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Attorney Discipline Board



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NOTICE OF SUSPENSION AND RESTITUTION

ADB 43-87; 69-87

Clifford R. Williams, P 22337, 2268 Penobscot Building, Detroit, MI 48226 by the Attorney Discipline Board reducing a 120-day suspension ordered by a hearing panel to a suspension of sixty days.

- 1) Suspension - 60 days;
- 2) Effective May 6, 1988.

The Formal Complaint filed by the Grievance Administrator charged that Respondent failed to communicate with his client in a divorce matter, failed to prevent the dismissal of the case for no progress and refused to return unearned fees to the client. Respondent's failure to file a timely answer to the Complaint resulted in the filing of a default. Respondent's motion to set aside the default was denied. Respondent's conduct, as alleged, was found to be in violation of MCR 9.104(1-4,7) and Canons 1, 2, 6 and 7 of the Code of Professional Responsibility, DR 1-102(A)(1,5,6); DR 2-110(A)(3); DR 6-101(A)(3) and DR 7-101(A)(1-3).

Upon consideration of a Petition for Review filed by the Respondent, the 120-day suspension ordered by the hearing panel was reduced to a suspension of sixty days by the Attorney Discipline Board. The Board noted Respondent's three prior reprimands in 1974, 1978 and 1986 but considered the mitigating effect of the testimony offered to the panel by Respondent and the opposing counsel in the divorce case. Respondent is ordered to make restitution to the client in the amount of \$600.00 in addition to costs of \$461.13.


John F. VanBolt

Dated: MAY 11 1988