

PETITIONER

CHRISTOPHER SHEA BERRY

Notice is given that **Christopher Shea Berry**, P68580, 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 March 31, 2016, the petitioner's license to practice law in Michigan was suspended for one year and until further order of the Michigan Supreme Court, the Attorney Discipline Board, or a hearing panel.

The petitioner and the grievance administrator filed a stipulation for a consent order of discipline in accordance with MCR 9.115(F)(5), which was accepted by Kent County Hearing Panel #5. The stipulation contained the petitioner's admissions to the factual allegations and to the allegations of professional misconduct in the formal complaint. Specifically, the petitioner admitted that he submitted eight time entries and/or expense reimbursement requests that contained descriptions of legal services that were either inaccurate or did not take place at all, although none of the time entries or expense reimbursements were paid by clients or third-party payors. The petitioner also obtained payments from his law firm as reimbursement for expenses that he did not incur, which he later repaid. In addition, the petitioner knowingly made a false statement of material fact to a third-party payor concerning a motion allegedly filed and decided by the court.

Based on the petitioner's admissions and the parties' stipulation, on March 31, 2016, the hearing panel concluded that the petitioner failed to keep clients reasonably informed about the status of matters, in violation of MRPC 1.1(a) [sic]; failed to explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation, in violation of MRPC 1.4(b); charged a clearly excessive fee, in violation of MRPC 1.5(a); during the course of representing a client, knowingly made a false statement of material fact or law to a third person, in violation of MRPC 4.1; engaged in conduct that involved dishonesty, fraud, deceit, misrepresentation, or violation of the criminal law,

where such conduct reflects adversely on the lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness, or fitness as a lawyer, in violation of MRPC 8.4(b); engaged in conduct that was prejudicial to the administration of justice, in violation of MCR 9.104(1) and MRPC 8.4(c); engaged in conduct that exposed the legal profession or the courts to obloquy, contempt, censure, 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).

A hearing is scheduled for Thursday, August 3, 2017, beginning at 10 a.m., at the office of the hearing panel Chairperson, James G. Black, 100 Monroe Center NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.

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:

Sarah C. Lindsey
Associate Counsel

Attorney Grievance Commission
535 Griswold, Ste. 1700
Detroit, MI 48226
(313) 961-6585

REQUIREMENTS OF
THE PETITIONER

Pursuant to MCR 9.123(B) and in the interest of maintaining the high standards imposed on the legal profession as conditions for the privilege of practicing law in this state, and of protecting the public, the judiciary, and the legal profession against conduct contrary to such standards, 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 of practicing law in this state.
2. The term of the suspension ordered has elapsed or five years have elapsed since disbarment or resignation.
3. He has not practiced or attempted to practice law contrary to the requirement of his suspension or disbarment.
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. Taking into account all of the attorney's past conduct, including the nature of the misconduct that led to the suspension or disbarment, he nevertheless 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.

PETITIONER

EUGENE A. GORETA

Notice is given that **Eugene A. Goreta**, P14207, 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 October 21, 2014, the petitioner appeared at the hearing and filed an answer to the formal complaint. The hearing panel found that the petitioner failed to promptly pay or deliver any funds or other property that a client or third person was entitled to receive, in violation of MRPC 1.15(b)(3); failed to hold separate funds or property of which two people claimed an interest, in violation of MRPC 1.15(c); failed to hold property of a third person in connection with representation separate from the lawyer's own property, in violation of MRPC 1.15(d); made a false statement of material fact to a tribunal, in violation of MRPC 3.3; made a false statement of material fact to a third person, in violation of MRPC 4.1; and engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation, in violation of MRPC 8.4(b).

The panel also found that the petitioner violated MCR 9.104(2) and (3).

The panel ordered that the petitioner's license to practice law in Michigan be suspended for 180 days and that he pay restitution in the amount of \$5,610. The petitioner filed a petition for review and a motion for stay of discipline. On October 20, 2014, the Attorney Discipline Board denied the petitioner's motion for stay of discipline.

A hearing is scheduled for Friday, July 28, 2017, beginning at 9:30 a.m., at the office of the Attorney Discipline Board, 211 W. Fort St., Ste. 1410, Detroit, MI 48226.

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:

John K. Burgess
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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