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NOTICE OF SUSPENSION AND RESTITUTION

Case No. 24-66-GA

Notice Issued: April 3, 2025

Suzanna Kostovski, P 39535, Washington, Michigan

Suspension - 180 Days, Effective April 3, 2025¹

After proceedings conducted pursuant to MCR 9.115, Tri-County Hearing Panel #21 found that respondent committed professional misconduct as alleged in the five-count formal complaint. Specifically, the panel found that respondent failed to exercise reasonable diligence and neglected four separate client matters; failed to adequately communicate with those clients and keep them reasonably informed; failed to surrender clients' files and failed to refund an unearned fee; and engaged in the practice of law while her license was suspended, and otherwise failed to comply with the requirements of her order of suspension.

The panel found that respondent handled a legal matter without preparation adequate in the circumstances, in violation of MRPC 1.1(b) [Count One]; neglected a legal matter entrusted to the lawyer, in violation of MRPC 1.1(c) [Counts One through Four]; failed to seek the lawful objectives of a client through reasonably available means permitted by law, in violation of MRPC 1.2(a) [Counts One through Four]; failed to act with reasonable diligence and promptness, in violation of MRPC 1.3 [Counts Two, Three, Four]; failed to keep a client reasonably informed about the status of a matter and comply with reasonable requests for information, in violation of MRPC 1.4(a) [Counts One through Four]; failed to explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation, in violation of MRPC 1.4(b) [Counts One through Four]; failed to communicate the basis or rate of her fee, in violation of MRPC 1.5(b) [Count Four]; upon termination of representation, failed to take reasonable steps to protect a client's interests, such as surrendering papers to which the client is entitled and refunding an unearned fee, in violation of MRPC 1.16(d) [Counts Two, Four]; 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) [Count Five]; violated an order of discipline, in violation of MCR 9.104(9) [Count Five]; failed to provide the required notification to all active clients of her order of suspension, and in those cases in which she provided the notice, failed to timely provide the notice, in violation of MCR 9.119(A) [Count Five]; failed to provide the required notice to all tribunals and

¹Respondent's license to practice law in Michigan has been continuously suspended since December 14, 2023. See Notice of Suspension With Conditions (By Consent), issued on December 18, 2023, in *Grievance Administrator v Suzanna Kostovski*, 22-10-GA.

parties of her disqualification from the practice of law, and in those cases in which she provided the notice, failed to timely provide the notice, in violation of MCR 9.119(B) [Count Five]; practiced law while her license was suspended, in violation of MCR 9.119(E)(1) [Count Five]; communicated with clients while her license was suspended, in violation of MCR 9.119(E)(2) [Count Five]; and held herself out as an attorney while her license was suspended, in violation of MCR 9.119(E)(4) [Count Five]. The panel further found that respondent's conduct violated MCR 9.104(1)-(3) [Counts One through Five]; and MRPC 8.4(a) and (c) [Counts One through Five].

The panel ordered that respondent's license to practice law in Michigan be suspended for 180 days, effective April 3, 2025, and that she pay restitution totaling \$8,500.00. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$2,777.14.