

FILE NO. _____

STATE OF MINNESOTA

IN SUPREME COURT

In Re Petition for Disciplinary Action
against DOUGLAS A. RUHLAND,
a Minnesota Attorney,
Registration No. 94328.

**PETITION FOR
DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

TO THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

At the direction of a Lawyers Professional Responsibility Board Panel, the Director of the Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility, hereinafter Director, files this petition.

The above-named attorney, hereinafter respondent, was admitted to practice law in Minnesota on May 5, 1978. Respondent currently practices law in Eden Valley, Minnesota.

Respondent has committed the following unprofessional conduct warranting public discipline:

DISCIPLINARY HISTORY

A. On July 7, 1989, respondent was publicly reprimanded for failing to honor an agreement with opposing counsel and the trial court, failing to disclose the exercise of an attorney's lien and failing to obey a court order to pay funds to an opposing party in violation of Rules 8.4(c) and (d), Minnesota Rules of Professional Conduct (MRPC).

B. On July 12, 1989, respondent was issued an admonition for failing to engage in formal discovery in a dissolution action for over one year after the dissolution action commenced in violation of Rule 1.3, MRPC.

C. On December 28, 1990, respondent was issued an admonition for conflict of interest in violation of Rule 1.9(a), MRPC.

D. On April 2, 1997, respondent received an admonition for failing to probate an estate for approximately one and one-half years and failing to inform his clients that he would not undertake certain action until his entire legal fee had been paid in violation of Rules 1.3 and 1.4(b), MRPC.

E. On April 11, 2001, respondent received an admonition for failing for more than two years to handle a real estate matter with adequate diligence and promptness and failing to communicate adequately regarding the matter in violation of Rules 1.3 and 1.4, MRPC.

F. On November 18, 2004, respondent was publicly reprimanded and placed on supervised probation for two years for failing to handle a client matter with adequate diligence, failing to communicate adequately with that client, failing to file documents by the court-ordered deadline, and failing to appear in court as ordered by the court in violation of Rules 1.3, 1.4, 1.15(c)(4), 3.2, 3.4(c) and 8.4(d), MRPC.

G. On May 17, 2006, respondent was issued an admonition for failing to inform his client about a sanction imposed against the client and for improperly withdrawing from representation of the client in violation of Rules 1.4 and 1.16(d), MRPC.

FIRST COUNT

Schlangen Matter

1. In or about March 2008 Schlangen's Custom Cabinets, Inc. ("Schlangen's") retained respondent for representation in multiple collection matters.

2. In or about November 2008 respondent hired Schlangen's to build cabinetry on rental property that respondent owned. Respondent failed to pay Schlangen's any amount that respondent owed to Schlangen's for Schlangen's services.

3. Shortly after respondent first failed to honor his obligation to Schlangen's, respondent ceased communication with Schlangen's about the matters on which respondent was representing Schlangen's and also failed to respond to multiple requests from Schlangen's for communication. Respondent thereby avoided having

Schlangen's talk to him about his delinquent obligation. Respondent nevertheless did not withdraw from representation.

4. In or about December 2010, Schlangen's commenced a civil action against respondent. Respondent represented Schlangen's on at least one matter at that time, which respondent contends was dormant at that time. Respondent, however, had not advised Schlangen's of this contention and did not withdraw from representation.

5. Respondent's conduct in the Schlangen's matter violated Rules 1.4(a)(3) and (4), 1.7(a)(2) and 1.16(a)(1), MRPC.

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.

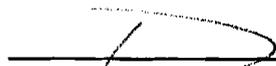
Dated: November 30, 2011.



MARTIN A. COLE
DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF LAWYERS
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Attorney No. 148416
1500 Landmark Towers
345 St. Peter Street
St. Paul, MN 55102-1218
(651) 296-3952

and



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