

STATE OF MINNESOTA
IN SUPREME COURT

A16-1204

FILED

November 9, 2016

**OFFICE OF
APPELLATE COURTS**

In re Petition for Disciplinary Action against
Michael Kevin Dugas, a Minnesota Attorney,
Registration No. 0392158.

ORDER

The Director of the Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility has filed a petition for disciplinary action alleging that respondent Michael Kevin Dugas committed professional misconduct warranting public discipline—namely, colluding with others to bring a lawsuit for the sole purpose of conducting discovery to find the identity of others against whom claims could be made, initiating the lawsuit in bad faith, and making false and misleading statements during the proceeding. *See* Minn. R. Prof. Conduct Rules 3.1, 3.3(a)(1), 4.1, 8.4(c), and 8.4(d).

The parties have filed a stipulation for discipline with the court. In it, respondent waives his right to answer, admits the allegations of the petition, and waives his procedural rights under Rule 14, Rules on Lawyers Professional Responsibility (RLPR). The parties jointly recommend that, in light of mitigating factors including respondent's inexperience at the time of the misconduct and the fact that his conduct was based on the direction of more senior attorneys, the appropriate discipline is a public reprimand.

The court has independently reviewed the file and approves the recommended disposition.

Based upon all the files, records, and proceedings herein,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. Respondent Michael Kevin Dugas be, and hereby is, publicly reprimanded.
2. Respondent shall pay \$900 in costs pursuant to Rule 24, RLPR.

Dated: November 9, 2016

BY THE COURT:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David R. Stras". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and a stylized "S".

David R. Stras
Associate Justice