

Summary

NOTE: NC State Bar employee-attorneys and/or officers are not above the law! Sign one of our petitions now: Petition for Attorneys (<https://www.change.org/p/investigate-the-nc-bar>), Petition for Non-Attorneys (<https://www.change.org/p/no-attorney-is-above-the-law>).

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I. A 2016–2017 grievance investigation of Attorney Phillips resulted in a Letter of Warning with findings that directly contradict the evidence and applicable law. The Bar investigator showed Attorney Phillips no evidence supporting his conclusions. More Details

(<https://barwatchonline.org/directors-story-part-1/>)

II. A May 2017 grievance investigation of Attorney Phillips, still ongoing, has been aggressively pursued by one Bar investigator (no committee) despite the absence of the legally required “allegation of misconduct” necessary to initiate an investigation—only a general concern about Phillips’ website’s reference to working with clients, attorneys, legislators and activists nationally. The Bar investigator demands that Phillips turn over years of complete client files, so he can engage in an unlawful “fishing expedition.” Furthermore, the Bar is ignoring blatant conflicts of interest created by Phillips’ filing of a complaint against Bar attorneys and officers (III. below). The Bar can neither lawfully investigate itself, nor Phillips while Phillips has an unresolved good-faith complaint against Bar attorneys; both must be managed by outside, independent persons. More Details

(<https://barwatchonline.org/directors-story-part-2/>)

III. Phillips and a few organizations from around the country have filed good-faith complaints against one or more NC Bar attorneys and/or officers, with evidence supporting their claims. Ignoring the conflict of interest, NC Bar attorneys are suppressing these complaints, refusing to allow proper scrutiny of their actions. For proof of a problem in the NC Bar, see this short, one-paragraph Bar Counsel Letter (<https://barwatchonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/bar-counsel-letter-analysis.pdf>) (and commentary below the letter) responding to Attorney Phillips' complaint, which letter, on its face, has several ethical violations on its face. More Details (<https://barwatchonline.org/directors-story-part-3/>)

IV. In response to Phillips' refusal to hand over years of client files, the lone State Bar investigator filed a lawsuit against Phillips in May 2018, in Wake County Superior Court, on behalf of the State Bar. However, the prosecuting Bar attorney has a blatant conflict of interest, the underlying investigation lacks the legally-required "allegation of misconduct," and the demand for Phillips' clients' files is for a "fishing expedition" that would violate hundreds of clients' attorney-client confidentiality. More Details (<https://barwatchonline.org/directors-story-part-4/>)

Phillips conducted his own preliminary investigation and found other NC attorneys claiming to have been disbarred based on facts invented or falsified by Bar attorneys. At least two disinterested "insiders" have affirmed Phillips' suspicions of long-term unethical behavior by NC Bar investigators regarding false facts. Accordingly, recent complaints filed against State Bar attorney(s) and/or Officer(s) must be assessed and investigated, and in a manner that resolves the obvious conflicts of interest. More Details (<https://barwatchonline.org/directors-story-part-4/>)

V. In response to the NC State Bar's continued pattern of defiant unlawful behavior and over-reaching lawsuit, Phillips founded Bar Watch, Inc., a NC nonprofit corporation dedicated to documenting and exposing allegations of misconduct on the part of NC State Bar attorney(s) and/or officer(s), and to demand a proper investigation of good-faith complaints against such attorneys. More Details (<http://BarWatchOnline.org/directors-story-part-5>)

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