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NOTICE OF SUSPENSION
(By Consent)

Case No. 08-121-GA

Notice Issued: January 8, 2010

John F. Mertz, P 25200, Lansing, Michigan, by the Attorney Discipline Board Ingham County Hearing Panel #5.

1. Suspension - 120 Days
2. Effective January 7, 2010

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. Respondent pled no contest to the allegations in the second amended formal complaint that he failed to treat all persons involved in the legal process with courtesy and respect; failed to provide written notice of his suspension to all clients within seven days of the effective date of the order of discipline; failed to file, with the tribunal and all parties, a notice of his disqualification from the practice of law by the effective date of the order; held himself out as an attorney during the period of suspension; filed an affidavit pursuant to MCR 9.123(A) that contained statements that were misleading; and failed to file an answer to a request for investigation served upon him by the Grievance Administrator, in violation of MCR 9.104(A)(1)-(4) and (7); MCR 9.113(A) and (B)(2); MCR 9.119(A), (B) and (E); and Michigan Rules of Professional Conduct 6.5(a); 8.1(a); and 8.4(a)-(c).

Pursuant to the agreement of the parties, the hearing panel ordered that respondent's license to practice law in Michigan be suspended for 120 days. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$1,187.79.

John F. Van Bolt

Dated: JAN - 8 2010