

FILE NO. _____

STATE OF MINNESOTA

IN SUPREME COURT

In Re Petition for Disciplinary Action
against DEBRA DILLAN CAMPBELL,
a Minnesota Attorney,
Registration No. 293398.

**PETITION FOR
DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

TO THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

The Director of the Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility, hereinafter Director, files this petition upon the parties' agreement pursuant to Rules 10(a) and 12(a), Rules on Lawyers Professional Responsibility. The Director alleges:

The above-named attorney, hereinafter respondent, was admitted to practice law in Minnesota on October 29, 1999. Respondent currently resides in Stillwater, Minnesota. Respondent was suspended on January 1, 2003, for non-payment of attorney registration fees. Respondent does not currently practice law.

Respondent has committed the following unprofessional conduct warranting public discipline:

FIRST COUNT

1. Respondent was employed by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis from 1988 until 1997. Catholic Charities operates a program by which it acts as a court-appointed conservator, guardian or personal representative for vulnerable individuals who cannot afford to pay for such services. Respondent was employed to handle day-to-day transactions for such conservatorships, guardianships or estates. In her position, respondent had authority to collect and sell assets, invest proceeds and disburse funds. Respondent also prepared annual accounts on behalf of Catholic Charities, and signed and filed them with the court.

2. In this fiduciary capacity, respondent misappropriated funds to her personal benefit from approximately twelve conservatorships, guardianships or estates in an amount in excess of \$90,000. Respondent's conduct went undetected at the time.

3. Respondent graduated from law school in May 1999. On her application for admission to the bar of Minnesota, respondent failed to disclose her conduct set out above, despite an obligation to do so.

4. Respondent's misappropriation in one particular conservatorship was discovered in 2001, after respondent had been admitted to practice law in Minnesota. When confronted by an attorney for Catholic Charities, respondent made restitution of the funds from this one conservatorship, and stated, "To the best of my knowledge, there are no other improperly administered items." This statement was knowingly false. Catholic Charities' subsequent investigation found numerous other improper transactions.

5. Ramsey County district Judge DeCourcy appointed a special master to investigate and report to the court. The report was submitted in May 2002, and concluded:

A review of the available documents showed that Debra Campbell, as an employee of Catholic Charities from 1989 through 1997, systematically transferred conservatorships entrusted funds to her personal accounts. She did this by writing checks on conservatorship accounts payable to her own checking and savings accounts. In other cases she deposited cashier checks payable to the conservatorship in her accounts. Submitting fraudulent annual conservatorship statements of account to the Ramsey County Court concealed this scheme.

6. In August 2003, respondent reached an agreement with Catholic Charities and Ramsey County, which had claims against some of the conservatorships, guardianships or estates, to make restitution of all remaining outstanding amounts. As part of the settlement agreement, respondent was not criminally prosecuted by the county.

7. Respondent's conduct violated Rules 8.1(a)(1) and (2) and 8.4(c), Minnesota Rules of Professional Conduct (MRPC).

WHEREFORE, the Director respectfully prays for an order of this Court disbarring respondent from the practice of law, awarding costs and disbursements pursuant to the Rules on Lawyers Professional Responsibility, and for such other, further or different relief as may be just and proper.

Dated: August 12, 2003.



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