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NOTICE OF SUSPENSION WITH CONDITIONS

Case No. 26-56-GA

Notice Issued: November 23, 2026

Joseph Bernwanger, P 71895, Redford, Michigan

Suspension - 180 Days, Effective November 18, 2026[1]

After proceedings conducted pursuant to MCR 9.115, Tri-County Hearing Panel #55 found that respondent committed professional misconduct when he practiced law while suspended and failed to comply with the requirements of a separate 60-day suspension.

Respondent did not file an answer to the complaint and his default was entered by the Grievance Administrator on June 8, 2026. Based on respondent's default and the evidence presented at the hearing, the hearing panel found that respondent practiced law in a jurisdiction in violation of the regulation of the legal profession in that jurisdiction in violation of MRPC 5.5(a) [Counts One and Two]; engaged in conduct prejudicial to the proper administration of justice in violation of MCR 9.104(1) [All Counts]; engaged in conduct that exposes the legal profession or the court 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 is a violation of the Michigan Rules of Professional Conduct, in violation of MRPC 8.4(a) and MCR 9.104(4) [All Counts]; violated an order of discipline, in violation of MCR 9.104(9) [Count Three]; failed to notify all of his clients of his suspension within 7 days of the effective date of the order of discipline, resignation, the transfer of inactive status or the nondisciplinary suspension in writing, by registered or certified mail, in violation of MCR 9.119(A) [Count Three]; by the effective date of the order of suspension, in every matter in which the attorney is representing a client in litigation, failed to file with the tribunal and all parties in every matter in which the attorney is representing a client in litigation, a notice of the attorney's disqualification from the practice of law, in violation of MCR 9.119(B) [Count Three]; failed to, within 14 days after the effective date of the order of suspension, file with the administrator and the board an affidavit showing full compliance with MCR 9.119, in violation of MCR 9.119(C) [Count Three]; and engaged in forbidden conduct during the period of suspension, in violation of MCR 9.119(E), as follows: (i) practiced law in any form, in violation of MCR 9.119(E)(1) [Counts One and Two]; (ii)

[1] Respondent's license to practice law in Michigan has been continuously suspended since May 22, 2025. See Notice of Suspension and Restitution With Conditions (By Consent), issued on May 22, 2025, in *Grievance Administrator v Joseph Bernwanger*, Case No. 24-61-GA.

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, in violation of MCR 9.119(E)(2) [Counts One and Two]; (iii) appeared as an attorney before any court, judge, justice, board, commission, or other public authority, in violation of MCR 9.119(E)(3) [Counts One and Two]; and (iv) held himself out as an attorney by any means, in violation of MCR 9.119(E)(4) [Counts One and Two].

The panel ordered that respondent's license to practice law in Michigan be suspended for 180 days and that he be subject to conditions relative to the established misconduct. Costs were assessed in the amount of $2,509.24.