# Orders of Discipline and Disability

# Amended Disbarment and Restitution<sup>1</sup>

John P. Lozano, P52862, Saginaw, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Genesee County Hearing Panel #1, effective October 3, 2019.2

Based on the respondent's default and the evidence presented at the hearing, the hearing panel found that the respondent committed professional misconduct as set forth in the formal complaint. Specifically, the respondent was hired to represent the client's company as a creditor in a Chapter 13 bankruptcy proceeding. The respondent received eight separate checks totaling \$3,500 pay-

able to his client, and instead of informing his client of the checks, the respondent endorsed the checks and deposited them into his own account.

The hearing panel found that the respondent failed to keep a client reasonably informed about the status of a matter, in violation of MRPC 1.4(a); failed to promptly notify a client when funds in which the client had an interest were received, in violation of MRPC 1.15(b)(1); failed to promptly pay or deliver any funds that a client was entitled to receive, and failed to promptly render a full accounting regarding the funds, in violation of MRPC 1.15(b)(3); failed to hold property of a client in connection with a representation separate from his own property, in violation of MRPC 1.15(d); and filed an answer to a request for investigation that contained a misrepresentation and/or did not fully and fairly disclose all the facts and circumstances pertaining to the alleged misconduct, in violation of MCR 9.104(6), MCR 9.104(7), and MCR 9.113(A). The respondent was also found to have violated MCR 9.104(2) and (3) and MRPC 8.4(a) and (b).

The panel ordered that the respondent's license to practice law in Michigan be suspended for three years and that he pay restitution totaling \$3,500. The grievance administrator filed a timely petition for review. After conducting review proceedings in accordance with MCR 9.118, the Attorney Discipline Board increased the discipline from a three-year suspension to disbarment and affirmed the order requiring the respondent to pay restitution. Total costs were assessed in the amount of \$2,274.91.

- 1. The first notice issued on June 8, 2020 had two transposed digits in the respondent's P-number. This amended notice corrects that mistake.
- 2. The respondent has been continuously suspended from the practice of law in Michigan since November 28, 2017. Please see Notice of Suspension and Restitution with Conditions (By Consent), issued June 21, 2018, Grievance Administrator v John P. Lozano, 17-39-GA.

# ATTORNEY DISCIPLINE DEFENSE

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- Past chairperson, SBM Committee on Professional Ethics
- Past member, ABA Center for Professional Responsibility Committee on Continuing Legal Education
- Over 25 years experience representing attorneys in—discipline investigations/proceedings and ethics consultations; Bar applicants in character and fitness investigations/proceedings

#### ERICA N. LEMANSKI

- Member, SBM Committee on Professional Ethics
- Experienced in representing attorneys in—discipline investigations/proceedings and ethics consultations; Bar applicants in character and fitness investigations/proceedings

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# Disbarment and Restitution (With Condition)

Paul F. Beggs, P42914, Bay City, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Tri-Valley Hearing Panel #2, effective May 12, 2020.1

Based on the respondent's default and the evidence presented at the hearing, the hearing panel found that the respondent committed professional misconduct as set forth in a 14-count formal complaint, in its entirety. Specifically, and as referenced in the separate counts of the complaint, the panel found that the respondent committed misconduct in relation to two financial transactions entered into with two separate clients or their families; in his handling of a wrongful death lawsuit, and a lawsuit involving the theft of a burial marker from a prepaid burial lot; his handling of two separate applications to set aside criminal convictions; his handling of three separate divorce matters; his drafting of a will and accompanying

documents; his handling of a post-judgment matter relating to a qualified domestic relations order; his handling of a careless driving charge; his failure to appear for a custody matter; and his failure to respond to numerous requests for investigation.

The panel found that the respondent neglected legal matters entrusted to him, in violation of MRPC 1.1(c) (Counts 3-6 and 8-13); failed to seek the lawful objectives of a client, in violation of MRPC 1.2(a) (Counts 3-6 and 8-13); failed to act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing his clients, in violation of MRPC 1.3 (Counts 3-6 and 8-13); failed to keep his clients reasonably informed about the status of their cases and also failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information, in violation of MRPC 1.4(a) (Counts 1, 3-6, and 18-13); 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) (Counts 3-6 and 12); represented a client when the representation of that client was materially limited by the lawyer's responsibilities to another client, or to a third person, in violation of MRPC 1.7(b) (Counts 1 and 2); entered into business transactions with clients that were adverse to the interest of the clients, in violation of MRPC 1.8(a) (Count 1); accepted compensation for representing a client from one other than the client, in violation of MRPC 1.8(f) (Count 2); failed to promptly notify the client or third person when funds or property in which a client or third person had an interest was received, in violation of MRPC 1.15(b)(1) (Count 6); 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) (Count 6); failed to deposit client funds into an IOLTA and appropriately safeguard funds, in violation of MRPC 1.15(d) (Count 6); failed to refund an unearned fee, in violation of MRPC 1.16(d) (Counts 4-6 and 8-13); failed to make reasonable efforts to expedite litigation, in violation of MRPC 3.2 (Count 3); made a false statement of material fact to a tribunal and/or failed to correct a false statement of material fact previously made to the tribunal by the lawyer, in violation of MRPC 3.3(a)(1) (Count 7); offered materially false evidence and when he learned of its falsity, failed to take reasonable remedial measures, including, if necessary, disclosure to the tribunal, in violation of MRPC 3.3(a)(3) (Count 7); knowingly disobeyed an obligation under the rules of a tribunal, in violation of MRPC 3.4(c) (Count 13); knowingly failed to respond to a lawful demand for information from a disciplinary authority, in violation of MRPC 8.1(a)(2) (Count 14); engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, and misrepresentation, in violation of MRPC 8.4(b) (Counts 3-6 and 12); and failed to answer a request for investigation, in violation of MCR 9.104(7), MCR 9.113(A), and MCR 9.113(B)(2) (Count 14). The respondent was also found to have violated MCR 9.104(1)-(4) (Counts 1-14) and MRPC 8.4(a) and MRPC 8.4(c) (Counts 1–14).

The panel ordered that the respondent be disbarred from the practice of law in Michigan and that he pay restitution totaling \$222,448.74. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$2,340.08.

1. The respondent has been continuously suspended from the practice of law in Michigan since February 5, 2020. Please see Notice of Interim Suspension Pursuant to MCR 9.115(H)(1), issued February 7, 2020.

## Disbarments (By Consent)

Sylvia A. James, P30118, Inkster, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Tri-County Hearing Panel #26, effective July 31, 2012.1

In a reciprocal discipline proceeding filed pursuant to MCR 9.120(C), the grievance administrator filed a certified copy of an order removing the Honorable Sylvia James from office entered by the Supreme Court on July 31, 2012, in a matter titled In re James, 492 Mich 553; 821 NW2d 144 (2012). Tri-County Hearing Panel #26 subsequently determined to hold the matter in abeyance pending certain decisions to be made by the court in James v Hampton, et al, U.S. District Court (ED MI), Case No. 2:12-cv-10273. The panel required the parties to provide periodic joint status reports beginning in May 2013 through September 2019. The parties' last joint status report indicated that the U.S. District Court (ED MI) entered an order on June 26, 2019, resolving the last pending claim before that court.

Thereafter, 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 she was removed from office pursuant to the July 31, 2012 order of the Michigan Supreme Court, and her acknowledgment that pursuant to that order, misconduct

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# **AUTHOR: PATRICK T. BARONE**

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appears in their companion America's Best Law Firms. He has been rated "Seriously Outstanding" by Super Lawyers, rated "Outstanding/10.0" by AVVO, and has recently been rated as among the top 5% of Michigan's lawyers by Leading Lawyers magazine. Mr. Barone is the principal and founding member of The Barone Defense Firm, whose criminal practice focuses on intoxicated driving cases including those involving injury or death.

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was conclusively established and that disbarment constituted comparable discipline in Michigan. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$1,064.22.

1. The effective date of the order was made retroactive to the date the respondent was removed from office by the Michigan Supreme Court, as stipulated by the parties.

Timothy D. VandenBerg, P55960, Caledonia, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Kent County Hearing Panel #4, effective November 13, 2019.1

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 Attorney Grievance Commission and accepted by the hearing panel. The stipulation contained the respondent's admission that he was convicted, by guilty plea, of one count of forgery, in violation of MCR 750.248, in a matter titled People v Timothy David VandenBerg, 17th Judicial Circuit, Case No. 18-10693-FH. 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, effective November 13, 2019, the effective date of the disbarment previously issued in Grievance Administrator v Timothy D. VandenBerg, 19-19-JC; 19-20-GA. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$775.72.

1. The respondent has been continuously suspended from the practice of law in Michigan since May 31, 2019. Please see Notice of Interim Suspension Pursuant to MCR 9.115(H)(1), issued in Grievance Administrator v Timothy D. VandenBerg, 19-19-JC; 19-20-GA, on June 7, 2019.

Anthony L. Vespa, P46207, Birmingham, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Tri-County Hearing Panel #11, effective August 6, 2019.1

The respondent and the grievance administrator filed a Stipulation for Consent Order of Disbarment, 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, by guilty plea, of one count of wire fraud, in violation of 18 USC 1343, a felony, in a matter titled United States of America v Anthony Vespa, United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, Case No. 2:19-cr-20220. 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 \$792.

 The respondent has been continuously suspended from the practice of law in Michigan since July 1, 2012. Please see Notice of Suspension (By Consent), issued in *Grievance Administrator v Anthony L. Vespa*, 12-3-GA, on July 6, 2012.

#### Reinstatements

**Danielle R. Havenstein**, P69414, Grand Rapids, by the Attorney Discipline Board, effective June 8, 2020.

The petitioner was suspended from the practice of law in Michigan, effective September 17, 2016. On December 5, 2018, the petitioner filed a petition for reinstatement pursuant to MCR 9.123(B) and MCR 9.124, which was assigned to Kent County Hearing Panel #1. After a hearing on the petition, the panel concluded that the petitioner satisfactorily established her eligibility for reinstatement, and on June 5, 2019, issued an Order of Eligibility for Reinstatement. On June 2, 2020, the Board received confirmation that the petitioner paid her Bar dues in accordance with Rules 2 and 3 of the Supreme Court Rules concerning the State Bar of Michigan.

The Board issued an order reinstating the petitioner to the practice of law in Michigan, effective June 8, 2020.

**Wade H. McCree**, P37626, Detroit, by the Attorney Discipline Board, effective June 8, 2020.

The petitioner was suspended from the practice of law in Michigan for three years, effective January 22, 2016. His petition for reinstatement, filed in accordance with MCR 9.123(B) and MCR 9.124, was granted by Tri-County Hearing Panel #6. The panel concluded that the petitioner satisfactorily established his eligibility for reinstatement in accordance with the guidelines of those court rules. On November 8, 2019, the panel issued its Order of Eligibility for Reinstatement. On June 2, 2020, the Board received confirmation that the petitioner paid his Bar dues in accordance with Rules 2 and 3 of the Supreme Court Rules concerning the State Bar of Michigan, and that he was recertified by the State of Michigan Board of Law Examiners.

The Board issued an order reinstating the petitioner to the practice of law in Michigan, effective June 8, 2020.

## Orders of Reinstatement

Tri-County Hearing Panel #8 of the Attorney Discipline Board issued an order on August 22, 2019, suspending the respondent's license to practice law in Michigan for 179 days, effective September 13, 2019. The grievance administrator filed a petition for review seeking an increase in discipline. On February 27, 2020, the Attorney Discipline Board issued an Order Affirming Hearing Panel Order of Suspension.

On May 15, 2020, the respondent, **Fulton B. Eaglin**, submitted an affidavit pursuant to MCR 9.123(A), showing that he has fully complied with all requirements of the Order of Suspension. On May 20, 2020, the Board was advised that the grievance administrator had no objection to the affidavit; and the Board being otherwise advised;

#### NOW THEREFORE,

**IT IS ORDERED** that the respondent, Fulton B. Eaglin, is **REINSTATED** to the practice of law in Michigan, effective May 22, 2020.

On June 2, 2020, the hearing panel issued an Order of Suspension With Conditions (By Consent), suspending the respondent from the practice of law in Michigan for 179 days, effective retroactively to August 29, 2019. On June 5, 2020, the respondent, **Trevor Michael Salaski**, submitted an af-

fidavit pursuant to MCR 9.123(A), showing that he has fully complied with all requirements of the Order of Suspension With Conditions (By Consent). The Board was advised that the grievance administrator has no objection to the affidavit; and the Board being otherwise advised;

#### NOW THEREFORE,

**IT IS ORDERED** that the respondent, Trevor Michael Salaski, is **REINSTATED** to the practice of law in Michigan, effective June 11, 2020.

On April 16, 2019, the hearing panel issued an Order of Suspension With Conditions (By Consent), suspending the respondent from the practice of law in Michigan for 90 days, effective January 8, 2020. On April 17, 2020, the respondent, **Caroletta L. Sprinkle**, submitted an affidavit pursuant to MCR 9.123(A), showing that she has fully complied with all requirements of the Order of Suspension With Conditions (By Consent). The Board has been advised that the grievance administrator has no objection to the affidavit; and the Board being otherwise advised;

#### NOW THEREFORE,

**IT IS ORDERED** that the respondent, Caroletta L. Sprinkle, is **REINSTATED** to the practice of law in Michigan, effective April 30, 2020.

## Reinstatement (With Conditions)

**Derrick N. Okonmah**, P68221, Clarkston, by the Attorney Discipline Board, effective May 5, 2020.

The petitioner was continuously suspended from the practice of law in Michigan effective December 19, 2017. On November 5, 2019, the petitioner filed a petition for reinstatement pursuant to MCR 9.123(B) and MCR 9.124, which was assigned to Tri-County Hearing Panel #1. After a hearing on the petition, the panel concluded that the petitioner satisfactorily established his eligibility for reinstatement and on April 16, 2020, issued an Order of Eligibility for Reinstatement With Conditions. On April 28, 2020, the Board received confirmation that the petitioner paid his Bar dues in accordance with Rules 2 and 3 of the Supreme Court Rules concerning the State Bar of Michigan.

# Orders of Discipline and Disability

The Board issued an order reinstating the petitioner to the practice of law in Michigan, with conditions, effective May 5, 2020.

# Reprimands (By Consent)

Russell D. Brown, P60583, Saline, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Tri-County Hearing Panel #10, effective May 15, 2020.

The respondent and the grievance administrator filed a Stipulation for Consent Order of a 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 admissions to the allegations that he committed acts of professional misconduct when he placed a \$2,000 fee, which he had not yet earned, into his business account instead of his IOLTA account; failed to draft business documents he was hired to prepare in a timely manner; and failed to timely refund the unearned fee to the clients upon request.

Based on the respondent's admissions and the stipulation of the parties, the panel found that the respondent failed to act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client, in violation of MRPC 1.3; failed to promptly deliver funds that a client or third party was entitled to receive, in violation of MRPC 1.15(b)(3); commingled funds by failing to deposit advance fees in a client trust account and failing to withdraw them as they were earned, in violation of MRPC 1.15(g); and failed to protect a client's interests upon termination of the representation by not returning an unearned fee, in violation of MRPC 1.16(d). The respondent was also found to have violated MCR 9.104(2) and MRPC 8.4(a).

In accordance with the stipulation of the parties, the hearing panel ordered that the respondent be reprimanded. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$1,126.64.

Melissa C. Galang, P69951, Livonia, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Tri-County Hearing Panel #12, effective April 15, 2020.

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 to the allegations that she committed acts of professional misconduct during her handling of the disbursement of settlement funds from her IOLTA after arbitration was held in a matter titled Parker Ludy v Auto Club Group Ins Co, Wayne County Circuit Court, Case No. 12-004803-NI.

Based on the respondent's admissions and the stipulation of the parties, the panel found that the respondent failed to promptly pay or deliver funds that a third person was entitled to receive, in violation of MRPC 1.15(b)(3); and failed to identify and appropriately safeguard other property held in her IOLTA, in violation of MRPC 1.15(d). The respondent was also found to have violated MRPC 8.4(a) and MCR 9.104(2) and (3).

In accordance with the stipulation of the parties, the hearing panel ordered that the respondent be reprimanded. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$757.60.

Stuart D. Sherr, P33110, Farmington Hills, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Tri-County Hearing Panel #81, effective May 15, 2020.

The respondent and the grievance administrator filed a Stipulation for 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 he was convicted of larceny-less than \$200, in violation of MCL 750.3565, a misdemeanor, in People of the State of Michigan v Stuart David Sherr, 48th District Court, Case No. 19-20002-SM.

Based on the respondent's conviction, admissions, and the parties' stipulation, the panel found that the respondent committed professional misconduct when he 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. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$750.

# Suspensions and Restitution

Michael R. Honeywell, P70342, Ionia, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Kent County Hearing Panel #4, for 365 days, effective March 17, 2020.

Based on the respondent's default, the hearing panel found that he committed professional misconduct in his representation of a client in a civil matter filed against an adjacent property owner seeking damages for trespassing and conversion.

The panel found that the respondent handled a legal matter without preparation adequate in the circumstances, in violation of MRPC 1.1(b); failed to seek the lawful objective of a client through reasonably available means, in violation of MRPC 1.2; failed to act with reasonable diligence and promptness when representing a client, in violation of MRPC 1.3; failed to keep a client reasonably informed regarding the status of a matter, in violation of MRPC 1.4(a); and failed to explain a matter to a client to the extent reasonably necessary for a client to make informed decisions regarding the representation, in violation of MRPC 1.4(b). The respondent was also found to have violated MCR 9.104(2) and (3).

The panel ordered that the respondent's license to practice law be suspended for 365 days, effective retroactively to March 17, 2020, the date the respondent's license to practice law was suspended pursuant to MCR 9.115(H)(1), and that he be required to pay restitution in the amount of \$19,516.89. Total costs were assessed in the amount of \$2,152.56.

Seymour Hundley Jr., P39081, Troy, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Tri-County Hearing Panel #59, for one year, effective April 24, 2020.1

Formal Complaint 19-62-GA alleged that the respondent committed professional misconduct in relation to his representation of a client in a personal injury matter. It was also alleged that the respondent failed to provide documentation requested by the Attorney Grievance Commission and failed to appear for a sworn statement.

After proceedings pursuant to MCR 9.115, the panel found that the respondent neglected a legal matter, 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 representing a client, in violation of MRPC 1.3; failed to keep a client reasonably informed about the status of a matter and comply promptly with reasonable requests for information, in violation of MRPC 1.4(a); failed to explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make an informed decision regarding the representation, in violation of MRPC 1.4(b); failed to refund a filing fee, in violation of MRPC 1.16(d); and knowingly failed to respond to a lawful demand for information, in violation of MRPC 8.1(a)(2). The respondent was also found to have violated MCR 9.104(1)-(4); and MRPC 8.4(a) and (c).

The panel ordered that the respondent's license to practice law in Michigan be suspended for one year and that he pay restitution to his former client. Total costs were assessed in the amount of \$1,770.65.

1. The respondent has been continuously suspended from the practice of law since March 2, 2020. Please see Notice of Interim Suspension Pursuant to MCR 9.115(H)(1), Grievance Administrator v Seymour Hundley Jr., Case No. 19-62-GA, issued March 5, 2020.

Scott D. Norton, P35717, Birmingham, by the Attorney Discipline Board, for 60 days, effective May 5, 2020.

The panel found that the respondent committed professional misconduct during his representation of a client in a driver's license appeal before the Secretary of State. Specifically, the hearing panel found that the respondent neglected a legal matter entrusted to him, 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 the matter, in violation of MRPC 1.4(a); failed to explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to make informed decisions regarding the representation, in violation of MRPC 1.4(b); and violated, or attempted to violate, the Michigan Rules of Professional Conduct, contrary to MRPC 8.4(a).

The panel ordered that the respondent's license to practice law be suspended for 60 days and that he be required to pay restitution totaling \$1,500. The respondent filed a timely petition for review seeking a reduction of the discipline imposed and a request for a stay, which resulted in an automatic stay of the hearing panel's order. On February 4, 2020, the Board affirmed the hearing panel's order of suspension and restitution in its entirety. The respondent filed a motion for reconsideration, which was denied by the Board on April 6, 2020. Total costs were assessed in the amount of \$2,251.88.

# Suspension and Restitution With Condition (By Consent)

James L. Galen Jr., P43406, Clinton Township, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Washtenaw County Hearing Panel #5, for 120 days, effective August 1, 2020.

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 twice held in criminal contempt, and that he pleaded guilty to the misdemeanor violations of use of a controlled substance, cocaine, in three separate matters. The stipulation further contained the respondent's admission that he neglected a client's driver's license restoration appeal by failing to file the appeal with the Michigan Secretary

of State; and neglected another client's criminal matter by failing to appear for two hearings in a row.

Based on the respondent's conviction, admissions, and the stipulation of the parties, the hearing panel found that the respondent committed professional misconduct by engaging 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); neglected a legal matter, in violation of MRPC 1.1(c); failed to act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client, in violation of MRPC 1.3; failed to keep his client reasonably informed about the status of a matter and to comply promptly with reasonable requests for information, in violation of MRPC 1.4(a); and failed to make reasonable efforts to ensure that his nonlawyer staff complied with the rules of professional conduct, in violation of MRPC 5.3(b). The respondent was also found have violated MRPC 8.4(a) and (c); and MCR 9.104(1)-(4).

In accordance with the original stipulation of the parties, and a stipulation filed later to modify the effective date of the respondent's suspension, the hearing panel ordered that the respondent's license to practice law in Michigan be suspended for 120 days, effective August 1, 2020; that he be subject to conditions relevant to the established misconduct; and that he pay restitution totaling \$1,750. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$883.96.

# TODD A. McCONAGHY



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# Orders of Discipline and Disability

# Suspension (By Consent)

James E. Stamman, P31541, North Fort Myers, Florida, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Tri-County Hearing Panel #1, for 179 days, effective May 2, 2020.1

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 Attorney Grievance Commission and accepted by the hearing panel. The stipulation contained the respondent's admission that he was convicted of battery on a law enforcement officer, a felony, in a matter titled State of Florida v James Edward Stamman, 20th Judicial Circuit in and for Lee County Florida, Case No. 18-CF-020115. Based on the respondent's conviction, admissions, and the stipulation of the parties, the hearing panel found that the respondent committed professional misconduct by engaging 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's license to practice law in Michigan be suspended for 179 days. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$771.46.

1. The respondent has been continuously suspended from the practice of law in Michigan since June 6, 2019. Please see Notice of Automatic Interim Suspension, issued September 13, 2019.

# Interim Suspension Pursuant to MCR 9.115(H)(2)

Robert Kurtycz, P71637, Kalamazoo, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Kalamazoo County Hearing Panel #4, effective May

Before the May 21, 2020 scheduled hearing in this matter, the respondent advised the Attorney Discipline Board that he would be unable to participate in a full hearing on this matter for medical reasons. The hearing panel converted the hearing to a pretrial teleconference to better accommodate the respondent. The respondent failed to appear or otherwise participate in the May 21, 2020 pre-hearing teleconference.

In accordance with MCR 9.115(H)(2), the hearing panel determined that the respondent's inability to appear warranted an interim suspension from the practice of law until further order of the panel. The panel issued an order of interim suspension of the respondent's license, effective May 21, 2020.

# Suspensions With Conditions (By Consent)

Michael J. O'Hagan, P39963, Cadillac, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Grand Traverse County Hearing Panel #1, for 180 days, effective June 5, 2020.

The respondent appeared at the hearing but was in default for his failure to file an answer to the formal complaint. Based on the respondent's default and the stipulation of the parties, the panel found that the respondent committed professional misconduct while representing a client injured in an auto accident in which her husband was killed; failed to provide additional information requested during the investigation of a request for investigation; and failed to appear when subpoenaed by the administrator for a sworn statement relating to the same request for investigation.

The respondent and the grievance administrator filed a Stipulation for Consent Order of 180-Day Suspension With Conditions, as to the level of discipline to be imposed. The stipulation was approved by the Attorney Grievance Commission and accepted by the hearing panel. Specifically, the panel found that the respondent neglected a legal matter entrusted to the lawyer, in violation of MRPC 1.1(c); failed to represent a client with reasonable diligence and promptness, in violation of MRPC 1.3; failed to keep a client reasonably informed about the status of a matter and comply promptly with requests for information and immediately

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notify a client about settlement offers, in violation of MRPC 1.14(a); failed to explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary for a client to make informed decisions regarding the representation, in violation of MRPC 1.4(b); provided financial assistance to a client in connection with pending litigation, in violation of MRPC 1.8(e); failed to promptly pay or deliver any funds that the client or third party was entitled to receive, in violation of MRPC 1.15(b)(3); failed to promptly release the client file upon termination of the representation, in violation of MRPC 1.16(d); failed to expedite litigation, consistent with the interests of his client, in violation of MRPC 3.2; and knowingly failed to respond to a lawful demand for information, in violation of MRPC 8.1(a)(2). The respondent was also found to have violated MRPC 8.4(a)-(c); and MCR 9.104(1)-(4).

In accordance with the stipulation of the parties, the panel ordered that the respondent's license to practice law in Michigan be suspended for 180 days; that he take steps to distribute all funds in his IOLTA to the agreed upon appropriate individuals; and that he would be ineligible to petition for reinstatement until he provided verification that he fully complied with this condition. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$1,792.36.

**Trevor Michael Salaski**, P74703, Southfield, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Tri-County Hearing Panel #63, for 179 days, effective August 29, 2019.

The respondent and the grievance administrator filed a Stipulation for Consent Order of a 179-Day Suspension With Condition, 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 in a matter titled People of the State of Michigan v Trevor Michael Salaski, 6th Circuit Court, Case No. 19-270850-FH, of operating while intoxicated/per se-3rd offense, a felony, in violation of MCL 257.6256D. Based on the respondent's conviction, admissions, and the stipulation of the parties, the hearing panel found that the respondent committed professional misconduct by engaging 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's license to practice law in Michigan be suspended for 179 days, effective retroactively to August 29, 2019, the date of his guilty plea, which resulted in the automatic interim suspension of his license to practice law, and that he be subject to conditions relevant to the established misconduct. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$765.

**Caroletta L. Sprinkle**, P49898, West Bloomfield, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Tri-County Hearing Panel #80, for 90 days, effective January 8, 2020.

The respondent and the grievance administrator filed a Stipulation for Consent Order of a 90-Day Suspension With Conditions, 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 State of Michigan v Caroletta Letitia Sprinkle*, 6th Circuit Court, Case No. 19-271891-FH, of operating while intoxicated–3rd offense, a felony, in violation of MCL 257.6256D. Based on the respondent's conviction, admissions, and the stipulation of the parties, the hearing panel found that the respondent committed professional misconduct by engaging 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's license to practice law in Michigan be suspended for 90 days, effective January 8, 2020, the date of the respondent's automatic suspension from the practice of law in Michigan because of her felony conviction, and that she be subject to conditions relevant to the established misconduct. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$827.36.



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