

FILE NO. _____

STATE OF MINNESOTA

IN SUPREME COURT

In Re Petition for Disciplinary
Action against STEPHEN P. DOYLE,
a Minnesota Attorney,
Registration No. 24193.

**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 April 22, 1974. Respondent currently practices law in Minnetonka, Minnesota.

Respondent has committed the following unprofessional conduct warranting public discipline:

1. Respondent was a shareholder in the law firm of Robin, Thompson & Doyle, P.A. ("RTD"). Respondent joined RTD as a shareholder on or about July 1, 2003. At all times material regarding the allegations, respondent was an officer and director of RTD.

2. On March 30, 2008, respondent vacated his office at RTD.

3. In or about April 2008 respondent and another attorney formed a separate law firm ("respondent's new firm"). At all times thereafter respondent has been a member of respondent's new firm.

4. In September 2008 respondent and respondent's new firm commenced an action titled *Stephen P. Doyle and Doyle Hance, LLC v. Robin, Thompson & Doyle, P.A., a Minnesota professional association, James G. Robin and Joseph G. Thompson*. This present matter arises out of certain facts that resulted in an order and judgment in that case.

5. In connection with respondent's departure from RTD, respondent, among other things, took for his own use law firm property, including an iPhone and

accessories, a laptop computer and accessories, and furniture; failed to pay his share of firm obligations; and failed to honor RTD's lien on one file respondent took with him to respondent's new firm.

6. In August 2010, after a bench trial, a Hennepin County district court judge found that respondent committed the conduct outlined above; found that respondent's conduct constituted conversion, civil theft and breach of fiduciary duties; and ordered that judgment be entered against respondent. The judgment has not yet been satisfied. In April 2011 respondent filed for bankruptcy reorganization under Chapter 13 of the bankruptcy code. That matter remains pending.

7. Respondent's conduct violated Rule 8.4(c), Minnesota Rules of Professional Conduct.

WHEREFORE, the Director respectfully prays for an order of this Court imposing appropriate discipline, 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 18, 2011.


MARTIN A. COLE
DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF LAWYERS
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
Attorney No. 148416
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345 St. Peter Street
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and

Dated: August 12, 2011.


TIMOTHY M. BURKE
SENIOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
Attorney No. 19248x