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Attorney Discipline Board



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NOTICE OF SUSPENSION (By Consent)

File No. DP 12/85; DP 83/85; DP 108/85; DP 137/85

George L. Baer, P10335, 1128 Beach Street, Flint, MI
48502 by the Attorney Discipline Board Flint Hearing Panel #2.

- 1) Suspension - 3 years and 1 day;
- 2) Effective January 15, 1987.

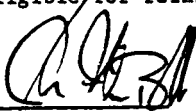
In a Stipulation for Consent Discipline filed in accordance with MCR 9.115(F)(5), Respondent admitted the allegations in four Formal Complaints containing, in all, fifteen Counts of professional misconduct.

Respondent was retained to seek damages against an oil company in 1976 and assured his client from 1976 to 1985 that litigation had been instituted and that the case was proceeding when, in fact, Respondent had taken no action on his client's behalf. In 1977, Respondent was retained to represent a client in a personal injury action and failed to reduce the contingent fee agreement to writing as required by GCR 928.6 [now MCR 8.121(F)]. Thereafter, Respondent continually assured his clients that suit had been filed and that the case was proceeding when, in fact, the suit filed by Respondent was barred by the Statute of Limitations and had been dismissed. Respondent falsely represented to his clients that the case had been settled for \$47,000 but that the distribution to the clients had been lost in the mail.

In 1980 and 1981, Respondent was retained by a client to handle a civil claim for damages and a real estate foreclosure matter. In both cases Respondent falsely assured his client that the cases were proceeding satisfactorily when, in fact, no action had been taken. In 1981, Respondent undertook the representation of another client and, although he failed to take action on his client's behalf, falsely represented that the case had been settled for \$3,900 and delivered to the client \$2,500 of his own money. In his Answer to the Request for Investigation filed by that client, Respondent falsely stated that settlement had been negotiated with the defendant and the \$2,500 had been paid by the defendant. Respondent agreed to represent two additional clients in 1981 and 1982 in an employment discrimination case and a civil action against an insurance company. In both cases, Respondent misrepresented the status of those matters in order to conceal his failure to commence appropriate proceedings. On three occasions, Respondent failed to Answer Requests for Investigation and he failed to answer a Formal Complaint.

Respondent's conduct is deemed to be in violation of MCR 9.104(1-4) [former GCR 953(1-7)], MCR 8.121(F) [former GCR 928.6] and MCR 9.113(A)(B)(2) [former GCR 962.1 and 962.2] and Canons 1, 5, 6 and 7 of the Code of Professional Responsibility DR 1-102(A)(1-6), DR 5-103(A)(B), DR 6-101(A)(3) and DR 7-101(A)(1-3). Costs were assessed in the amount of

In addition to the reinstatement requirements set forth in MCR 9.124, Respondent will be required to obtain recertification by the Board of Law Examiners before he is eligible for reinstatement to the practice of law.


John F. VanBolt

Dated: JAN 15 1987