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NOTICE OF SUSPENSION (By Consent)

Case No. 18-14-GA

Notice Issued: March 22, 2018

William C. Brown, P 33871, Owosso, Michigan, by the Attorney Discipline Board Genesee County Hearing Panel #3.

Suspension - 180 Days, Effective March 17, 2018.

The respondent and the Grievance Administrator filed a stipulation for a consent order of discipline, in accordance with MCR 9.115(F)(5), which was approved by the Attorney Grievance Commission and accepted by the hearing panel. Based upon respondent's admissions, plea of no contest and the stipulation of the parties, the panel found that respondent committed professional misconduct in his representation of Jack and Ruth Walworth and eventually in his capacity as trustee of their respective trusts.

Specifically, the panel found that respondent handled a legal matter which the lawyer knew or should have known that the lawyer was not competent to handle, in violation of MRPC 1.1(a); charged and/or collected an illegal or clearly excessive fee, in violation of MRPC 1.5(a); and failed to take reasonable efforts to correct a misunderstanding of an unrepresented party regarding a lawyer's interest, in violation of MRPC 4.3. Respondent was also found to have violated MCR 9.104(1)-(3).

The panel ordered that respondent's license to practice law be suspended for a period of 180 days. Cests were assessed in the amount of \$1,279.49.

Wendy A. Neeley Deputy Director