

FILE NO. _____

STATE OF MINNESOTA

IN SUPREME COURT

In Re Petition for Disciplinary Action
against MARK HOWARD GARDNER,
a Minnesota Attorney,
Registration No. 228801.

**STIPULATION FOR DISPENSING
WITH PANEL PROCEEDINGS,
FOR FILING PETITION FOR
DISCIPLINARY ACTION,
AND FOR DISCIPLINE**

THIS STIPULATION is entered into by and between Kenneth L. Jorgensen, Director of the Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility, hereinafter Director, and Mark Howard Gardner, attorney, hereinafter respondent.

WHEREAS, respondent has concluded it is in respondent's best interest to enter into this stipulation,

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the undersigned as follows:

1. It is understood that respondent has the right to have charges of unprofessional conduct heard by a Lawyers Professional Responsibility Board Panel prior to the filing of a petition for disciplinary action, as set forth in the Rules on Lawyers Professional Responsibility (RLPR). Pursuant to Rule 10(a), RLPR, the parties agree to dispense with Panel proceedings under Rule 9, RLPR, and respondent agrees to the immediate filing of a petition for disciplinary action, hereinafter petition, in the Minnesota Supreme Court.

2. Respondent understands that upon the filing of this stipulation and the petition, this matter will be of public record.

3. It is understood that respondent has certain rights pursuant to Rule 14, RLPR. Respondent waives these rights, which include the right to a hearing before a

referee on the petition; to have the referee make findings and conclusions and a recommended disposition; to contest such findings and conclusions; and to a hearing before the Supreme Court upon the record, briefs and arguments. Respondent hereby admits service of the petition.

4. Respondent waives the right to answer and unconditionally admits the allegations of the petition.

5. Respondent understands that based upon these admissions, this Court may impose any of the sanctions set forth in Rule 15(a)(1) - (9), RLPR, including making any disposition it deems appropriate. Respondent understands that by entering into this stipulation, the Director is not making any representations as to the sanction the Court will impose.

6. The Director and respondent join in recommending that the appropriate discipline is a public reprimand and probation pursuant to Rule 15, RLPR. Respondent agrees to the imposition and payment of \$900 in costs and disbursements pursuant to Rule 24, RLPR.

7. Respondent shall be placed on probation for a period of two years on the following conditions:

a. Respondent shall cooperate fully with the Director's Office in its efforts to monitor compliance with this probation and promptly respond to the Director's correspondence by the due date. Respondent shall cooperate with the Director's investigation of any allegations of unprofessional conduct which may come to the Director's attention. Upon the Director's request, respondent shall provide authorization for release of information and documentation to verify compliance with the terms of this probation.

b. Respondent shall abide by the Minnesota Rules of Professional Conduct.

c. Respondent shall initiate and maintain office procedures which ensure that there are prompt responses to correspondence, telephone calls, and other important communications from clients, courts and other persons interested in matters which respondent is handling, and which will ensure that respondent regularly reviews each and every file and completes legal matters on a timely basis.

d. Respondent shall maintain total abstinence from alcohol and other mood-altering chemicals, except that respondent may use prescription drugs in accordance with the directions of a prescribing physician who is fully advised of respondent's chemical dependency before issuing the prescription.

e. Respondent shall attend weekly meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous or another out-patient alcohol treatment program acceptable to the Director. Respondent shall, by the tenth day of each month, without a specific reminder or request, submit to the Director an attendance verification on a form provided by the Director, which provides the name, address and telephone number of the person personally verifying the attendance. Such attendance verification shall also, upon request, be provided to the respondent's supervisor, if any.

f. Respondent shall initiate or continue current treatment by a licensed consulting psychologist or other mental health professional acceptable to the Director, and shall complete all therapy programs recommended by the therapist.

8. This stipulation is entered into by respondent freely and voluntarily, without any coercion, duress or representations by any person except as contained herein.

9. Respondent has been advised by the undersigned counsel concerning this stipulation and these proceedings generally.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties executed this stipulation on the dates indicated below.

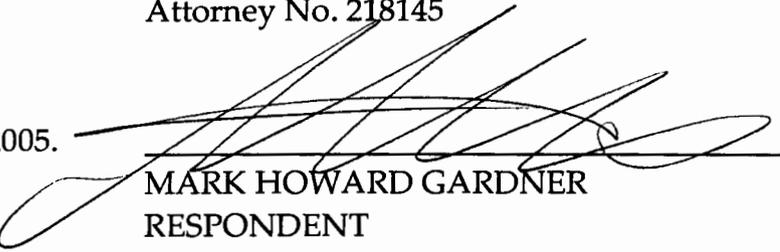
Dated: December 6, 2005.


KENNETH L. JORGENSEN
DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF LAWYERS
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
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Dated: 12/6, 2005.


THOMAS F. ASCHER
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
Attorney No. 218145

Dated: 12/12/05, 2005.


MARK HOWARD GARDNER
RESPONDENT

Dated: 12/14/05, 2005.


EDWARD F. KAUTZER
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