

**NOTICE OF REPRIMAND**

**Case No. 97-94-GA**

**Issued: July 25, 2000**

**Joseph W. Moch, P 23792, E. Grand Rapids, Michigan, by the Attorney Discipline Board affirming an order of Kent County Hearing Panel #5.**

**1.Reprimand.**

**2.Effective July 18, 2000.**

**Respondent was the subject of a request for investigation filed by a former client in a personal injury matter. The hearing panel found that, although respondent filed an answer to the request for investigation, he failed to honor a legitimate request by the Attorney Grievance Commission to produce a copy of the retainer agreement and that his failure to comply with the Grievance Administrator's request for information not protected by MRPC 1.6 constituted a violation of MCR 9.104 (1)-(4), MCR 9.113, MCR 9.103(C) and Michigan Rules of Professional Conduct 8.1(b) and 8.4(a)-(c). The hearing panel ordered a reprimand, noting that respondent had no prior record of misconduct.**

**The Grievance Administrator and respondent filed petitions for review with the Attorney Discipline Board. The Board vacated the hearing panel's findings of misconduct under MCR 9.103(C), MCR 9.113 and MRPC 8.4(b) but otherwise affirmed the hearing panel's report on misconduct and its decision to impose a reprimand. The Grievance Administrator's motion for reconsideration was denied by the Attorney Discipline Board in an order entered March 24, 2000. The respondent's application for leave to appeal was denied by the Supreme Court in an order entered July 18, 2000.**

**Costs were assessed in the amount of \$3,800.39.**