

IN THE MATTER OF THE MOTION TO)
 PERMIT AND TO **AUTHORIZE GARFIELD**)
WALTER BLOODMAN, ESQUIRE AS ASSISTANT) S. Ct. BA. No. 2009-0041
 ATTORNEY GENERAL TO APPEAR IN THE)
 SUPREME COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS)
 AND ALL INFERIOR COURTS IN THE)
PERFORMANCE OF HIS OFFICIAL DUTIES.)

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC REPRIMAND OF GARFIELD WALTER BLOODMAN AND
 NOTICE OF PUBLIC REPRIMAND MEETING**

The Virgin Islands Bar Association Ethics and Grievance Committee hereby issues a Notice of Public Reprimand of **GARFIELD W. BLOODMAN** of 6040 Castle Coakley Christiansted, VI 00820 dated September 12, 2011. This matter is also set for a **PUBLIC REPRIMAND MEETING** at 10:00 a.m. October 7, 2011 at the Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands, No.18 Strand Street, Frederiksted, VI 00841 and in St. Thomas via videoconference at the Supreme Court, 161B Crown Bay Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, VI 00802, at which time the Ethics and Grievance Committee shall **ORALLY REPRIMAND** Garfield W. Bloodman.

UNDERLYING FACTS: In September 2007 Gerald Perry Barber hired **GARFIELD W. BLOODMAN** to represent him in a criminal proceeding in Jefferson County, Arkansas. Bloodman was paid a \$4,000.00 legal fee. In July 2008, Bloodman relocated out of Arkansas. Years passed with no contact from Bloodman to his client. During the entire time he represented Barber, Bloodman never sent any written communication to his client. During July 2009, Barber received an Order to Appear in Court. He contacted Bloodman and spoke with him briefly. Bloodman advised Barber to go to Court and request a trial date. Barber did so, but has been unable to reach Bloodman since. Bloodman never filed a Motion to Withdraw and failed to give Barber notice that he was relocating to the Virgin Islands. Bloodman failed to adequately communicate with his client. In response to the disciplinary complaint, Bloodman denied that Barber tried to contact him after July 2009. In response, Barber provided telephone records demonstrating the calls were made, which Bloodman asserted were not made.

RULES VIOLATED: **GARFIELD W. BLOODMAN** is hereby **PUBLICLY REPRIMANDED** for violating the following Model Rules of Professional Conduct applicable to members of the Virgin Islands Bar Association pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 203 (e):

- a. Rule 1.3 because his representation of Barber was neither diligent nor prompt. Rule 1.3 requires that a lawyer act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client.
- b. Rule 1.4(a)(1) because Bloodman failed to inform his client of the State’s agreement to a reduced charge in his criminal proceeding thereby denying him the opportunity


for consideration of the plea to a reduced charge. Rule 1.4(a)(1) requires that a lawyer promptly inform the client of any circumstance with respect to which the client's informed consent is required.

c. Rule 1.4(a)(3) because he failed to keep Barber reasonably informed about the status of the case. For years Bloodman provided no information to his client. When Barber received an Order to be in court, Bloodman spoke with him and then failed to show up in court. Rule 1.4(a)(3) requires that a lawyer keep the client reasonably informed about the status of the matter.

d. Rule 1.4(a)(4) because, after Barber requested a trial date at Bloodman's instruction, Bloodman ceased to return telephone calls from Barber and has not been in communication with his client since July 2009. Rule 1.4(a)(4) requires that a lawyer promptly comply with reasonable requests for information.

e. Rule 1.16(d) because, after Bloodman relocated to the Virgin Islands without notice to his client, he effectively terminated the relationship but failed to give notice to Barber, did not provide Barber with a copy of his file, and did not return the unearned portion of the advanced payment of costs and attorney's fees. Rule 1.16(d) requires, in part, upon termination of representation, a lawyer shall take steps reasonably practicable to protect a client's interests.

DATED this 26 day of September, 2011



DIANE M. RUSSELL, ESQ.
St. Croix Subcommittee Chair
Ethics and Grievance Committee
Virgin Islands Bar Association

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that the forgoing **NOTICE OF PUBLIC REPRIMAND OF GARFIELD WALTER BLOODMAN AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC REPRIMAND MEETING** were served via First Class Mail, postage prepaid, this 26 date of September, 2011 upon:

Garfield W. Bloodman
VI Department of Justice
No. 6040 Castle Coakley
Christiansted, VI 00820
(Via Hand Delivery)

Garfield W. Bloodman
3811 Kingshill
St. Croix, VI 00851

Clerk of the Supreme Court
P.O. Box 590
St. Thomas, VI 00802

Elsie- Mae King
Director of Bar Admissions
Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands
P.O. Box 590
St. Thomas, VI 00802



DIANE M. RUSSELL, ESQ.