

STATE OF MICHIGAN

# Attorney Discipline Board



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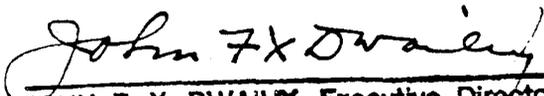
## NOTICE OF SUSPENSION

DP-168/81  
DP-51/82  
DP-52/82  
DP-12/81

JAMES S. RICHARDS (P 32612) 711 East Main Street, Flushing, MI 48433, by the Attorney Discipline Board increasing the discipline imposed by the hearing panel.

- (1) Suspension;
- (2) For a period of three years and one day;
- (3) Effective November 8, 1982. (Effective date of hearing panel order of suspension which was appealed by the Grievance Commission.)

The Discipline Board made the following findings: Respondent converted funds from an employer-law firm's trust account in the amount of \$6,792 to satisfy a personal debt without the knowledge or consent of the partners of the firm; said funds were repaid within one month of said conversion; Respondent misrepresented to a personal injury client that the client's case had been settled for \$7,500 and gave the client a check in the amount of \$4,060 which he falsely represented to be the net proceeds of the settlement when in fact no settlement had been reached and Respondent's check was returned for insufficient funds; the client has not been reimbursed for her loss. Respondent also misrepresented to said personal injury client that a second suit had been filed on her behalf and that he was negotiating a settlement when actually no work had been undertaken on behalf of said client; Respondent also made improper advances of money totalling \$500 to said client thereby obtaining a personal financial interest in the case in violation of Canon 5 of the Code of Professional Responsibility, to-wit: DR5-103(B). The Board affirmed the findings of fact of the hearing panel and findings that the following rules were violated: GCR 1963, 953(1-4) and Canons 1 and 9 of the Code of Professional Responsibility, to-wit: DR1-102(A)(4)(6) and DR9-102(A). Respondent has no record of prior discipline. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$291.33.

  
JOHN F. X. DWAIHY, Executive Director  
& General Counsel

  
DAVID BAKER LEWIS, Secretary of the  
Attorney Discipline Board

Dated: AUGUST 12, 1983