

Attorney Discipline Board



BOARD MEMBERS

WILLIAM G. REAMON, CHAIRPERSON
LYNN H. SHECTER, VICE-CHAIRPERSON
BERNADINE N. DENNING, SECRETARY
JOHN L. COTÉ
LEO A. FARHAT
PATRICK J. KEATING
CHARLES C. VINCENT, M. D.

JOHN F. X. DWAIHY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR &
GENERAL COUNSEL

SUITE 1260
333 W. FORT STREET
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226
TELEPHONE: (313) 963-5553

NOTICE OF REPRIMAND

File No. 244-82

ROSS B. MERETSKY, P17632, 1527 First National Building, Detroit, Michigan 48226, by the Attorney Discipline Board vacating a hearing panel order of dismissal.

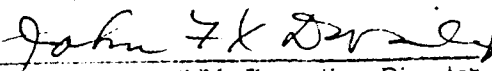
- (1) Reprimand
- (2) Effective September 6, 1984.

The Board, upon review, found that Respondent issued a letter to a client which threatened to disclose certain information obtained during the course of the attorney-client relationship and which constituted an improper attempt to use confidences or secrets of a client to the disadvantage of the client. The opinion of the Board stated in pertinent part:

"... the adverse impact upon the legal profession of this written communication ... cannot be condoned - regardless of the character or intentions of the client as perceived by the Respondent. It is absolutely essential to our system of justice that the public be uninhibited in seeking legal advice; the public must have firm confidence in the confidentiality of their communications with legal counsel whether they be to secure a defense against formal civil or criminal charges, or an effort to comply with the requirements of the law with respect to business, personal, or civil affairs. While there is no evidence of actual disclosure of client confidences in this case, the very threat of disclosure is a serious breach of ethics."

The Board considered certain mitigating evidence; costs were assessed.

Dated: September 13, 1984


JOHN F. X. DWAIHY, Executive Director