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NOTICE OF DISBARMENT AND RESTITUTION

Case No. 17-5-GA

Notice Issued: August 29, 2017

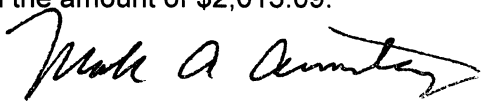
Barry A. Steinway, P 24137, West Bloomfield, Michigan, by the Attorney Discipline Board Tri-County Hearing Panel #24.

Disbarred, Effective August 25, 2017¹

Based on respondent's default for failure to file an answer to the formal complaint, the hearing panel found that respondent committed professional misconduct in his representation of a client regarding the acceleration of a loan and possible foreclosure of a mortgage on a warehouse; in his representation of another client in the sale of a restaurant and real estate owned by two corporations in which his client was an officer; and by failing to answer to requests for investigation.

The panel found that respondent failed to keep a client reasonably informed about the status of a matter, in violation of MRPC 1.4(a); failed to explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary for a client to make informed decisions regarding the representation, in violation of MRPC 1.4(b); engaged in a conflict of interest by representing a client when his representation may have been materially limited by respondent's personal interests, in violation of MRPC 1.7(b)(1) and (2); failed to promptly pay or deliver any funds that the clients or third parties were entitled to receive, in violation of MRPC 1.15(b)(3); used an IOLTA account as a personal and/or business checking account, by issuing checks and making electronic transfers directly from the IOLTA account in payment of personal and/or business expenses, in violation of MRPC 1.15(c) and (d); failed to hold property of clients or third persons in connection with a representation separate from respondent's own property, in violation of MRPC 1.15(d); knowingly made a false statement of material fact in an affidavit, in violation of MRPC 4.1; failed to timely answer requests for investigation, in violation of MCR 9.104(7), MCR 9.113(A), and MCR 9.113(B)(2); and knowingly failed to respond to lawful demands for information, in violation of MRPC 8.1(a)(2). Respondent was also found to have violated MCR 9.104(1)-(4) and MRPC 8.4(a)-(c).

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 \$313,794.06. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$2,013.09.



Mark A. Armitage, Executive Director

¹ Respondent has been continuously suspended from the practice of law in Michigan since March 27, 2017. Please see Notice of Interim Suspension Pursuant to MCR 9.115(H)(1), issued March 27, 2017.