

Disbarment (Pending Appeal)

Phillip G. Bazzo, P25243, Lincoln Park, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Tri-County Hearing Panel #16, effective February 24, 2021.

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 as charged in a two-count formal complaint involving two separate, unrelated client matters. In the first matter, as referenced in count one of the formal complaint, the panel found that the respondent represented a client when the representation of that client was materially limited by the lawyer's own interests, in violation of MRPC 1.7(b), which did not satisfy the exceptions to MRPC 1.7(b)(1)–(2); entered into a business transaction with a client, in violation of MRPC

1.8(a), which did not satisfy the exceptions of MRPC 1.8(a)(1)–(3); failed to promptly notify a client when funds to which the client had an interest were received, in violation of MRPC 1.15(b)(1); failed to promptly pay or deliver any funds to which a client was entitled to receive, in violation of MRPC 1.15(b)(3); failed to promptly render a full accounting regarding property to which a client was entitled, in violation of MRPC 1.15(b)(3); failed to appropriately safeguard client funds, in violation of MRPC 1.15(d); and, engaged in conduct that involved dishonesty, fraud, deceit, misrepresentation, or violation of the criminal law, where such conduct reflected adversely on the lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness, or fitness as a lawyer, in violation of MRPC 8.4(b).

In the second matter, as referenced in count two of the formal complaint, the

panel found that the respondent represented a client when the representation of that client was materially limited by the lawyer's own interests, in violation of MRPC 1.7(b), which did not satisfy the exceptions to MRPC 1.7(b)(1)–(2); knowingly revealed a confidence or secret of a client, without permission or other exception, in violation of MRPC 1.6(b)(1); knowingly used a confidence or secret of a client to the disadvantage of the client, without permission or other exception, in violation of MRPC 1.6(b)(2); knowingly used a confidence or secret of a client to the advantage of the lawyer or a third person, without permission or other exception, in violation of MRPC 1.6(b)(3); failed to maintain a normal client-lawyer relationship with his client, when that client's ability to make adequately considered decisions in connection with the

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- *United States v. Tocco et al*, 2006—RICO prosecution of 17 members and associates of the Detroit La Cosa Nostra (LCN). Case involved utilization of extensive electronic surveillance.
- *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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representation may have been impaired, in violation of MRPC 1.14(a); and, attempted to seek the appointment of a guardian or take other protective action with respect to a client before properly assessing whether the client could adequately act in his own interest, in violation of MRPC 1.14(b).

The respondent was also found to have violated MCR 9.104(1)–(3) and MRPC 8.4(a) and (c), as charged in both counts of the formal complaint.

The panel ordered that the respondent be disbarred from the practice of law. The respondent filed a timely petition for review and a petition for a stay of the discipline imposed. The respondent's petition for stay was denied by the board on February 26, 2021. This matter has been scheduled for a review hearing before the Attorney Discipline Board.

Suspension With Condition (By Consent)

C. Clifford Chadwick, P34372, Sylvan Lake, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Tri-County Hearing Panel #70, for 30 days, effective February 12, 2021.

The respondent and the grievance administrator filed a Stipulation for 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 he committed acts of professional misconduct in his representation of a defendant in a breach of mortgage covenant matter filed in the Oakland County Circuit Court.

Based on the respondent's admissions and the stipulation of the parties, the 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 his client through reasonably available means, in violation of MRPC 1.2(a); failed to act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing his client, in violation of MRPC 1.3; and brought or defended a frivolous proceeding, or asserted or controverted a frivolous issue therein, in violation

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of MRPC 3.1. The respondent was also found to have violated MCR 9.104(1)–(3).

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 30 days. In addition, the respondent was ordered to either provide written verification of his attendance at the November 2020 State Bar of Michigan seminar entitled "Tips and Tools for a Successful Practice" or attend the next scheduled seminar. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$942.30.

Suspension With Conditions (By Consent)

Charles A. Haas, P14486, Redford, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Tri-County Hearing Panel #12, for 45 days, effective March 15, 2021.

The respondent and the grievance administrator filed a Stipulation for 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 he committed acts of professional misconduct by improperly using his IOLTA account.

Based on the respondent's admissions and the stipulation of the parties, the panel found that the respondent held funds other than client or third-person funds in an IOLTA, in violation of MRPC 1.15(a)(3); failed to preserve complete records of the account funds for a period of five years after termination of representation, such that he was unable to render a full accounting of trust funds upon request, in violation of MRPC 1.15(b)(2) and (3); engaged in conduct in violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct, in violation of MRPC 8.4(a); and, engaged in conduct that is contrary to justice, ethics, honesty, or good morals, in violation of MCR 9.104(3).

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 45 days, effective March 15, 2021 as agreed to by the parties. In addition, the respondent was ordered to comply with conditions relevant to the established misconduct. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$1,105.87.

Suspension

Michael D. Kennedy, P55983, Auburn Hills, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Tri-County Hearing Panel #81, for 180 days, effective March 6, 2021.

The respondent was convicted of operating while impaired by liquor, a misdemeanor, in violation of MCL 257.6253(A), in *City of Rochester Hills v Michael Donald Kennedy*, 52-3 District Court Case No. 19-004999-OD. Based on the respondent's conviction, the panel found that 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).

The panel ordered that the respondent's license to practice law in Michigan be suspended for 180 days. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$1,930.42.

Suspension

Kevin A. Khashan, P60261, Northville, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Tri-County Hearing Panel #10, for 180 days, effective February 11, 2021.

The respondent was convicted of operating while impaired by liquor, a misdemeanor, in violation of MCL 257.6253(A), in *Township of Northville v Kevin Anton Khashan*, 35th District Court Case No. 19V02275A. Based on the respondent's conviction, the panel found that 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).

The panel ordered that the respondent's license to practice law in Michigan be suspended for 180 days. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$1,807.14.

Suspension

Blake P. Lipman, P52652, Farmington Hills, by the Attorney Discipline Board, Tri-County Hearing Panel #80, for 45 days, effective February 27, 2021.

Based on the evidence presented at hearings held in this matter in accordance with

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MCR 9.115, the panel found that the respondent committed professional misconduct in connection with his representation of a client and his client's business in various legal matters spanning from 2001 to 2017. Specifically, the panel found that the respondent engaged in conduct that was prejudicial to the administration of justice and contrary to justice, ethics, honesty, and good morals, in violation of MRPC 8.4(c) and MCR 9.104(1) and (3), during a time in which his client and his client's business were being investigated by the Michigan Attorney General's office, and his client subsequently pled guilty to conducting a criminal enterprise and agreed to pay \$610,000 in restitution.

The panel ordered that the respondent's license to practice law be suspended for a period of 45 days. Total costs were assessed in the amount of \$2,570.77.

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