## Orders of Discipline and Disability

#### Final Disbarment

Kimberly A. Kirchoff, P62870, Sandusky, by the Attorney Discipline Board, St. Clair County Hearing Panel #1, effective July 6, 2016.1

The respondent was convicted of embezzlement by person of trust, a felony, in violation of MCL 750.174A4A.

Based on the respondent's conviction, the panel found that the respondent committed misconduct which violated criminal laws of a state, contrary to MCR 9.104(5). The panel ordered that the respondent be disbarred from the practice of law in Michigan. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$1,875.69.

1. The respondent has been continuously suspended from the practice of law in Michigan since February 24, 2015. Please see Notice of Automatic Suspension for Nonpayment of Costs, issued February 24, 2015.

Timothy James Wilson, P59423, Jackson, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Washtenaw County Hearing Panel #2, effective June 23, 2016.1

The respondent was convicted of the following felonies in People of the State of Michigan v Timothy James Wilson, Jackson County Circuit Court Case No. 15-4624-FH: (1) false pretenses, \$20,000 or more (Hab Crim 4th Off.), in violation of MCL 750.218(5)A; (2) fraud—welfare—over \$500 (Hab Crim 4th Off.), in violation of MCL 400.60(1)B; and (3) fraud—welfare—failure to inform—over \$500 (Hab Crim 4th Off.), in violation of MCL 400.60(2)B. The respondent was also convicted of the following misdemeanors, by plea, in four separate cases in the 12th District Court: (1) operating while visibly impaired by alcohol, in violation of MCL 257.6253-A, in

Case No. 11JC46744A; (2) operating while intoxicated-2nd offense, in violation of MCL 257.6256-B; and open intoxicants in a motor vehicle, in violation of MCL 257.624-A, in Case No. 13038SD; (3) operating while intoxicated, in violation of MCL 257.6251-A, in Case No.13041SD; and (4) disorderly conduct, in violation of MCL 750.381, in Case No. 140782JP.

Based on the respondent's convictions, the panel found that he committed misconduct which violated criminal laws of a state, contrary to MCR 9.104(5). The panel ordered that the respondent be disbarred from the practice of law in Michigan. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$1,754.26.

1. The respondent has been continuously suspended from the practice of law in Michigan since November 10, 2004. Please see Notice of Suspension With Conditions (By Consent), issued September 8, 2005.

### **Attorney Grievance Defense**

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#### Automatic Reinstatement

Danté L. Goss, P60162, Livonia, effective June 20, 2016.

The respondent was suspended from the practice of law in Michigan for 45 days, effective May 1, 2016. In accordance with MCR 9.123(A), the suspension was terminated with the respondent's filing of an affidavit in compliance with MCR 9.123(A).

R. Vincent Green, P34862, Lansing, effective June 29, 2016.

The respondent was suspended from the practice of law in Michigan for 120 days, effective March 1, 2016. In accordance with MCR 9.123(A), the suspension was terminated with the respondent's filing of an affidavit with the clerk of the Michigan Supreme Court.

### Reprimand

Charles E. Rutherford, P53899, Boca Raton, Florida, by the Attorney Discipline Board, effective June 24, 2016.

In a reciprocal discipline proceeding under MCR 9.120(C), the grievance administrator filed a certified copy of an order of reprimand that was issued and effective on February 5, 2015, reprimanding the respondent (The Florida Bar v Charles Erickson

*Rutherford*, Case No. SC14-2479; Lower Tribunal No. 2013-50.672(15A)).

An order regarding imposition of reciprocal discipline was served on the respondent on March 9, 2016. The 21-day period referenced in MCR 9.120(C)(2)(b) expired without objection by either party and the respondent was deemed to be in default. Based on that default, the Attorney Discipline Board ordered that the respondent be reprimanded. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$1,500.

### Suspension

**Debbie G. Williams**, P44772, Laguna Hills, California, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Tri-County Hearing Panel #8, for 180 days, effective June 14, 2016.<sup>1</sup>

The panel issued an order of interim suspension of the respondent's license pursuant to MCR 9.115(H)(1), effective March 28, 2016, based on her failure to appear at a hearing scheduled for March 21, 2016.

The hearing panel found that the respondent was convicted, by guilty plea, of driving under the influence of alcohol, a misdemeanor, in the Superior Court of California for Orange County. The respondent's conduct was found to have violated a criminal law of a state or of the United States, contrary to MCR 9.104(5).

The panel ordered that the respondent's license to practice law in Michigan be suspended for 180 days. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$1,659.96.

 The respondent has been continuously suspended from the practice of law in Michigan since March 28, 2016. Please see Notice of Interim Suspension Pursuant to MCR 9.115(H)(1), issued March 28, 2016.

# Suspension and Restitution (By Consent)

**Robert E. Jameson**, P56459, Adrian, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Washtenaw County Hearing Panel #6, for 180 days, effective July 1, 2016.

The respondent and the grievance administrator filed a stipulation for a consent order of discipline in accordance with MCR 9.115(F)(5), which was approved by the Attorney Grievance Commission and accepted

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# DEFENDING DRINKING DRIVERS

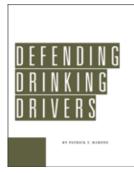
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### **AUTHOR: PATRICK T. BARONE**

Patrick T. Barone has an "AV" (highest) rating from Martindale-Hubbell, and since 2009 has been included in the highly selective U.S. News & World Report's America's Best Lawyers, while the

Barone Defense Firm appears in their companion America's Best Law Firms. He has been rated "Seriously Outstanding" by Super Lawyers, rated "Outstanding/10.0" by AVVO, and has recently been rated as among the top 5% of Michigan's lawyers by Leading Lawyers magazine. Mr. Barone is the principal and founding member of The Barone Defense Firm, whose practice is limited exclusively to DUI cases including those involving injury or death.

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by the hearing panel. Based on the respondent's admissions to the factual allegations and to the allegations of professional misconduct contained in the amended formal complaint, the panel found that the respondent charged and collected a clearly excessive fee, in violation of MRPC 1.5; stated or implied an ability to influence improperly a government agency or official, in violation of MRPC 8.4(d); engaged in conduct which involved fraud, deceit, dishonesty, and/or a violation of the criminal law, contrary to MRPC 8.4(b); engaged in conduct that exposed the legal profession to obloquy, contempt, censure, and/or reproach, in violation of MCR 9.104(2); and engaged in conduct that was contrary to justice, ethics, honesty, or good morals, in violation of MCR 9.104(3).

In accordance with the stipulation of the parties, the hearing panel ordered that the respondent's license to practice law in Michigan be suspended for 180 days, effective July 1, 2016, as stipulated by the parties. The panel further ordered that the respondent pay restitution in the amount of \$10,000. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$1,563.94.

#### **Automatic Interim Suspension**

Aditya Sudhakar Ezhuthachan, P80057, Troy, effective June 16, 2016.

On June 16, 2016, the respondent was convicted, by guilty plea, of operating while intoxicated-3rd offense, a felony, in the Oakland County Circuit Court. In accordance with MCR 9.120(B)(1), the respondent's license to practice law in Michigan was automatically suspended on the date of his felony conviction.

Upon the filing of a judgment of conviction, this matter will be assigned to a hearing panel for further proceedings. The interim suspension will remain in effect until the effective date of an order filed by a hearing panel.

### Interim Suspension Pursuant to MCR 9.115(H)(1)

David Lyle Haverstick, P78202, Commerce Township, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Tri-County Hearing Panel #62, effective June 30, 2016.1

After being properly served with the formal complaint and the notice of hearing, the respondent failed to personally appear at the June 10, 2016 hearing. After satisfactory proofs were entered that the respondent possessed actual notice of the proceedings, the hearing panel, in accordance with MCR 9.115(H)(1), determined that the respondent's failure to appear warranted an interim suspension from the practice of law until further order of the panel.

On June 23, 2016, the panel issued an order of suspension pursuant to MCR 9.115(H) (1), effective June 30, 2016, and until further order of the panel or Board.

 The respondent has been continuously suspended from the practice of law in Michigan since October 9, 2015. Please see Notice of Interim Suspension Pursuant to MCR 9.115(H)(1), issued October 12, 2015, in *Grievance Administrator v David Lyle Haverstick*, Case No. 15-86-GA.

### Suspension (With Condition)

**Scott P. Zochowski**, P54749, Troy, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Tri-County Hearing Panel #70, for 30 days, effective June 2, 2016.

The respondent appeared at the hearing but was in default for his failure to file an answer to the formal complaint. Based on the respondent's default, the hearing panel found that he neglected a legal matter, in violation of MRPC 1.1(c); failed to act with reasonable diligence and promptness, in violation of MRPC 1.3; failed to keep a client reasonably informed about the status of a matter, in violation of MRPC 1.4(a); failed to deposit client funds into an IOLTA or non-IOLTA account, in violation of MRPC 1.15(d); failed to provide the grievance administrator a full and fair explanation of the cause of the overdraft and how it was corrected, in violation of MRPC 1.15A(f); knowingly failed to respond to a lawful demand for information from a disciplinary authority, in violation of MRPC 8.1(a)(2); violated or attempted to violate the Michigan Rules of Professional Conduct, contrary to MRPC 8.4(a); engaged in conduct that exposed the legal profession or the courts to obloquy, contempt, censure, or reproach, in violation of MRPC 9.104(2); and failed to answer a request for investigation in conformity

with MCR 9.113(A) and (B)(2), in violation of MCR 9.104(7).

The panel ordered that the respondent's license to practice law in Michigan be suspended for 30 days. The panel also imposed a condition relevant to the established misconduct. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$1,835.21.

## Suspension With Conditions (By Consent)

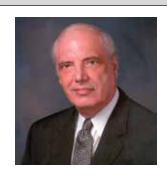
**Derrick N. Okonmah**, P68221, Southfield, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Tri-County Hearing Panel #60, for 180 days, effective November 3, 2015.<sup>1</sup>

The respondent and the grievance administrator filed a stipulation for a consent order of discipline in accordance with MCR 9.115(F)(5), which was approved by the Attorney Grievance Commission and accepted by the hearing panel. Based on the respondent's admission that he pleaded guilty to operating while intoxicated, 3rd, a felony; and driving while license suspended, 2nd, a misdemeanor; as well as his admission of a guilty plea to the misdemeanor of disorderly person, the panel found that the respondent had engaged in conduct that violated the criminal laws of the state, contrary to MCR 9.104(5).

In accordance with the stipulation of the parties, the hearing panel ordered that the respondent's license to practice law in Michigan be suspended for 180 days, effective November 3, 2015, the date of the respondent's automatic interim suspension (as stipulated by the parties). The panel further ordered that the respondent shall be subject to conditions relevant to the established misconduct. Total costs were assessed in the amount of \$791.01.

 The respondent has been continuously suspended from the practice of law in Michigan since November 3, 2015. Please see Notice of Automatic Interim Suspension, issued November 20, 2015.

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