

**NOTICE OF SUSPENSION AND RESTITUTION**  
**(With Condition)**

Case Nos. 02-18-GA; 02-31-FA

**Notice Issued: February 27, 2003**

James P. Lavender, P-52590, Pleasant Ridge, Michigan, by the Attorney Discipline Board Tri-County Hearing Panel #85.

1. Suspension - 30 days;
2. Effective February 15, 2003.

The hearing panel found, by default, that respondent failed to represent a client diligently and expeditiously; failed to communicate with his client regarding the status of her matter; failed to take reasonable steps to protect his client's interests on termination of the representation; and failed to promptly refund unearned attorney fees. Respondent also failed to file answers to a request for investigation and formal complaint served by the Grievance Administrator.

Respondent's conduct was in violation of MCR 9.104(A)(1)-(4) and (7); MCR 9.113(A); MCR 9.113(B)(2); and Michigan Rules of Professional Conduct 1.1(c); 1.2(a); 1.3; 1.4(a) and (b); 1.15(b); 1.16(a) and (d); 3.2; and 8.4(a) and (c). Based on an agreement of the parties, the hearing panel ordered that respondent's license to practice law in Michigan be suspended for 30 days and that he pay restitution in the amount of \$500.00. The panel also ordered respondent to attend an ethics program and assessed costs in the amount of \$463.36.