

SUPREME COURT OF KANSAS

In re Trummel

In re Trummel · No. 128,882 · Decided May 8, 2026

SUMMARY

The Kansas Supreme Court considers an attorney discipline proceeding against Luann K. Trummel arising from her representation of a client in a child custody matter. The court recounts findings that Trummel failed to act diligently, communicate with the client, safeguard client funds, and cooperate with the disciplinary investigation. The hearing panel unanimously recommended, and the document identifies, published censure as the appropriate discipline.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of Kansas
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Per Curiam
JURISDICTION	Supreme Court of the State of Kansas
DECIDED	May 8, 2026
DOCKET	128,882
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Original proceeding in attorney discipline before the Supreme Court of Kansas.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The Supreme Court determines whether KRPC violations exist based on the evidence, the hearing panel's findings, and the parties' arguments. Attorney misconduct must be established by clear and convincing evidence. Findings to which no exception is taken are adopted if supported by clear and convincing evidence.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published opinion; precedential attorney-discipline decision.
PARTIES	Office of the Disciplinary Administrator v. Luann K. Trummel

TOPICS

- family law procedure
- child custody
- family law

PRACTICE AREAS

- attorney discipline
- legal ethics
- family law

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether clear and convincing evidence established that Trummel violated KRPC 1.3, 1.4, 1.15, 8.1(b), and Supreme Court Rule 210.
2. What discipline should be imposed for the established violations.

HOLDINGS

1. Clear and convincing evidence established that Trummel violated KRPC 1.3 by failing to act with reasonable diligence and promptness, KRPC 1.4 by failing to communicate with her client, KRPC 1.15 by failing to safeguard client property, KRPC 8.1(b) by failing to respond to lawful disciplinary demands, and Supreme Court Rule 210 by failing to assist and timely respond in the disciplinary process.
2. Published censure was the appropriate discipline for Trummel's violations, and the costs of the proceedings were assessed against her.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"We conclude Trummel's conduct violated KRPC 1.3, 1.4, 1.15, 8.1(b), and Rule 210." (at 19)

"We hold Trummel should be disciplined by published censure." (at 19-20)

"IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Luann K. Trummel is disciplined with published censure in accordance with Supreme Court Rule 225(a)(5) (2026 Kan. S. Ct. R. at 280)." (at 20)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Luann K. Trummel represented K.H. in a child-custody matter after accepting a \$600 retainer. She performed little work, failed to adequately investigate or locate the opposing party, did not keep K.H. informed, and did not respond to his calls and emails for an extended period. She deposited the retainer into an operating account rather than a properly established trust account, failed to maintain adequate records, and did not cooperate with disciplinary investigators until shortly before the formal disciplinary proceedings. She refunded the retainer only in November 2024, nearly two years after receiving it.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Disciplinary Administrator filed a formal complaint alleging violations of the Kansas Rules of Professional Conduct and Supreme Court Rule 210. After a hearing, the disciplinary hearing panel found violations of KRPC 1.3, 1.4, 1.15, 8.1(b), and Rule 210 and unanimously recommended published censure. Trummel filed no exceptions to the panel's final hearing report. The Supreme Court adopted the supported findings and conclusions and imposed published censure.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- In re Foster, 292 Kan. 940, 945, 258 P.3d 375 (2011)
- In re Fulcher, 319 Kan. 105, 117-18, 552 P.3d 1255 (2024)
- In re Jordan, 316 Kan. 501, 550, 518 P.3d 1203 (2022)
- In re Beye, 315 Kan. 857, 511 P.3d 963 (2022)

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