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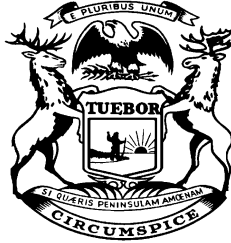
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NOTICE OF SUSPENSION AND RESTITUTION

(By Consent)

Case No. 25-65-GA

Notice Issued: October 22, 2026

Richard G. Kessler, P 34755, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Suspension - 30 Days, Effective December 29, 2026

Respondent and the Grievance Administrator filed a Stipulation for Consent Order of Discipline pursuant to MCR 9.115(F)(5), which was approved by the Attorney Grievance Commission and Kent County Hearing Panel #2. The stipulation contained respondent's no contest pleas to the factual allegations contained in paragraphs 1-21 and 23-29 of the amended formal complaint, along with his no contest pleas to the allegations of professional misconduct set forth in paragraph 30, subparagraphs (a), (b), (e)-(g), (i)-(m), and (n)(1) of the amended formal complaint.¹ Specifically, the panel found that respondent committed professional misconduct in connection with his representation of a client in an immigration matter including neglecting the matter, failing to act with reasonable diligence, engaging in a conflict of interest by entering into business transactions with his client by attempting to settle a potential claim for liability arising from his representation without advising the client that independent representation for his client was appropriate, and failing to take reasonable steps to protect the client's interest upon termination of the representation.

Based on respondent's no contest pleas and the stipulation of the parties, the panel found that respondent: neglected a legal matter entrusted to the lawyer, in violation of MRPC 1.1(c); failed to act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client, in violation of MRPC 1.3; engaged in a conflict of interest entering into/attempting to enter into a business transaction with a client adverse to the client, in violation of MRPC 1.8(a); engaged in a conflict of interest by attempting to settle a claim for liability with a client without first advising the client in writing that independent representation was appropriate in connection therewith, in violation of MRPC 1.8(h)(ii); upon termination of representation, failed to take reasonable steps to protect the client's interest, including refunding unearned fees, in violation of MRPC 1.16(d); engaged in conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice, in violation of MCR 9.104(1); engaged in conduct that exposes the

¹The parties further stipulated that the factual allegation contained in paragraph 22 and the allegations of professional misconduct contained in paragraph 30, subparagraphs (c), (d), (h), and (n)(2)-(4) of the amended formal complaint were to be dismissed.

legal profession or the courts to obloquy, contempt, censure, or reproach, in violation of MCR 9.104(2); entered into and/or attempted to obtain an agreement that the client shall withdraw a request for investigation or shall not cooperate with the investigation of prosecution of misconduct by the administrator, in violation of MCR 9.104(10)(b); engaged in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice or undermines the integrity of the adjudicative process, where respondent should have reasonably known to avoid such conduct, in violation of 8 CFR Sec. 1003.102(n); failed to act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client, in violation of 8 CFR Sec. 1003.102(q); and, failed to maintain communication with the client throughout the duration of the client-practitioner relationship, in violation of 8 CFR Sec. 1003.102(r)(1), in that he failed to promptly inform and consult with the client concerning any decision or circumstance with respect to which the client's informed consent is reasonably required.

The panel ordered that respondent's license to practice law in Michigan be suspended for 30 days, and that he pay \$2,625.00 in restitution. Total costs were assessed in the amount of \$1,151.11.