

Disbarment and Restitution (With Condition)

Peter R. Albertins, P48886, New Hudson, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Tri-County Hearing Panel #77, effective October 21, 2019.

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 when he requested and received attorney fees from four different clients and then either failed to take any action or failed to complete their matters; failed to communicate with the clients; failed to return unearned fees; settled a matter without his client's permission; misused his IOLTA account; and intentionally lied to the grievance administrator's counsel to exploit sym-

pathy for a loved one's alleged death and to delay cooperating with the administrator's request for further information.

The panel specifically 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, 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 keep his clients reasonably informed about the status of their matters and comply promptly with reasonable requests for information, and failed to promptly notify the clients of all settlement offers, in violation of MRPC 1.4(a); failed to explain matters to his clients to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the clients to make informed deci-

sions regarding their representation, in violation of MRPC 1.4(b); upon the conclusion of a contingent fee matter, failed to provide a client with a written statement of the outcome of a matter and to explain the remittance to the client and the method of its determination, in violation of MRPC 1.5(c); failed to promptly pay or deliver funds that his clients were entitled to receive, in violation of MRPC 1.15(b)(3); failed to hold property of clients in connection with a representation separate from his own property and appropriately safeguarded, in violation of MRPC 1.15(d); deposited his own funds in a client trust account in an amount more than reasonably necessary to pay financial institution service charges or fees, in violation of MRPC 1.15(f); failed to surrender papers or property or to refund the advance payment of fees that have not been earned upon termination of the representations, in violation of MRPC 1.16(d); made a false statement of material fact or law to a third person, in violation of MRPC 4.1; and made a knowing misrepresentation of facts or circumstances surrounding a request for investigation or complaint, in violation of MCR 9.104(6). The respondent was also found to have violated MCR 9.104(1)-(3) and MRPC 8.4(b).

The panel ordered that the respondent be disbarred from the practice of law; pay restitution in the total amount of \$7,935; and be subject to a condition relative to the established misconduct. The respondent filed a delayed petition for review, which was considered and denied by the board's chairperson. Total costs were assessed in the amount of \$3,394.62.

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Suspension (By Consent)

Mark Lin Bessner, P69765, Grosse Pointe Farms, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Tri-County Hearing Panel #5, for 48 months, effective April 17, 2019.

The respondent and the grievance administrator filed a Stipulation for Consent Order of a four-year suspension, 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 jury verdict

on April 17, 2019, of homicide-involuntary manslaughter, a felony, in violation of MCL 750.321(C), in a matter titled *People of the State of Michigan v Mark Lin Bessner*, Wayne County Circuit Court Case No. 18-000923-01-FC. In accordance with MCR 9.120(B)(1), the respondent's license to practice law in Michigan was automatically suspended effective April 17, 2019, the date of his felony conviction.

Based on the respondent's admissions and the stipulation of the parties, 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, in violation of 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 48 months, ef-

fective April 17, 2019, the date of his automatic interim suspension from the practice of law. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$790.58.

Automatic Interim Suspension

Kevin E. Clinesmith, P70962, Washington D.C., effective August 19, 2020.

On August 19, 2020, the court accepted the respondent's plea of guilty to false statements, in violation of 18 USC 1001(a)(3), a felony, in the matter titled *United States of America v Kevin Clinesmith*, U.S. District Court, District of Columbia, Case No. 1:20-cr-00165-JEB. In accordance with MCR 9.120(B)(1), the respondent's license to practice law in Michigan was automatically suspended on the date of his felony conviction.

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.

Suspension (With Conditions)

Edward M. Czuprynski, P34114, Bay City, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Tri-Valley Hearing Panel #2, for 90 days, effective December 16, 2020.

The hearing panel found that the respondent committed professional misconduct when he "carr[ie]d out a campaign of malicious destruction of [a tenant's] property which in essence constituted acts of extrajudicial self-help." The panel specifically found that the respondent engaged in conduct that exposed the legal profession to obloquy, contempt, censure, or reproach, in violation of MCR 9.104(2); and engaged in

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- *United States v. Zerilli*, 2002—prosecution of the number two ranking member of the Detroit LCN.

SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Letters of Commendation, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation: 2004, 2002, 1999, 1986, 1982.
- United States Department of Justice Directors Award 1999.



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conduct contrary to justice, ethics, honesty, or good morals, in violation of MCR 9.104(3).

The panel ordered that the respondent's license to practice law be suspended for a period of 90 days and that he be subject to conditions relevant to the established misconduct. The respondent timely filed a petition for review and a petition for stay, which was granted automatically pursuant to MCR 9.115(K).

Following proceedings conducted in accordance with MCR 9.118, the board issued an opinion and order affirming the hearing panel's order of suspension with conditions but amending the conditions imposed by the panel for clarity. The Michigan Supreme Court denied the respondent's application for leave to appeal on November 24, 2020. Total costs were assessed in the amount of \$3,777.35.

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Order of Reinstatement

On April 13, 2020, Tri-County Hearing Panel #104 entered an Order of Suspension in this matter suspending the respondent from the practice of law in Michigan for 120 days, effective May 5, 2020. On May 1, 2020, the respondent filed a Motion for Reconsideration of Hearing Panel per MCR 9.118(E). In response to a request for clarification from the Attorney Discipline Board, on May 18, 2020, the respondent filed a Petition for Stay Pursuant to Filing of Motion of Relief from Judgment or Order Under Rule 2.612(C)(1)(f) and Motion of Relief From Judgment or Order Pursuant to Rule 2.612(C)(1)(f). An Order Granting Interim Stay of Order of Discipline was issued on May 29, 2020. On June 19, 2020, the panel issued an Order Denying Respondent's Motion for Relief from Judgment and Dissolving Interim Stay of Order of Discipline. Pursuant to that order, the respondent's 120-day suspension from the practice of law became effective on July 11, 2020.

On December 21, 2020, the respondent, **Timothy Thomas Doty**, submitted an affidavit pursuant to MCR 9.123(A), stating that he has fully complied with all requirements of the Order of Suspension. On January 8, 2020, the board was advised that the grievance administrator had no objection to the affidavit; and the board being otherwise advised;

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NOW THEREFORE,

IT IS ORDERED that the respondent, Timothy Thomas Doty, P75614, is **REINSTATED** to the practice of law in Michigan effective January 12, 2020.

Reprimand

Michael P. Doud, P55491, Saginaw, by the Attorney Discipline Board, effective December 11, 2020.

The grievance administrator filed a Notice of Filing of Reciprocal Discipline pursuant to MCR 9.120(C), that attached a certified copy of an order reprimanding the respondent, entered by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, Southern Division on August 27, 2018, *In Re Michael Doud (P55491) and Floyd Steele (P45357)*, 2:17-mc-51253.

An order regarding imposition of reciprocal discipline was issued and served on the respondent on October 13, 2020. The 21-day period referenced in MCR 9.120(C)(2)(b) expired without objection by either party and the respondent was deemed to be in default. Pursuant to MCR 9.120(C)(6), the Attorney Discipline Board imposed comparable discipline and ordered that the respondent be reprimanded. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$1,518.

Reprimand (By Consent)

Stephen L. Haslett, P14725, Plainwell, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Calhoun County Hearing Panel #1, effective December 4, 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 by plea of operating while intoxicated, a misdemeanor, in violation of MCL 257.6251(A), in *People of the State of Michigan v Stephen Lynn Haslett*, 57th District Court Case No. 19-0998-SD.

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, in violation of 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 \$757.22.

Suspension

Andrew M. Hopko, P74737, Grosse Pointe Farms, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Tri-County Hearing Panel #27, for 30 days, effective December 18, 2020.

Based on the evidence presented to the hearing panel at hearings held in this matter in accordance with MCR 9.115, the hearing panel found that the respondent committed professional misconduct when he failed to answer a request for investigation (RI) and failed to appear when subpoenaed by the grievance administrator for a sworn statement in connection with the investigation of the RI.

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

The panel majority ordered that the respondent's license to practice law be suspended for a period of 30 days. A dissenting panel member would have reprimanded the respondent. Total costs were assessed in the amount of \$2,290.96.

Reinstatement

Lisa M. Londer, P64672, Oxford, by the Attorney Discipline Board.

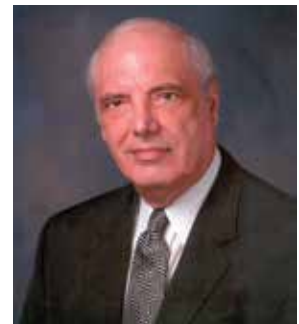
The petitioner's license to practice law in Michigan was revoked effective June 28, 2006. On November 18, 2019, the petitioner filed a petition for reinstatement pursuant to MCR 9.123 and MCR 9.124, which was assigned to Tri-County Hearing Panel #68. After a hearing on the petition, the panel concluded that the petitioner satisfactorily established her eligibility for reinstatement

and on April 3, 2020, issued an Order of Eligibility for Reinstatement. On January 11, 2021, the board received written confirmation of the petitioner's recertification by the State of Michigan Board of Law Examiners and that the petitioner paid her bar dues

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in accordance with Rules 2 and 3 of the Supreme Court Rules concerning the State Bar of Michigan.

The board issued an Order of Reinstatement reinstating the petitioner to the practice of law in Michigan, effective January 12, 2021.

Reinstatement (With Conditions)

Matthew R. Miller, P74612, Richland, by the Attorney Discipline Board, effective December 16, 2020.

The petitioner's license to practice law in Michigan was suspended for two years on January 6, 2017. On April 24, 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 #63. After a hearing on the petition, the panel concluded that the petitioner satisfactorily established his eligibility for reinstatement and on March 10, 2020, issued an Order of Eligibility for Reinstatement with Conditions. On December 10, 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.

The board issued an Order of Reinstatement with Conditions reinstating the petitioner to the practice of law in Michigan, with conditions, effective December 16, 2020.

Reprimand (By Consent)

Deborah K. Schlusell, P56420, Southfield, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Tri-County Hearing Panel #79, effective December 4, 2020.

The respondent and the grievance administrator filed a Stipulation for Consent Order of Discipline and Waiver in accordance with MCR 9.115(F)(5), which was approved by the Attorney Grievance Commission and accepted by the hearing panel. Based upon the respondent's admissions and the stipulation of the parties, the panel found that the respondent committed professional misconduct in her representation of one client that retained her to represent her in a qui tam lawsuit against her former

employer, and in her representation of other clients who were investors who had purchased properties in Detroit from a property company named ASM Services, LLC (ASM), who wanted to file a lawsuit alleging that ASM fraudulently represented the condition of the properties.

Specifically, the panel found that the respondent handled a legal matter which the lawyer knew or should have known she was not competent to handle, without associating with a lawyer who was competent to handle the matter, in violation of MRPC 1.1(a); neglected legal matters entrusted to her, in violation of MRPC 1.1(c); failed to act with reasonable diligence and promptness, in violation of MRPC 1.3; and failed to keep a client reasonably informed about the status of a matter and comply with reasonable requests for information, in violation of MRPC 1.4(a). 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 hearing panel ordered that the respondent be reprimanded. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$758.20.

Automatic Interim Suspension

Mathew C. Schwartz, P54980, Southfield, effective October 15, 2020.

On October 15, 2020, the court accepted the respondent's plea of guilty to two felonies, Conspiracy to Defraud the United States, in violation of 18 USC § 371; Conspiracy to Commit Theft from an Organization Receiving Federal Funds, in violation of 18 USC § 371 and 666(a)(1)(A), in the matter titled *United States v Mathew Carl Schwartz*, US District Court, Eastern District of Michigan, Case No. 4:20-CR-20263-MFL-APP-1. In accordance with MCR 9.120(B)(1), the respondent's license to practice law in Michigan was automatically suspended on the date of his felony conviction.

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.

Reprimand

Floyd W. Steele, P45357, Flint, by the Attorney Discipline Board, effective December 11, 2020.

The grievance administrator filed a Notice of Filing of Reciprocal Discipline pursuant to MCR 9.120(C), that attached a certified copy of an order reprimanding the respondent, entered by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, Southern Division on August 27, 2018, *In Re Michael Doud (P55491) and Floyd Steele (P45357)*, 2:17-mc-51253.

An order regarding imposition of reciprocal discipline was issued and served on the respondent on October 13, 2020. The 21-day period referenced in MCR 9.120(C)(2)(b) expired without objection by either party and the respondent was deemed to be in default. Pursuant to MCR 9.120(C)(6), the Attorney Discipline Board imposed comparable discipline and ordered that the respondent be reprimanded. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$1,518.



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