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STATE OF MICHIGAN

# Attorney Discipline Board



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## NOTICE OF SUSPENSION

ADB 171-87; 197-87

Mary E. Gerisch, P 30951, 20 S. Bishop, Greenwich, CT 06830, by Attorney Discipline Board Wayne County Hearing Panel #15.

- 1) Suspension - three years;
- 2) Effective February 18, 1988.

The Respondent, who was licensed to practice law in Michigan in 1980 and last maintained an office in Michigan in Midland County, failed to answer the Formal Complaint and failed to appear at the hearing on November 16, 1987. Based upon her default and an examination of the documents submitted by the Grievance Administrator, the hearing panel concluded that Respondent allowed the entry of a stipulation and order of dismissal in a civil action then pending in Midland County Circuit Court in January 1985 without first consulting with her client or advising the client that the case was dismissed. In response to subsequent inquiries from her client, Respondent advised that a settlement had been reached in her client's favor in the amount of \$3226 and she provided the client with a copy of the purported settlement check. In fact, Respondent knew that no settlement had been reached and the copy of the settlement check was a forgery. Respondent's own check to her client, allegedly representing the settlement amount less attorney fees and costs, was dishonored for insufficient funds. Respondent's conduct was found to be in violation of MCR 9.104(1-4) and Canons 1, 6 and 7 of the Code of Professional Responsibility, DR 1-102(A)(5,6); DR 6-101(A) and DR 7-101(A)(1-3). Costs were assessed in the amount of \$115.88.

The Grievance Administrator has filed a Petition for Review with the Attorney Discipline Board seeking an increase in the discipline imposed. In the absence of a Petition for Review or request for stay filed Respondent, the suspension became effective February 18, 1988.

John F. VanBolt

Dated: FEB 19 1988