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NOTICE OF REPRIMAND WITH CONDITIONS
(By Consent)

Case No. 17-121-GA

Notice Issued: March 8, 2018

Neil A. Channess, P 40079, Farmington Hills, Michigan, by the Attorney Discipline Board Tri-County Hearing Panel #62.

Reprimand, Effective March 7, 2018

The respondent and the Grievance Administrator filed a Stipulation for Consent Discipline, in accordance with MCR 9.115(F)(5), which was approved by the Attorney Grievance Commission and accepted by the hearing panel. The stipulation contained respondent's admissions to the allegations that he committed acts of professional misconduct as the result of his improper use of an IOLTA account. An overdraft of the IOLTA account occurred when respondent deposited money constituting earned fees into his IOLTA account and immediately issued checks against those funds before the checks cleared the bank. Based upon respondent's admissions and the stipulation of the parties, the panel found that respondent deposited his own funds in a client trust account in an amount more than reasonably necessary to pay financial institution service charges or fees or to obtain a waiver of service charges or fees, in violation of MRPC 1.15(f). Respondent was also found to have violated MCR 9.104(2) and (3); and MRPC 8.4(a).

In accordance with the stipulation of the parties, the panel ordered that respondent be reprimanded, attend two seminars offered by the State Bar of Michigan, as well as be subject to additional conditions relevant to the established misconduct. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$826.80.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark A. Armitage', written over a horizontal line.

Mark A. Armitage
Executive Director