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NOTICE OF REPRIMAND (By Consent)

Case No. 16-62-GA

Notice Issued: September 9, 2016

Thomas R. Warnicke, P 47148, Beverly Hills, Michigan, by the Attorney Discipline Board Tri-County Hearing Panel #76.

- 1. Reprimand
- 2. Effective September 9, 2016

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 respondent's admissions to the allegations that he committed professional misconduct as the result of his improper use of an IOLTA account from June 2014 through March 2015.

Based upon respondent's admissions and the stipulation of the parties, the panel found that respondent held funds other than client or third person funds in an IOLTA account, in violation of MRPC 1.15(a)(3); failed to hold property of his clients or third-persons separate from his own, in violation of MRPC 1.15(d); deposited his own funds (earned fees) into an IOLTA account in excess of the amount reasonably necessary to pay financial institution service charges or fees or to obtain a waiver of service charges or fees, in violation of MRPC 1.15(f); engaged in conduct that was contrary to ethics, in violation of MCR 9.104(3); and engaged in conduct that was in violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct, in violation of MRPC 8.4(a) and MCR 9.104(4). In entering this finding of misconduct, the panel acknowledged the statement contained in paragraph eight of the stipulation for a consent order of discipline that "there is no evidence of misappropriation or misuse of client funds."

In accordance with the stipulation of the parties, the hearing panel ordered that respondent be reprimanded. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$757.57.

Mark A. Armitage

Dated: September 9, 2016