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STATE OF MICHIGAN

Attorney Discipline Board



NOTICE OF SUSPENSION

JOHN F. VAN BOLT
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File Nos. DP 88/85; DP 110/85; DP 117/85

Leonard Strickland, P 25031, 384 Penobscot Building, Detroit, MI 48226 by Attorney Discipline Board Wayne County Hearing Panel #24.

- (1) Suspension - 3 years;
- (2) Effective May 27, 1986.

The Hearing Panel considered the allegations of misconduct contained in three Formal Complaints consolidated for hearing. The Respondent did not answer the Formal Complaints and did not appear at the hearing.

The Hearing Panel found that the Respondent entered his appearance on behalf of a client in a civil matter then pending in the Wayne County Circuit Court but that his subsequent neglect, including his failure to file responsive pleadings, resulted in the dismissal of the case. The Panel found that the Respondent failed to notify his client that her case had been dismissed and failed to answer the Request for Investigation filed by the client and served upon him by the Grievance Administrator.

In the second Complaint consolidated for hearing, the Hearing Panel found that the Respondent was retained in 1981 to represent a client in a possible medical malpractice claim but that he failed to reduce the terms of his contingent agreement to writing as required by the applicable court rule, failed to communicate with his client and failed to seek her legal objectives after filing suit on her behalf in 1984. The Respondent did not file an answer to the Request for Investigation filed by that client. The Panel further found that the Respondent's license to practice law was suspended for a period of thirty days effective January 31, 1983, but that he failed to notify his client of his change of status and filed a false Affidavit of Compliance with the Supreme Court.

The Hearing Panel found that the Respondent's conduct as alleged in those Complaints, together with his failure to answer the first Formal Complaint, constituted violations of MCR 8.121(F), MCR 9.104(1-4)(7)(8), MCR 9.113(A)(B)(2), MCR 9.123(A) and Canons 1, 6 & 7 of the Code of Professional Responsibility to wit: DR 1-102(A)(1-3)(5)(6), DR 6-101(A)(2)(3) and DR 7-101(A)(1-3).

In assessing a suspension of three years, the Hearing Panel noted Respondent's prior history of discipline for misconduct consisting of a ninety-day suspension in 1981, a thirty day suspension in 1983, and a nine month suspension in 1985. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$165.73.


John F. VanBolt

Dated: MAY 20 1986