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NOTICE OF SUSPENSION WITH CONDITION

Case No. 18-57-GA

Notice Issued: October 22, 2019

William M. Hatchett, P 23350, Pontiac, Michigan, by the Attorney Discipline Board Tri-County Hearing Panel #71.

Suspension - 60 Days, Effective October 9, 2019

After proceedings in accordance with MCR 9.115 and based on the evidence presented by the parties at the hearings held in this matter, the hearing panel found that respondent committed professional misconduct when he commingled personal and clients funds in his IOLTA on multiple occasions between March 2015 and January 2017, and by failing to surrender a client's file to successor counsel after the end of respondent's involvement in the matter.

Based on respondent's admissions and the stipulation of the parties, the panel found that respondent held funds other than client or third person funds relating to a representation in an IOLTA, in violation of MRPC 1.15(a)(3); failed to hold property of clients separately from his own property, in violation of MRPC 1.15(d); deposited funds into his IOLTA in an amount in excess of the amount reasonably necessary to pay financial institution service charges or fees or to obtain a waiver of service charges or fees, in violation of MRPC 1.15(f); and failed to surrender papers and property to which the client is entitled, in violation of MRPC 1.16(d). Respondent was also found to have violated MRPC 8.4(a) and MCR 9.104(2) and (3).

The hearing panel ordered that respondent's license to practice law in Michigan be suspended for 60 days and that he be subject to a condition relevant to the established misconduct. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$2,768.22.

Mark A. Armitage
Executive Director