

## **Alabama Standards for Imposing Lawyer Discipline**

### **Section II. Standards for Imposing Lawyer Discipline.**

#### **C. Factors to Be Considered in Imposing Discipline.**

##### **STANDARD 7.0. VIOLATIONS OF DUTIES OWED TO THE PROFESSION.**

Absent aggravating or mitigating circumstances, upon application of the factors set out in Standard 3.0, the following discipline is generally appropriate in cases involving false or misleading communication about the lawyer or the lawyer's services, improper communication of fields of practice, improper solicitation of professional employment from a prospective client, clearly excessive or improper fees, unauthorized practice of law, improper withdrawal from representation, failure to report professional misconduct, or failure to comply with the provisions of Alabama's Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts Rules (IOLTA):

7.1. Disbarment is generally appropriate when a lawyer knowingly engages in conduct that is a violation of a duty owed to the profession with the intent to obtain a benefit for the lawyer or another, and causes serious or potentially serious injury to a client, the public, or the legal system.

7.2. Suspension is generally appropriate when a lawyer knowingly engages in conduct that is a violation of a duty owed to the profession and causes injury or potential injury to a client, the public, or the legal system.

7.3. Public reprimand is generally appropriate when a lawyer negligently engages in conduct that is a violation of a duty owed to the profession and causes injury or potential injury to a client, the public, or the legal system.

7.4. Private reprimand is generally appropriate when a lawyer engages in an isolated instance of negligence in determining whether the lawyer's conduct violates a duty owed to the profession, and causes little or no actual or potential injury to a client, the public, or the legal system.