STATE OF MICHIGAN
ATTORNEY DISCIPLINE BOARD

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NOTICE OF DISBARMENT AND RESTITUTION

Case No. 25-84-GA

Notice Issued: August 6, 2026

Sean W. Drew, P 33851, Niles, Michigan

Disbarment, Effective August 6, 2026

The Grievance Administrator filed a five-count Formal Complaint against Respondent alleging that he committed professional misconduct. Based on the evidence presented at a hearing held in this matter in accordance with MCR 9.115, Kent County Hearing Panel #1 found that respondent practiced law while his license was suspended, held himself out as an active practicing attorney during his suspension, failed to notify clients of his suspension, or otherwise protect his clients' interests, failed to comply with the requirements of his previous suspension, and failed to respond to requests made by the Attorney Grievance Commission.

Specifically, the panel found that respondent: entered into an agreement for, charged, or collected an illegal or clearly excessive fee, in violation of MRPC 1.5(a) - (Counts One and Four); divided fees with a lawyer who was not in the same firm as him where the client was not advised of and nor given the opportunity to object to the participation of some of the lawyers involved, in violation of MRPC 1.5(e)(1) - (Count One); divided fees with a lawyer who was not in the same firm where the total fee was not reasonable, in violation of MRPC 1.5(e)(2) - (Count One); knowingly revealed a confidence or secret of a client when not permitted to do so under MRPC 1.6(c), in violation of MRPC 1.6(b)(1) - (Count One); failed to hold property of clients or third persons in connection with a representation separate from the lawyer's own property, failed to properly deposit client or third person funds in an IOLTA or non IOLTA account, and/or failed to properly identify and appropriately safeguard other property, in violation of MRPC 1.15(d) - (Count One); engaged in the unauthorized practice of law, or assisted another person to engage in the unauthorized practice of law in violation of MRPC 5.5(a) - (Counts One, Two and Three); violated or attempted to violate the Rules of Professional Conduct, or knowingly assisted or induced another to do so, or did so through the acts of another, in violation of MRPC 8.4(a) - (All Counts); engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, misrepresentation, or violation of the criminal law, where such conduct reflects adversely on the lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness, or fitness as a lawyer, in violation of MRPC 8.4(b) - (Counts One, Two, Three, and Five); engaged in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice, in violation of MRPC 8.4(c) and MCR 9.104(1) - (All Counts); engaged in conduct that exposes the legal profession or the courts to obloquy, contempt, censure, or reproach, in violation of MCR 9.104(2) - (All Counts); engaged in conduct that is contrary to justice, ethics, honesty, or good morals, in violation of MCR 9.104(3) - (All Counts); engaged in conduct that violates the standards or rules of professional conduct adopted by the Supreme Court, in violation of MCR 9.104(4) - (All Counts); violated an order of discipline, in violation of MCR 9.104(9) - (All Counts); failed to comply with MCR 9.119(A) by failing to properly notify clients of his suspension, in violation of MCR 9.119(A) - (Counts One, Two, and Five); failed to provide proof to the Grievance Administrator of his compliance with MCR 9.119, in violation of MCR 9.119(C) - (Count Five); in a matter in which he was representing a client in litigation, failed to properly and timely file with the tribunal and all parties a notice of his disqualification from the practice of law, in violation of MCR 9.119(B) - (Counts One, Three, Four, and Five); failed to either file a motion to withdraw from the representation, or, with his client's knowledge and consent, a substitution of counsel, in violation of MCR 9.119(B) - (Count One); after the effective date of an order of suspension, and during the period of said suspension, (1) practiced law, (2) had contact either in person, by telephone, or by electronic means, with clients or potential clients of a lawyer or law firm either as a paralegal, law clerk, legal assistant, or lawyer, (3) appeared as an attorney before any court, judge, justice, board, commission, or other public authority, or (4) held himself out as an attorney by any means, in violation of MCR 9.119(E)(1)-(4) - (Counts One, Two, and Three); held himself out as an attorney during the period of a suspension, in violation of MCR 9.119(E)(4) - (Count Five); as a partner of a law firm, he failed to make reasonable efforts to ensure that the firm had in effect measures giving reasonable assurance that the conduct of nonlawyers in the firm was compatible with the professional obligations of the lawyer, in violation of MRPC 5.3(a) - (Counts Two and Three); having direct supervisory authority over a nonlawyer, he failed to make reasonable efforts to ensure that the person's conduct was compatible with the professional obligations of the lawyer, in violation of MRPC 5.3(b) - (Counts Two and Three); is responsible for a nonlawyer's conduct that would have been a violation of the rules of professional conduct if engaged in by a lawyer because he either (1) ordered or, with knowledge of the relevant facts and the specific conduct, ratified the conduct involved; or (2) was a partner in the law firm in which the nonlawyer was employed or had direct supervisory authority over the nonlawyer, and knew of the conduct at a time when its consequences could have been avoided or mitigated but failed to take reasonable remedial action, in violation of MRPC 5.3(c)(1) and (2) - (Counts Two and Three); knowingly made a false statement of material fact or law to a tribunal, or failed to correct a false statement of material fact or law he previously made to the tribunal, in violation of MRPC 3.3(a)(1) - (Count Three); knowingly disobeyed an obligation under the rules of a tribunal except for an open refusal based on an assertion that no valid obligation exists, in violation of MRPC 3.4(c) - (Count Three); failed to respond to a lawful demand for information from a disciplinary authority, in violation of MRPC 8.1(a)(2) - (Counts Three and Five); failed to provide competent representation by undertaking preparation adequate in the circumstances, in violation of MRPC 1.1(b) - (Count Four); failed to provide competent representation to his client by neglecting a legal matter entrusted to him, in violation of MRPC 1.1(c) - (Count Four); failed to seek the lawful objectives of a client, in violation of MRPC 1.2(a) - (Count Four); failed to act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing his client, in violation of MRPC 1.3 - (Count Four); and, knowingly made false statements of material facts in connection with a disciplinary matter, in violation of MRPC 8.1(a)(1) - (Count Five).

The panel ordered that respondent be disbarred, effective August 6, 2026, that he pay restitution totaling $5,000.00. Costs were assessed in the amount of $3,202.99.