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DISMISSAL

Case No. 06-110-GA

Monika U. Holzer Sacks, P 29987, Ann Arbor, Michigan, by the Attorney Discipline Board Tri-County Hearing Panel #19.

- 1. Dismissal
- 2. Effective April 14, 2007

The formal complaint filed by the Grievance Administrator charged that during the course of a mediation conference in a divorce case, and while the opposing party and opposing counsel were absent from the room, respondent took possession of and started reviewing personal financial and banking documents left on the conference table by the opposing party. The complaint charged that respondent thereby used methods of obtaining evidence that violate the legal rights of a third person in violation of MRPC 4.4, and further violated MRPC 8.4(a) and (c) and MCR 9.104(A)(1), (2), (3) and (4).

At the hearing, respondent was the only witness called to testify. Based upon respondent's unrebutted testimony, the panel found that the documents in question were in fact bank documents pertaining to a mortgage refinancing application; that earlier in the mediation the documents had been reviewed by respondent and her client; and that the documents had been placed on the table in what respondent described as a "communal pile" to be copied and distributed to both parties at the conclusion of the mediation. At the close of the Grievance Administrator's proofs, the panel granted respondent's motion for dismissal, finding that by looking at documents which had been executed by her client, which she had already seen and which she would soon receive copies of, respondent did not prejudice or harm any participant at the mediation, nor did it give respondent a tactical advantage. No costs were assessed against respondent.

John F. Van Bolt	
Dated:	