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STATE OF MICHIGAN

# Attorney Discipline Board



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## NOTICE OF INCREASED DISCIPLINE

File Nos. DP 197/84 and DP 176/85


William D. Hunter, P 30911, 1311 E. Jefferson, Detroit, MI 48207 by the Attorney Discipline Board increasing a Hearing Panel Order of Suspension of one year to a suspension of two years.

- 1) Suspension - two years;
- 2) Effective August 25, 1986.

The Hearing Panel concluded that misconduct was established as alleged in two Formal Complaints charging that Respondent improperly commingled funds received on behalf of a client by depositing an insurance settlement draft in his payroll account; that his withdrawal of those funds to discharge his own obligations constituted a misappropriation; that Respondent's answer to a Request for Investigation was intentionally false and misleading; that he was responsible, either directly or by his failure to supervise his employees, for certain alterations and forgeries which appeared on documents submitted to the United States Bankruptcy Court; Respondent failed to honor a promise to a client that a retainer fee would be returned and failed to answer the Request for Investigation filed by the client; that he received a retainer to handle a property title transfer but failed to take action and failed to answer the Request for Investigation; and that Respondent did not adequately represent a client in a bankruptcy matter and submitted an answer to the Request for Investigation which was misleading.

The Hearing Panel found that Respondent's conduct violated the provisions of MCR 9.104(1-7), 9.113(A)(B) and the Code of Professional Responsibility, DR 1-102(A)(3-6), DR 2-101(A)(3), DR 6-101(A)(2,3) and DR 7-101(A)(B). The Panel ordered a suspension of one year and ordered restitution to two individuals in the amount of \$1000.00 and \$140.00.

Petitions for Review were filed by the Respondent and the Grievance Administrator. By a majority, the Board affirmed the Panel's factual conclusions but increased discipline to a suspension of two years, noting that Respondent's misuse of funds was compounded by his use of misleading statements to delay repayment. Costs in these proceedings were assessed in the amount of \$1113.35. In an Order dated June 16, 1987, Respondent's Application for Leave to Appeal the decision of the Attorney Discipline Board was denied by the Supreme Court.

  
John F. VanBolt

Dated: JUN 19 1987

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