NOTICE OF REPRIMAND AND RESTITUTION (By Consent)

Case No. 99-166-GA

Issued: July 25, 2000

Thomas R. Blaising, P-24868, Battle Creek, Michigan, by the Attorney Discipline Board Ingham County Hearing Panel #4.

- 1.Reprimand;
- 2.Effective July 19, 2000.

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 offered a plea of no contest to the charges of misconduct contained in the Amended Formal Complaint 99-166-GA, to wit: Respondent improperly disclosed his client's confidences and secrets to his client's daughter, who was also a client, and failed to withdraw from his representation when he realized that it would constitute a conflict of interest. Also, respondent charged his client for work necessitated by the breach of his client's confidences and sought to collect for work performed outside the scope of the retainer agreement. Respondent's conduct was alleged to be in violation of MCR 9.104(1)-(4) and the Michigan Rules of Professional Conduct 1.5(a); 1.6(b); 1.7(a) and (b); 1.16(a)(1); and 8.4(a)-(c). The parties agreed that respondent should be reprimanded. The parties further stipulated that the respondent pay restitution in the amount of \$400.00 and be subject to certain conditions relevant to the established misconduct. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$487.84.