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NOTICE OF DISBARMENT AND RESTITUTION

Case No. 17-89-GA

Notice Issued: November 16, 2017

James H. Davies, P 23266, Grand Rapids, Michigan, by the Attorney Discipline Board Kent County Hearing Panel #5.

Disbarred, Effective November 16, 2017

Based on respondent's admissions and the panel's order granting summary disposition, the hearing panel found that respondent committed professional misconduct in his representation of a client in litigation against builders for damages based on deficiencies in a custom built home and in his representation of another client in a delayed appeal of a criminal conviction.

The panel found that respondent neglected legal matters, in violation of MRPC 1.1(a); failed to act with reasonable diligence and promptness when representing his clients, in violation of MRPC 1.3; failed to keep his clients reasonably informed regarding the status of their matters, in violation of MRPC 1.4; failed to refund unearned attorney fees, in violation of MRPC 1.16(d); failed to hold legal fees and expenses that have been paid in advance in a client trust account, in violation of MRPC 1.15(g); and failed to hold property of a third person in connection with representation separate from the lawyer's own property in violation of MRPC 1.15(d). Respondent was also found to have violated MCR 9.104(1)-(3) and MRPC 8.4(b).

The panel ordered that respondent be disbarred from the practice of law in Michigan and that he pay restitution to the two complainants in the total amount of \$11,500.00. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$1,899.19.

Mark A. Armitage Executive Director