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NOTICE OF SUSPENSION WITH CONDITIONS
(By Consent)

Case No. 26-41-GA

Notice Issued: November 23, 2026

Erika Damstetter, P 81942, St. Joseph, Michigan

Suspension - 30 Days, Effective November 23, 2026

The Grievance Administrator filed a formal complaint against respondent, alleging that she committed professional misconduct while employed as a Berrien County Public Defender. Specifically, the complaint alleged that respondent filed a brief containing nonexistent appellate opinions and fabricated case holdings, purportedly generated through artificial intelligence, without verifying the citations or providing required copies of the opinions. Count Two alleged that respondent failed to answer the Request for Investigation concerning the alleged misconduct.

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 accepted by Berrien County Hearing Panel #1. The stipulation contained respondent's admissions to all factual allegations and allegations of professional misconduct set forth in the formal complaint.

Based upon respondent's admissions and the parties' stipulation, the panel found that respondent: neglected a legal matter entrusted to the lawyer, in violation of MRPC 1.1(c) [Count One]; failed to act with reasonable diligence and promptness when representing a client, in violation MRPC 1.3 [Count One]; knowingly made a false statement of material fact or law or failing to correct a false statement of law previously made to a tribunal or lawyer, in violation MRPC 3.3(a)(1) [Count One]; knowingly failed to respond to a lawful demand for information from a disciplinary authority, in violation of MRPC 8.1(a)(2) [Count Two]; 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 One]; engaged in conduct that is prejudicial to the proper administration of justice, in violation of MRPC 8.4(c) [Count Two] and MCR 9.104(1) [Counts One and Two]; engaged in conduct that exposes the legal profession or the court to obloquy, contempt, censure, or reproach, in violation of MCR 9.104(2) [Counts One and Two]; engaged in conduct that is contrary to justice, ethics, honesty, or good morals, in violation of MCR 9.104(3); 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) [Counts One and Two]; and failed to answer the Request for Investigation in conformity with MCR 9.113(A) and (B)(2), and in violation of MCR 9.104(7).

In accordance with the stipulation of the parties, the hearing panel ordered that respondent's license to practice law in Michigan be suspended for 30 days and that she be subject to conditions relevant to the established misconduct. Total costs were assessed in the amount of $1,193.11.