

FILE NO. _____

STATE OF MINNESOTA

IN SUPREME COURT

In Re Petition for Disciplinary Action
against JOLIE MONIQUE LAHLUM,
a Minnesota Attorney,
Registration No. 295346.

**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 (RLPR). The Director alleges:

The above-named attorney, hereinafter respondent, was admitted to practice law in Minnesota on October 29, 1999. Respondent currently practices law in Lino Lakes, Minnesota.

Respondent has committed the following unprofessional conduct warranting public discipline:

FIRST COUNT

1. On or around March 3, 2004, respondent applied for unemployment insurance benefits from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (MDEED). Thereafter, respondent received unemployment insurance benefits of \$350 per week. Respondent received bi-weekly unemployment insurance benefit checks drawn on MDEED's unemployment compensation fund benefit account.

2. During the period that respondent endorsed and cashed checks for unemployment insurance benefits, respondent reported bi-weekly to MDEED via a voice response unit reporting system. Respondent reported to MDEED that she was

unemployed and had not earned income with the exception of four weeks in April 2004. On April 27, 2004, respondent called the MDEED and reported that she was unemployed and had no earned income during the preceding four weeks. Based upon respondent's representations, respondent was deemed eligible to receive the unemployment insurance benefits issued to her.

3. MDEED subsequently learned through a computer benefit and wage cross match that respondent had unreported employment and earnings during the period in which she received unemployment insurance benefits. Specifically, respondent was employed by her mother, Arlene P. Boutin, M.D., P.A., during the entire period that she received unemployment insurance benefits.

4. As a result of respondent's false statements regarding her employment status, respondent received unemployment insurance benefits in the amount of \$8,035, which was greater than that to which she was entitled.

5. On July 15, 2005, James Weber, a prosecutor with the Anoka County attorney's office contacted respondent, who admitted to receiving the unemployment insurance benefits and failing to report the part-time earnings received from her employment with her mother.

6. On September 9, 2005, respondent was criminally charged with felony theft in excess of \$2,500 by wrongfully obtaining unemployment benefits in violation of Minnesota Statutes § 268.182(a) and § 609.52, subd. 3(2).

7. On November 25, 2005, respondent self-reported the criminal charges against her and a notice of investigation was opened by the Director pursuant to Rule 8(a), RLPR.

8. On May 24, 2006, respondent pled guilty to felony theft in excess of \$2,500 by wrongfully obtaining unemployment benefits in violation of Minnesota Statutes § 268.182(a) and § 609.52, subd. 3(2). On July 11, 2006, respondent was sentenced. Upon sentencing, the district court amended the criminal charge to a gross

misdemeanor theft. Respondent was sentenced to one year in jail with eleven months and twenty-nine days stayed pending respondent's compliance with the terms of her criminal probation. Respondent was to serve one day in jail. Respondent has also made full restitution.

9. Respondent's conduct in making false statements about her employment and earned income in order to fraudulently obtain unemployment insurance benefits violated Rule 8.4(b) and (c), Minnesota Rules of Professional Conduct.

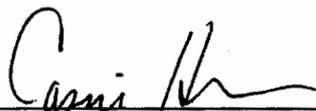
WHEREFORE, the Director respectfully prays for an order of this Court imposing appropriate discipline, awarding costs and disbursements pursuant to the Rules on Lawyers Professional Responsibility, and for such other, further or different relief as may be just and proper.

Dated: July 13, 2006.



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