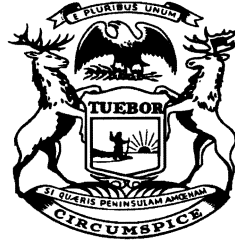


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NOTICE OF SUSPENSION AND RESTITUTION

Case No. 13-109-GA

Notice Issued: March 14, 2014

Robert Joseph Payne, P 69779, Lansing, Michigan, by the Attorney Discipline Board Ingham County Hearing Panel #4.

1. Suspension - 180 Days
2. Effective March 12, 2014

Respondent did not appear at the hearing and was found to be in default for his failure to file an answer to the formal complaint. Based on respondent's default, and the evidence submitted, the panel found that respondent neglected a legal matter entrusted to him, in violation of MRPC 1.1(c); failed to seek his client's lawful objectives 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 client, in violation of MRPC 1.3; failed to adequately communicate with his client, in violation of MRPC 1.4(a) and (b); failed to refund an unearned fee and documents belonging to his client upon termination of the representation, in violation of MRPC 1.16(d); knowingly failed to respond to lawful demands for information from a disciplinary authority, in violation of MRPC 8.1(a)(2); and failed to timely answer a request for investigation, in violation of MCR 9.104(7) and MCR 9.1 13(B)(2). The panel also found that respondent violated MRPC 8.4(a) and (c) and MCR 9.104(1)-(4).

The hearing panel ordered that respondent's license to practice law in Michigan be suspended for 180 days and that he pay restitution in the amount of \$500.00. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$1,855.61.


Mark A. Armitage

Dated: **MAR 14 2014**