

Disbarments

Richard A. Meier, P38204, Plymouth, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Tri-County Hearing Panel #1, effective August 25, 2018.¹

Based on the evidence presented by the parties at the hearings held in this matter, the hearing panel found that the respondent committed professional misconduct in his representation of two separate clients in pursuit of legal actions against their employers and that the respondent filed an affidavit of compliance that contained false statements. The panel found that the respondent failed to act with reasonable diligence and

promptness when representing a client, in violation of MRPC 1.3; failed to keep his clients reasonably informed regarding the status of their legal matters and failed to respond promptly to reasonable requests for information, in violation of MRPC 1.4(a); failed to explain a matter to the extent necessary for the client to remain reasonably informed regarding the status of a matter, in violation of MRPC 1.4(b); made a false statement of material fact to a court or tribunal, in violation of MRPC 3.3(a)(1); knowingly disobeyed an obligation under the rules of a tribunal, in violation of MRPC 3.4(c); and failed to provide an active client

with written notice of a suspension within seven days from the effective date of the suspension, in violation of MCR 9.119(A). The respondent was also found to have violated MCR 9.104(1)–(3).

The panel ordered that the respondent be disbarred from the practice of law in Michigan. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$2,675.55.

1. The respondent has been continuously suspended from the practice of law in Michigan since October 20, 2016. Please see Amended Notice of Suspension (As to Effective Date) (Pending Review), issued October 28, 2016, *Grievance Administrator v Richard A. Meier*, Case No. 15-29-GA.

Thomas N. Strauch, P38652, Detroit, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Tri-County Hearing Panel #26, effective September 1, 2018.¹

The grievance administrator filed a petition for an order to show cause on March 15, 2018, seeking additional discipline for the respondent's failure to comply with the hearing panel's Order of Suspension and Restitution With Conditions (By Consent), issued May 16, 2017. The respondent provided an answer to the grievance administrator's motion on April 9, 2018. An order to show cause was issued by the Board and a hearing was scheduled for June 18, 2018.

Based on the evidence presented, the hearing panel found that the respondent committed professional misconduct by failing to comply with the hearing panel's May 16, 2017 Order of Suspension and Restitution With Conditions (By Consent). The respondent engaged in conduct in violation of an order of discipline, contrary to MCR 9.104(9).

The panel ordered that the respondent be disbarred from the practice of law in Michigan. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$1,705.74.

1. The respondent has been continuously suspended from the practice of law in Michigan since June 1, 2017. Please see Notice of Suspension and Restitution With Conditions (By Consent), issued June 1, 2017.

Disbarment and Restitution (By Consent)

Keith T. Murphy, P29864, White Lake, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Tri-County Hearing Panel #67, effective September 5, 2018.

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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 admissions that he committed acts of professional misconduct, including practicing law during the period of his suspension when he met with a client, accepted a retainer, sent correspondence on his client's behalf in which he held himself out as an attorney, and made false statements in response to a request for investigation.

Based on the respondent's admissions and the stipulation of the parties, the panel found that the respondent practiced law in a jurisdiction in violation of the regulation of the legal profession in that jurisdiction, contrary to MRPC 5.5(a); knowingly made a false statement of material fact in connection with a disciplinary matter, in violation of MRPC 8.1(a)(1); knowingly made a misrepresentation of facts or circumstances surrounding a request for investigation, in violation of MCR 9.104(6) and MCR 9.113(A); practiced law after the period of his suspension, in violation of MCR 9.119(E)(1); had contact, in person, by telephone, and by electronic means, with clients, in violation of MCR 9.119(E)(2); and held himself out as an attorney, in violation of MCR 9.119(E)(4). The respondent was also found to have violated MCR 9.104(1)–(3) and (9); and MRPC 8.4(a)–(c).

In accordance with the stipulation of the parties, the hearing panel ordered that the respondent be disbarred from the practice of law in Michigan and pay restitution to one complainant in the amount of \$1,000. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$757.83.

Disbarment (By Consent)

Craig E. Hilborn, P43661, Birmingham, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Tri-County Hearing Panel #106, effective April 3, 2018.¹

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 At-

torney Grievance Commission and accepted by the hearing panel. The stipulation contained the respondent's admission that he was convicted of two counts of wire fraud (felonies), in violation of 18 USC 1343, in the matter titled *United States of America v Craig Hilborn*, United States District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, Case No. 18-cr-44-2. Based on the respondent's conviction and his admission in the stipulation, the hearing panel found that the respondent engaged in conduct that violated a criminal law of a state or of the United States, an ordinance, or tribal law pursuant to MCR 2.615, contrary to MCR 9.104(5).

In accordance with the stipulation of the parties, the hearing panel ordered that the respondent be disbarred from the practice of law in Michigan. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$834.45.

1. The date on which the State Bar of Michigan accepted the respondent's resignation under State Bar Rule 3(E), and the date stipulated to by the parties and accepted by the panel.

Reinstatement

Sameer Dua, P61249, Lansing, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Ingham County Hearing Panel #2, effective September 4, 2018.

The petitioner was suspended from the practice of law in Michigan for 180 days, effective August 5, 2017. His petition for reinstatement, filed in accordance with MCR 9.123(B) and MCR 9.124, was granted by Ingham County Hearing Panel #2. The panel concluded that the petitioner satisfactorily established his eligibility for reinstatement in accordance with the guidelines of those court rules. On August 23, 2018, the panel issued its Order of Eligibility for Reinstatement. On August 28, 2018, the Board received the required written documentation that the petitioner paid his dues with the State Bar of Michigan.

The Board issued an order reinstating the petitioner to the practice of law in Michigan, effective September 4, 2018.

Automatic Reinstatement

Rence L. Hickey-Niezgoda, P32843, Mount Pleasant, pursuant to MCR 9.123(A): July 31, 2018.

The respondent was suspended from the practice of law in Michigan for 90 days, effective May 1, 2018. 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, attesting to her full compliance with

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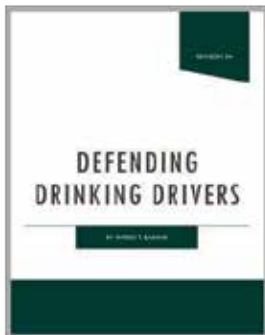
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the terms and conditions of the Order of Suspension With Condition (By Consent) issued in this matter.

Reinstatement (With Conditions)

Daniel L. Mercier, P72620, Bloomfield Hills, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Tri-County Hearing Panel #80, effective August 23, 2018.

The petitioner was suspended from the practice of law in Michigan for three years, effective April 15, 2013. His petition for reinstatement, filed in accordance with MCR 9.123(B) and MCR 9.124, was granted by Tri-County Hearing Panel #80. The panel concluded that the petitioner satisfactorily established his eligibility for reinstatement in accordance with the guidelines of those court rules. On January 22, 2018, the panel issued its Order of Eligibility for Reinstatement With Conditions. On June 19, 2018, the Board received the required written documentation that the petitioner paid his dues with the State Bar of Michigan. On August 21, 2018, the Board received the required written documentation that the respondent had been recertified by the State of Michigan Board of Law Examiners and proof of the petitioner's compliance with certain other conditions imposed in the panel's order of eligibility for reinstatement with conditions.

The Board issued an order reinstating the petitioner to the practice of law in Michigan with conditions, effective August 23, 2018.

Reprimand

Christopher R. Royce, P49102, East Lansing, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Ingham County Hearing Panel #4, effective September 1, 2018.

The respondent was convicted of operating while visibly impaired, in violation of MCL 257.6251-A, a misdemeanor, in a matter titled *People of the State of Michigan v Christopher Robert Royce*, 56-A District Court Case No. 17-0066-SD. Based on this conviction, the panel found that the respondent engaged in conduct that violated a criminal law of a state or of the United States, contrary to MCR 9.104(5). The respondent was also found to have violated MRPC 8.4(b).

The panel ordered that the respondent be reprimanded. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$1,877.77.

Reprimand (By Consent)

Ivar G. Anderson, P69592, Farmington, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Tri-County Hearing Panel #61, effective September 1, 2018.

The respondent and the grievance administrator filed an amended stipulation for a consent order of reprimand, in accordance with MCR 9.115(F)(5), which was approved by the Attorney Grievance Commission and accepted by the hearing panel. The amended stipulation contained the respondent's admission that he was convicted in a matter titled *People of the City of Farmington Hills v Ivar Gustaf Anderson*, 47th District Court Case No. 17H07493A, of the misdemeanor of operating while impaired by alcohol, in violation of MCL 257.6253-A. Based on the respondent's conviction and his admission in the stipulation, the hearing panel found that the respondent engaged in conduct that violated a criminal law of a state, contrary to MCR 9.104(5).

In accordance with the stipulation of the parties, the hearing panel ordered that the respondent be reprimanded. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$770.76.

Reprimands With Conditions (By Consent)

Zena Isshak, P66544, Chesterton, Indiana, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Kent County Hearing Panel #2, effective August 29, 2018.

The respondent and the grievance administrator filed a stipulation for a consent order of reprimand, 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 she was convicted in a matter titled *People of the Township of Commerce v Zena Isshak*, 52-1 District Court Case No. 15-002963-OT, of the misdemeanor of allowing a suspended/revoked person to oper-

ate a vehicle, in violation of MCL 257.9042-A. Based on the respondent's conviction and her admission in the stipulation, the hearing panel found that the respondent engaged in conduct that violated a criminal law of a state or of the United States, an ordinance, or tribal law pursuant to MCR 2.615, contrary to MCR 9.104(5).

In accordance with the stipulation of the parties, the hearing panel ordered that the respondent be reprimanded and that she be subject to conditions relevant to the established misconduct. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$1,005.62.

Jay M. Schloff, P60183, West Bloomfield, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Tri-County Hearing Panel #63, effective August 10, 2018.

In a reciprocal discipline proceeding under MCR 9.120(C), the grievance administrator filed a certified copy of a final order, reprimanding the respondent and placing him on a 24-month probationary period, entered by the United States Patent and Trademark Office, dated July 21, 2017, *In the Matter of Jay M. Schloff*, Proceeding No. D2017-22. The United States Patent and Trademark Office determined that the respondent committed the following misconduct: failed to obtain informed consent for limited-scope representation (37 CFR 11.102(c); see MRPC 1.2(b)); failed to promptly inform the client of any decision or circumstance with respect to which the client's informed consent is required, failed to reasonably consult with

the client about the means by which the client's objectives are to be accomplished, and failed to keep the client reasonably informed about the status of a matter (37 CFR 11.104(a)(1)–(3); see MRPC 1.2(a) and MRPC 1.4(a)–(b)); failed to act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client (37 CFR 11.103; see MRPC 1.3); failed to withdraw from representation when the practitioner is discharged (37 CFR 11.116(a)(3); see MRPC 1.16(a)(3)); and upon termination of representation, failed to take steps to the extent reasonably practicable to protect a client's interests, such as giving reasonable notice to the client and allowing time for employment of other counsel (37 CFR 11.116(d); see MRPC 1.16(d)). 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 parties' agreement that a reprimand constitutes comparable discipline in this matter.

In accordance with the stipulation of the parties, the panel ordered that the respondent be reprimanded and subject to the condition that, if the respondent is subject to an increase in discipline due to conduct during the probationary period in the United States Patent and Trademark Office matter, he shall be subject to a show cause proceeding in this matter to determine whether discipline should be increased accordingly. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$757.50.



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Suspension and Restitution (By Consent)

Paul F. Condino, P39456, Southfield, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Tri-County Hearing Panel #52, for three years, effective August 28, 2018.

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 admissions, pleas, and the stipulation of the parties, the panel found that the respondent committed professional misconduct by, among other things, neglecting mul-

ti-ple client matters and frequently failing to refund advance payment of fees that had not been earned.

Specifically, the panel found that the respondent failed to promptly notify the client or a third person when funds or property in which a client or a third person had interest was received, in violation of MRPC 1.15(B)(1); failed to promptly pay or deliver any funds or other property that the client or third person was entitled to receive, in violation of MRPC 1.15(b)(3); neglected a legal matter, in violation of MRPC 1.1(c); failed to seek the lawful objectives of the 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

a client reasonably informed about the status of a matter, in violation of MRPC 1.4(a); failed to refund an advance payment of a fee that had not been earned, in violation of MRPC 1.16(d); provided financial assistance to a client, in violation of MRPC 1.8(e); and engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, misrepresentation, or violation of a criminal law, where such conduct reflects adversely on the lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness, or fitness as a lawyer, contrary to MRPC 8.4(b). The respondent was also found to have violated MRPC 8.4(a) and (c) and MCR 9.104(1)–(4).

The panel ordered that the respondent's license to practice law in Michigan be suspended for three years. In addition, the respondent was ordered to pay restitution to 16 persons in the total amount of \$55,524. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$1,675.86.

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Amended Automatic Interim Suspension¹

Vanessa F. McCamant, P68254, Grand Rapids, effective August 13, 2018.

On July 9, 2018, the respondent pled guilty to operating while intoxicated—third offense, in violation of MCL 257.6256D, a felony, and the respondent's plea was taken under advisement by the court. The respondent's guilty plea was accepted on August 13, 2018, in the matter of *People of the State of Michigan v Vanessa Fosse McCamant*, Sixth Circuit Court Case No. 2018-267134-FH. In accordance with MCR 9.120(B)(1), the respondent's license to practice law in Michigan was automatically suspended upon the court's acceptance of her plea of guilty.

Upon the filing of a certified 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.

1. The August 17, 2018 Notice of Automatic Interim Suspension incorrectly listed the effective date of the respondent's interim suspension as July 9, 2018.

The respondent's guilty plea was accepted by the Sixth Circuit Court on August 13, 2018, the correct effective date of the respondent's interim suspension.