

FILE NO. _____

STATE OF MINNESOTA

IN SUPREME COURT

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

**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 Douglas A. Ruhland, 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 which may be summarized as follows:

In a probate matter, respondent failed to act with adequate diligence, failed to communicate adequately with the client, failed to file documents by a court-ordered deadline and failed to appear in court when ordered to do so.

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 pursuant to Rule 15, RLPR, is a public reprimand and supervised probation for a period of two years upon 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 be supervised by a licensed Minnesota attorney, appointed by the Director to monitor compliance with the terms of this

probation. Respondent shall provide to the Director the names of four attorneys who have agreed to be nominated as respondent's supervisor within two weeks from the date this stipulation is executed. If, after diligent effort, respondent is unable to locate a supervisor acceptable to the Director, the Director will seek to appoint a supervisor. Respondent shall make active client files available to the Director upon request.

d. Respondent shall cooperate fully with the supervisor in his/her efforts to monitor compliance with this probation. Respondent shall contact the supervisor and schedule a minimum of one in-person meeting per calendar quarter. Respondent's supervisor shall file written reports with the Director at least quarterly, or at such more frequent intervals as may reasonably be requested by the Director.

e. 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, which ensure that respondent regularly reviews all files and completes legal matters on a timely basis. Procedures shall also be instituted to ensure respondent regularly reviews his calendar or appointment book to determine court scheduling conflicts. Respondent shall promptly notify all affected tribunals and opposing counsel of scheduling conflicts and make efforts to resolve the conflicts as far in advance of the scheduled hearings as is reasonably possible.

f. Within thirty days from the execution of this stipulation, respondent shall provide to the Director and to the probation supervisor, if any, a written plan outlining office procedures designed to ensure that respondent is in compliance with probation requirements. Respondent shall provide progress reports as requested.

7. Respondent also agrees to the imposition and payment of \$900 in costs and disbursements pursuant to Rule 24, RLPR.

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 hereby acknowledges receipt of a copy of this stipulation.

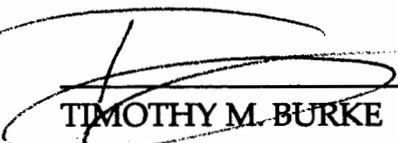
10. Respondent has been advised of the right to be represented herein by an attorney but has freely chosen to appear *pro se*.

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

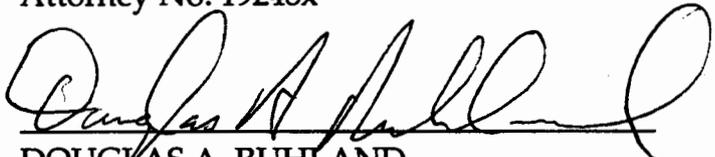
Dated: October 4, 2004.


KENNETH L. JORGENSEN
DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF LAWYERS
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
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Dated: October 4, 2004.


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

Dated: October 6, 2004.


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