

NOTICE OF SUSPENSION AND RESTITUTION

Case Nos. 96-293-GA; 97-24-FA

John E. Meeks, P-17583, Grand Rapids, Michigan, by Attorney Discipline Board Kent County Hearing Panel #5.

- 1) Suspension - Three (3) Years;
- 2) Effective May 6, 1997.

Respondent was retained by five complainants to represent them in separate, unrelated divorce matters. The panel found, by default, that respondent neglected the matters; failed to return a total of \$1,520 in unearned fees; and failed to answer the Requests for Investigation. Respondent also failed to answer the Formal Complaint and failed to appear at the disciplinary hearings.

Respondent's conduct was found to be in violation of MCR 9.103(C); MCR 9.104(1)-(4) and (7); MCR 9.113(A) and (B)(2); and Michigan Rules of Professional Conduct 1.1(c); 1.3; 1.4(a); 1.5(a); 1.15(b); 1.16(d); 3.2; 8.1(b); and 8.4(a) and (c).

The panel ordered that respondent be suspended from the practice of law for three years and make restitution to the complainants in the total amount of \$1,181. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$319.85.

NOTE: Respondent has been continuously suspended from the practice of law in Michigan since August 29, 1996.