

Automatic Reinstatements

Eric L. Naslund, P42648, Sylvan Lake.

The respondent was suspended from the practice of law in Michigan for 179 days, effective December 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 on May 31, 2017.

Janet Ann Williamson, P72697, Royal Oak.

The respondent was suspended from the practice of law in Michigan for 30 days, effective October 12, 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 on May 19, 2017.

Reinstatement (With Conditions)

Derrick N. Okonmah, P68221, Clarkston, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Tri-County Hearing Panel #56.

The petitioner has been suspended from the practice of law in Michigan since November 3, 2015. His petition for reinstatement, filed in accordance with MCR 9.123(B) and MCR 9.124, was granted by Tri-County Hearing Panel #56, which concluded that the petitioner had satisfactorily established his eligibility for reinstatement in accord-

ance with those court rules. The panel issued an order of eligibility for reinstatement with a specific condition to be met before the petitioner could be reinstated to the practice of law in Michigan. The hearing panel also imposed additional conditions, which will be effective upon the petitioner's reinstatement to the practice of law in Michigan.

The Board received written proof of the petitioner's compliance with the initial condition, and an Order of Reinstatement (With Conditions) was issued by the Board on June 5, 2017. Total costs were assessed in the amount of \$1,793.52.

Reprimand

Mark J. Robison, P37252, Albion, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Calhoun County Hearing Panel #1, effective May 30, 2017.

The grievance administrator filed Formal Complaint 16-133-GA alleging that the respondent committed acts of professional misconduct by neglecting a premises liability matter, failing to timely answer a request for investigation, and failing to timely respond to requests for additional information from the grievance administrator. The respondent failed to answer the formal complaint, and a default was entered.

By virtue of the respondent's default and proofs submitted by the grievance administrator, the hearing panel found that the

respondent 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 answer a request for investigation, in violation of MCR 9.104(7) and MCR 9.113(A) and (B)(2); and knowingly failed to timely respond to a lawful demand for information from a disciplinary authority, in violation of MRPC 8.1(a)(2). The respondent was also found to have violated MRPC 8.4(a) and (c) and MCR 9.104(1)–(4).

The hearing panel ordered that the respondent be reprimanded. Total costs were assessed in the amount of \$2,305.02.

Reprimand (By Consent)

Michael J. Pelot, P42362, Lansing, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Ingham County Hearing Panel #4, effective May 26, 2017.

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. The stipulation contains the respondent's admission that he committed acts of professional misconduct in his position as staff attorney for the Department of Civil Rights, where he was to provide counsel to department investigators.

Based on the respondent's admissions and the stipulation of the parties, the panel found that the respondent directly contacted a discrimination complainant who was represented, in violation of MRPC 4.2. The respondent was also found to have violated MCR 9.104(1)–(3) and MRPC 8.4(a) and (c). In accordance with the stipulation of the parties, the panel ordered that the respondent be reprimanded. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$757.71.

Suspension

Wade H. McCree, P37626, Detroit, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Tri-County Hearing Panel #2, for three years, effective January 22, 2016.

The hearing panel found that the respondent had committed professional misconduct during his tenure as a Wayne County

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Circuit Court judge, when he engaged in an affair with a litigant in a child-support case assigned to his courtroom; communicated with the litigant and presided over various aspects of the case during the course of his affair; and failed to recuse himself for several months. The panel also determined that the respondent presided over a case involving a relative of the litigant with whom he was having the affair, and that he conferred with her before issuing a bond reduction in the matter. The panel further determined that the respondent made false and misleading statements and representations to the Judicial Tenure Commission relating to his actions in those two cases.

The hearing panel found that the respondent's conduct was prejudicial to the proper administration of justice, in violation of MCR 9.104(1); exposed the legal profession or the courts to obloquy, contempt, censure, or reproach, in violation of MCR 9.104(2); was contrary to justice, ethics, honesty, or good morals, in violation of MCR 9.104(3); and violated the standards or rules of professional conduct adopted by the Supreme Court, contrary to MCR 9.104(4). The panel further found that the respondent violated or attempted to violate the Michigan Rules of Professional Conduct, knowingly assisted or induced another to do so, or did so through the acts of another, contrary to MRPC 8.4(a); engaged in conduct involving 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, contrary to MRPC 8.4(b); and engaged in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice, in violation of MRPC 8.4(c).

The hearing panel ordered that the respondent's license to practice law in Michigan be suspended for two years, effective January 22, 2016. The grievance administrator filed a petition for review and the respondent filed a cross-petition for review. The Attorney Discipline Board conducted review proceedings in accordance with MCR 9.118, including review of the evidentiary record before the panel, consideration of the parties' briefs, and of the arguments presented by the parties at the review hearing. The Board issued an order increasing the respondent's discipline from a suspension of two years to a suspension of three years,

effective January 22, 2016. Total costs were assessed in the amount of \$3,389.61.

Suspensions and Restitution

Geoffrey L. Craig, P46554, Detroit, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Tri-County Hearing Panel #12, for 180 days, effective December 22, 2015.

The grievance administrator filed Formal Complaint 14-123-GA alleging that the respondent committed professional misconduct when acting as a conservator for his father by failing to file a complete inventory or final account; failing to respond to the court's notice of suspension of his conservatorship; breaching his fiduciary duty; failing to turn over the remaining conservatorship funds in the amount of \$62,500; and failing to pay the surcharge to the surety company for the cancellation of the bond. Based on the respondent's default for failure to file an answer to the formal complaint and the exhibits offered into evidence, the panel found that the respondent 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; knowingly disobeyed an obligation under the rules of a tribunal, in violation of MRPC 3.4(c); failed to notify a client or third person when funds in which a client or third person had an interest were received, in violation of MRPC 1.15(b)(1); and failed to promptly pay or deliver funds that a client or third person was entitled to receive, in violation of MRPC 1.15(b)(3). The respondent was also found to have violated MRPC 8.4(a)–(c) and MCR 9.104(1)–(4).

The panel ordered that the respondent's license to practice law in Michigan be suspended for 180 days, effective December 22, 2015, and that he pay restitution to Western Surety in the amount of \$62,500. The grievance administrator filed a petition for review on December 16, 2015, requesting an increase of the discipline imposed by the panel.

The Attorney Discipline Board has conducted review proceedings in accordance

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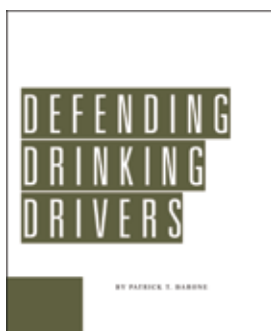
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with MCR 9.118, including review of the evidentiary record before the panel, consideration of the parties' briefs, and arguments presented by the parties at the review hearing. The Board affirmed the hearing panel's order of a 180-day suspension of the respondent's license to practice law and the restitution to be paid to Western Surety. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$1,854.

Matthew John Stephens, P74424, Okemos, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Ingham County Hearing Panel #6, for 180 days, effective May 19, 2017.¹

Based on the respondent's default, the hearing panel found that he committed professional misconduct by neglecting a client's misdemeanor matter; neglecting another client's civil claim; failing to appear on behalf of three separate clients at two hearings and one status conference; and by failing to answer a request for investigation.

The panel found that the respondent neglected legal matters entrusted to him, in violation of MRPC 1.1(c); failed to seek the lawful objectives of his clients through reasonably available means permitted by law and the rules of professional conduct, in violation of MRPC 1.2(a); failed to act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing his clients, in violation of MRPC 1.3; failed to communicate with his clients regarding the status of their legal matters, in violation of MRPC 1.4(a); failed to explain a matter to the extent necessary to permit the clients to make informed decisions regarding the representation, in violation of MRPC 1.4(b); failed to hold property of a client in connection with a representation separate from his own property, in violation of MRPC 1.15(d); failed to deposit unearned fees paid in advance in a client trust account, in violation of MRPC 1.15(g); failed to return unearned attorney fees and other funds paid in advance to clients upon termination of the representation, in violation of MRPC 1.16(d); knowingly disobeyed an obligation under the rules of a tribunal, in violation of MRPC 3.4(c); and failed to answer a request for investigation, in violation of MCR 9.104(7) and MCR 9.113(A) and (B). The respondent was also found to have violated MRPC 8.4(a) and (b) and MCR 9.104(1)–(4).

The panel ordered that the respondent's license to practice law be suspended for a period of 180 days. The panel also ordered restitution totaling \$2,800. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$1,782.66.

1. The respondent has been continuously suspended from the practice of law in Michigan since January 26, 2017. Please see Notice of Interim Suspension Pursuant to MCR 9.115(H)(1), issued January 26, 2017.

Suspension and Restitution With Conditions (By Consent)

Thomas N. Strauch, P38652, Detroit, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Tri-County Hearing Panel #26, for four years, effective June 1, 2017.

The grievance administrator filed Formal Complaint 16-126-GA, alleging, in six separate counts, that the respondent committed professional misconduct during his representation of five individual clients in a landlord tenant matter; a personal property recovery case; a divorce action; a real property matter involving a quiet title action; and a criminal matter. The sixth count of the complaint alleged that the respondent committed professional misconduct by failing to timely respond to two requests for investigation filed by two of the clients, Joseph King and Jack L. Platt. The respondent and the grievance administrator filed a stipulation for a consent order of discipline in accordance with MCR 9.115(F) (5). On April 5, 2017, after responding to an inquiry by the panel, the parties filed an amended stipulation for a consent order of discipline, which was approved by the Attorney Grievance Commission and accepted by the hearing panel.

Based on the respondent's answer to the formal complaint, the pleas of no contest to the paragraphs in the formal complaint, as stated on the record, and the exhibits admitted into evidence at the December 29, 2016 hearing, the allegations of misconduct as set forth in the formal complaint were proven by a preponderance of the evidence. Specifically, the respondent neglected a legal matter entrusted to him, in violation of MRPC 1.1(c); failed to seek the lawful objectives of his client, in violation of MRPC 1.2(a); failed to act with reasonable diligence and promptness, in violation of MRPC

1.3; failed to keep his client reasonably informed about the status of the matter, in violation of MRPC 1.4(a); failed to hold client property separate from his own property and failed to deposit client funds in an IOLTA or non-IOLTA, in violation of MRPC 1.15(d); failed to deposit legal fees and expenses paid in advance into a client trust account, in violation of MRPC 1.15(g); failed to promptly notify the client when funds or property in which the client had an interest were received, in violation of MRPC 1.15(b) (1); failed to promptly pay or deliver funds or other property that the client was entitled to receive, in violation of MRPC 1.15(b)(3); failed to return the advance payment of a fee that had not been earned, in violation of MRPC 1.16(d); and failed to timely answer two requests for investigation, in violation of MCR 9.104(7), MCR 9.113(A) and (B)(2). The respondent was also found to have violated MCR 9.104(1)–(3) and MRPC 8.4(a)–(c).

The panel ordered, in accordance with the stipulation of the parties, that the respondent's license to practice law be suspended for a period of four years, effective June 1, 2017 (as stipulated by the parties). In addition, the panel ordered the respondent to pay restitution totaling \$8,739.18 and that he be subject to conditions relevant to the established misconduct. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$1,229.30.

Suspension (With Conditions)

R. Reid Krinock, P36162, Brighton, by the Attorney Discipline Board, affirming Washtenaw County Hearing Panel #5's Order of Suspension (With Conditions), for 90 days, effective May 9, 2017.

The respondent appeared at the hearing, but was in default for his failure to file an answer to the formal complaint. Based on his default, the well-pled facts alleged by

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the grievance administrator were accepted as true and the hearing panel found that the respondent committed professional misconduct. Specifically, the respondent held funds other than client or third-person funds in his IOLTA, in violation of MRPC 1.15(a)(3); failed to hold property of his clients or third persons separate from his own and in an IOLTA, in violation of MRPC 1.15(d); and failed to timely answer a Request for Investigation, in violation of MCR 9.104(7), MCR 9.113(A), and MCR 9.113(B)(2). The respondent was also found to have violated MCR 9.104(2) and (4) and MRPC 8.4(a).

The hearing panel ordered that the respondent's license to practice law in Michigan be suspended for 90 days with conditions relevant to the determined misconduct. The respondent filed a petition for review. Upon review, the Board affirmed the hearing panel's Order of Suspension (With Conditions) on April 10, 2017. Total costs were assessed in the amount of \$1,904.11.

Suspension With Conditions (By Consent)

William G. Shanaberger, P41912, Royal Oak, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Tri-County Hearing Panel #74, for 90 days, effective June 1, 2017.

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. The stipulation contained the respondent's admission that he was convicted of allowing an unlicensed person to operate a motor vehicle, in violation of MCL 257.325, in *People of the City of Birmingham v William G. Shanaberger*, 48th District Court Case No. 15BC01157B; and admission to the allegation that he committed professional misconduct when he filed an answer to an Attorney Grievance Commission request for investigation in which he failed to fully and fairly detail all of the facts and circumstances leading to his arrest because he was inaccurate in describing his conduct.

Based on the parties' stipulation, the respondent's conviction, and his admissions in the stipulation, the panel found that the respondent failed to disclose a fact necessary to correct a misapprehension known by the person to have arisen in the matter, in violation of MRPC 8.1(a)(2); failed to fully and fairly disclose all facts and circumstances in response to demands for information made in a request for investigation, in violation of MCR 9.113(A); and engaged in conduct that violated a criminal law of a state or of the United States, an ordinance, or a tribal law, contrary to MCR 9.104(5). The respondent was also

found to have violated MCR 9.104(1) and (2) and MRPC 8.4(a) and (c). 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 90 days. Additionally, the panel ordered that the respondent be subject to conditions relevant to the established misconduct. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$1,685.12.

Transfer to Inactive Status Pursuant to MCR 9.121(B) (By Consent)

Meri Craver Borin, P46071, Troy, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Tri-County Hearing Panel #54, effective May 31, 2017.

The grievance administrator filed Formal Complaint 17-40-PI alleging that the respondent is incapacitated and cannot continue the practice of law pursuant to MCR 9.121(B).

The grievance administrator's counsel and the respondent filed a stipulation on April 18, 2017, agreeing that the respondent is currently incapacitated and unable to engage in the practice of law.

Tri-County Hearing Panel #54 issued an order transferring the respondent's license to inactive status pursuant to MCR 9.121(B) for an indefinite period and until further order of the Board, effective May 31, 2017.

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