

PETITIONER

DENNIS P. MIKKO

Notice is given that **Dennis P. Mikko**, P33736, has filed a 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.

Effective June 28, 2014, the petitioner was suspended from the practice of law for a period of one year and until further order of the Michigan Supreme Court, the Attorney Discipline Board, or a hearing panel.

On or about June 6, 2014, Grand Traverse County Hearing Panel #1 found that the petitioner, while serving as a Family Division referee with the Grand Traverse County Circuit Court, viewed pornographic images on his work computer, used his work computer to communicate sexual conversations and receive pornographic images, and maintained at his referee office handmade books created by him which contained fictitious incest stories and pictures of nude women taken from magazines. One book included a collage of facial photographs of girls who had appeared before him as a Family Division referee.

The Hearing Panel found that the petitioner failed to establish, maintain, enforce, and personally observe high standards of conduct so that the integrity and independence of the judiciary may be preserved, in violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct, Canon 1; engaged in irresponsible or improper conduct which erodes public confidence in the judiciary, in violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct, Canon 2A; engaged in conduct involving impropriety and the appearance of impropriety, in violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct, Canon 2A; and engaged in conduct which exposed the legal profession and the courts to obloquy, contempt, censure, or reproach, in violation of MCR 9.104(2) and (3).

The panel ordered that the petitioner's license to practice law in Michigan be suspended for one year and that he be subject to conditions relevant to the established misconduct.

A hearing is scheduled for Friday, May 12, 2017, beginning at 10 a.m., at the office of Hearing Panel Chairperson James T.

Ramer, 100 Spring St., Harbor Springs, MI 49740, (231) 526-6214.

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:

Stephen P. Vella
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 or 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 has been recertified by the Board of Law Examiners.

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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