on the legal profession's reputation. Respondent's inhumane misconduct gravely undermines his fitness as a lawyer, and it warrants a suspension for two years.

### III. CONCLUSION

Respondent knowingly tortured more than two dozen animals entrusted to his care. His callous disregard for their suffering shocks the moral conscience and, as relevant here, seriously adversely reflects on his fitness to practice law. The Court concludes that Respondent should be suspended from the practice of law for two years.

### IV. ORDER

The Court therefore **ORDERS**:

1. **WILLIAM KEVIN GOODE**, attorney registration number **37063**, will be **SUSPENDED** from the practice of law for a period of **TWO YEARS**. The **SUSPENSION SHALL** take effect only upon issuance of an "Order and Notice of Suspension."<sup>28</sup>
2. To the extent applicable, Respondent **SHALL** promptly comply with C.R.C.P. 251.28(a)-(c), concerning winding up of affairs, notice to parties in pending matters, and notice to parties in litigation.
3. Respondent also **SHALL** file with the Court, within fourteen days of issuance of the "Order and Notice of Suspension," an affidavit complying with C.R.C.P. 251.28(d), requiring an attorney to file an affidavit with the Court setting forth pending matters and attesting, inter alia, to notification of clients and other jurisdictions where the attorney is licensed.

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<sup>28</sup> In general, an order and notice of sanction will issue thirty-five days after a decision is entered under C.R.C.P. 251.19(b) or (c). In some instances, the order and notice may issue later than thirty-five days by operation of C.R.C.P. 251.27(h), C.R.C.P. 59, or other applicable rules.

4. The parties **MUST** file any posthearing motions **on or before Thursday, May 10, 2018**. Any response thereto **MUST** be filed within seven days.
5. The parties **MUST** file any application for stay pending appeal **on or before Thursday, May 17, 2018**. Any response thereto **MUST** be filed within seven days.
6. Respondent **SHALL** pay the costs of this proceeding. The People **SHALL** file a statement of costs **on or before Thursday, May 10, 2018**. Any response thereto **MUST** be filed within seven days.

DATED THIS 26<sup>th</sup> DAY OF APRIL, 2018.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William R. Lucero".

WILLIAM R. LUCERO  
PRESIDING DISCIPLINARY JUDGE

Copies to:

Sara C. Van Deusen  
Office of Attorney Regulation Counsel

Via Email  
s.vandeußen@csc.state.co.us

William Kevin Goode  
46 Smith Lane  
Howard, CO 81233

William Kevin Goode  
3825 Cambridge St., Apt. 367  
Las Vegas, NV 89119

William Kevin Goode  
5500 East Colfax, Room 205  
Denver, CO 80220

Cheryl Stevens  
Colorado Supreme Court

Via Hand Delivery



# Supreme Court

State of Colorado  
Certified to be a full, true and correct copy

NOV 16 2018

Office of the  
Presiding Disciplinary Judge

By *William R. Lucero*

<p>SUPREME COURT, STATE OF COLORADO</p> <p>ORIGINAL PROCEEDING IN DISCIPLINE BEFORE THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDING DISCIPLINARY JUDGE 1300 BROADWAY, SUITE 250 DENVER, CO 80203</p>	
<p><b>Complainant:</b> THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO</p> <p><b>Respondent:</b> WILLIAM KEVIN GOODE, #37063</p>	<p>Case Number: 17PDJ059</p>
<p><b>ORDER AND NOTICE OF SUSPENSION</b></p>	

On March 6, 2018, the Presiding Disciplinary Judge (“the Court”) held a sanctions hearing under C.R.C.P. 251.15(b). On April 26, 2018, the Court issued an “Opinion and Decision Imposing Sanctions Under C.R.C.P. 251.19(c),” suspending William Kevin Goode (“Respondent”) from the practice of law for a period of two years.

Pursuant to C.R.C.P. 251.28(a), the Court **ORDERS** that **WILLIAM KEVIN GOODE**, attorney registration number **37063**, is **SUSPENDED** from the practice of law for a period of **TWO YEARS, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY**, and his name shall be stricken from the list of attorneys authorized to practice in the State of Colorado.

Within fourteen days of issuance of this “Order and Notice of Suspension,” Respondent **SHALL** comply with C.R.C.P. 251.28(d), requiring an attorney to file an affidavit with the Court setting forth pending matters and attesting, *inter alia*, to notification of clients and of other jurisdictions where the attorney is licensed.

DATED THIS 31<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF MAY, 2018.

*William R. Lucero*

WILLIAM R. LUCERO  
PRESIDING DISCIPLINARY JUDGE



**Respondent**

William Kevin Goode  
46 Smith Lane  
Howard, CO 81233

3825 Cambridge St., Apt. 367  
Las Vegas, NV 89119

Via First-Class Mail

**Office of Attorney Regulation Counsel**

Sara C. Van Deusen  
1300 Broadway, Suite 500  
Denver, CO 80203  
s.vandeußen@csc.state.co.us

Via Email

**American Bar Association**

c/o Kevin Hanks  
Office of Attorney Regulation Counsel  
1300 Broadway, Suite 500  
Denver, CO 80203  
k.hanks@csc.state.co.us

Via Email

**Board of Continuing Legal Education and  
Colorado Attorney Registration**

Elvia Mondragon  
Office of Attorney Registration  
1300 Broadway, Suite 510  
Denver, CO 80203  
elvia.mondragon@judicial.state.co.us

Via Email

**Colorado Bar Association**

Patrick Flaherty, Executive Director  
1900 Grant Street, Suite 950  
Denver, CO 80203-4309  
pflaherty@cobar.org

Via Email

**Colorado Supreme Court**

Cheryl Stevens  
2 East 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203  
cheryl.stevens@judicial.state.co.us;  
heather.petercarroll@judicial.state.co.us;  
liz.cunningham@judicial.state.co.us

Via Email

**IRS, Office of Professional Responsibility**

Kathy Gibbs  
SE: OPR, 1111, Constitutional Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20224  
kathy.a.gibbs@irs.gov

Via Email

**Martindale-Hubbell**

Attn: Editorial Dept.  
121 Chanlon Road, Suite 110  
New Providence, NJ 07974  
disciplinaryaction@lexisnexis.com

Via Email

**Supreme Court of the United States**

Perry Thompson, Admissions Office  
1 First Street Northeast  
Washington, D.C. 20543  
pthompson@supremecourt.gov  
ptadmit@supremecourt.gov

Via Email

**United States Bankruptcy Court**

Laura Guice  
721 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 117  
Denver, CO 80202-2508  
laura\_guice@cob.uscourts.gov  
cobml\_training@cob.uscourts.gov

Via Email

**United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit**

Byron White United States Courthouse  
1823 Stout Street  
Denver, CO 80257  
disciplinaryorders@ca10.uscourts.gov

Via Email

**United States District Court, District of Colorado**

Alfred A. Arraj U.S. Courthouse  
Mark Fredrickson, Atty Services Coordinator  
901 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Room A-105  
Denver, CO 80294-3589  
mark\_fredrickson@cod.uscourts.gov  
edward\_butler@cod.uscourts.gov

Via Email

**United States Department of Justice,  
Executive Office for Immigration Review**

*Office of the General Counsel*  
Jennifer J. Barnes, Disciplinary Counsel  
5107 Leesburg Pike, Suite 2600  
Falls Church, VA 22041  
jeannie.park@usdoj.gov;

Via Email

**United States Department of Justice, Trustee's Office**

Gregory Garvin, Assistant U.S. Trustee  
999 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1551  
Denver, CO 80202  
gregory.garvin@usdoj.gov

Via Email