

PETITIONER

ROBERT J. CONNELLY

Notice is given that **Robert J. Connelly**, P38051, has filed an amended petition in the Michigan Supreme Court and with the Attorney Grievance Commission seeking reinstatement as a member of the State Bar and restoration of his license to practice law.

A. *Grievance Administrator v Robert J. Connelly*, Case Nos. 04-41-GA; 04-165-GA. The petitioner and the grievance administrator filed a stipulation for a consent order of discipline in accordance with MCR 9.115(F)(5), containing the petitioner's plea of no contest to the allegations that he failed to file answers to 12 requests for investigation served by the grievance administrator; failed to respond to reasonable requests for communication in 10 client matters; neglected nine client matters; failed to refund unearned attorney fees or retainers in three client matters; failed to return client files in four client matters; failed to act with reasonable diligence in one client matter; failed to provide communication to one client regarding his decision to pursue or not pursue a medical malpractice claim; failed to provide one client with an accounting of the attorney fee paid; and failed to take action after a client's case was dismissed for nonservice.

The respondent was charged with violations of MCR 9.104(A)(1)–(4) and (7), MCR 9.113(A) and (B)(2); and MRPC 1.1(c); 1.2(a); 1.3; 1.4; 1.16(a); 1.16(d); 8.1(a)(2); and 8.4(a) and (c).

The parties agreed that the petitioner's license to practice law in Michigan should be suspended for one year and that he be subject to certain conditions, including the payment of restitution in the amount of \$5,750, along with other conditions relevant to the alleged misconduct.

B. *Grievance Administrator v Robert J. Connelly*, Case No. 09-30-GA. The petitioner did not appear at the hearing and was found to be in default for his failure to file an answer to the formal complaint. Based on that default, the panel found that the petitioner neglected a legal matter; failed to seek the lawful objectives of his client; failed to act with reasonable diligence and promptness; knowingly failed to respond to a lawful demand for information from a disciplinary

authority; and failed to answer a request for investigation. The petitioner's conduct was in violation of MCR 9.104(A)(1)–(4) and (7); MCR 9.113(A) and (B)(2); and MRPC 1.1(c); 1.2(a); 1.3; 1.4(a); 8.1(a)(2); and 8.4(a) and (c).

The hearing panel ordered that the petitioner's license to practice law in Michigan be revoked, retroactive to April 15, 2006, to run consecutive with his previous one-year suspension.

A hearing is scheduled for Thursday, December 22, 2016, beginning at 10 a.m. at the office of the court reporter, O'Brien & Bails, 141 E. Michigan Ave., Ste. 206, Kalamazoo, MI 49007.

In the interest of maintaining the high standards imposed on the legal profession as conditions for the privilege to practice law in this state, and of protecting the public, the judiciary, and the legal profession against conduct contrary to such standards, the petitioner will be required to establish his eligibility for reinstatement by clear and convincing evidence.

Any interested person may appear at the hearing and be heard in support of or in opposition to the petition for reinstatement. Any person having information bearing on the petitioner's eligibility for reinstatement should contact:

Emily A. Downey
Senior Associate Counsel
Attorney Grievance Commission
535 Griswold, Ste. 1700
Detroit, MI 48226
(313) 961-6585

REQUIREMENTS OF THE PETITIONER

The petitioner is required to establish the following by clear and convincing evidence:

1. He desires in good faith to be restored to the privilege to practice law in this state.
2. The term of the suspension ordered has elapsed or five years have elapsed since revocation of the license.
3. He has not practiced or attempted to practice law contrary to the requirement of his suspension and revocation.
4. He has complied fully with the terms of the order of discipline.
5. His conduct since the discipline has been exemplary and above reproach.

6. He has a proper understanding of and attitude toward the standards that are imposed on members of the Bar and will conduct himself in conformity with those standards.

7. He can safely be recommended to the public, the courts, and the legal profession as a person fit to be consulted by others and to represent them and otherwise act in matters of trust and confidence, and, in general, to aid in the administration of justice as a member of the Bar and as an officer of the court.

8. If he has been suspended for three years or more, he will be recertified by the Board of Law Examiners before being reinstated to the practice of law.

9. He has reimbursed or has agreed to reimburse the Client Protection Fund any money paid from the fund as a result of his conduct. Failure to fully reimburse as agreed is grounds for revocation of a reinstatement.

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