

STATE OF MINNESOTA

IN SUPREME COURT

In Re Petition for Disciplinary Action
against STEVEN FORD SORONOW,
an Attorney at Law of the
State of Minnesota.

**SUPPLEMENTARY 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 supplementary petition for disciplinary action pursuant to Rules 10(e) and 12(a), Rules on Lawyers Professional Responsibility (RLPR).

Respondent is currently the subject of a May 18, 2001, petition for disciplinary action. The Director has investigated further allegations of unprofessional conduct against respondent. Based on the information the complainants provided and on the Director's additional investigation, the Director alleges that respondent has committed the following additional unprofessional conduct warranting public discipline:

THIRD COUNT

Further Non-Cooperation

19. On April 23, 2001, the Director received a complaint from Darren C. Borg reporting a pending criminal complaint against respondent.

20. By notice of investigation dated April 27, 2001, the complaint was forwarded to respondent's last known address, and he was requested to respond to the Director's Office within 14 days. Exhibit 24 (Exhibits 1 - 23 are attached to Director's May 18 petition). No response has been received.

21. On May 3, 2001, the Director received a complaint from Rohan Grant, alleging failure to communicate and failure to return a file.

22. By notice of investigation dated May 8, 2001, the complaint was forwarded to respondent's last known address, and he was requested to respond to the Director's Office within 14 days. Exhibit 25. No response has been received.

23. Respondent's conduct in failing to cooperate with the Director's disciplinary investigation violated Rule 8.1(a)(3), Minnesota Rules of Professional Conduct (MRPC), and Rule 25, RLPR.

FOURTH COUNT

Criminal Conduct

24. As a result of a traffic stop on February 5, 2001, respondent was criminally charged on March 7, 2001, with giving a false name and date of birth to a police officer in violation of Minn. Stat. § 171.22, with driving after suspension of his driver's license in violation of Minn. Stat. § 171.24, and with expired license plate tabs in violation of Minn. Stat. § 169.79. Exhibit 26. Respondent committed the conduct as alleged in the criminal complaint.

25. Respondent's conduct in committing criminal acts, some involving dishonesty, violated Rule 8.4(b) and (c), MRPC.

FIFTH COUNT

Further Non-Communication and Neglect

26. Rohan Grant hired respondent on March 15, 2001, to handle his deportation matter. Grant had just been released from prison and was immediately placed into the custody of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) at the Carver County Jail. Grant states that he met with the respondent in the jail that night, paid him a \$3,500 advance fee and gave him various immigration documents.

27. Grant states that after the initial meeting on March 15, 2001, he called respondent numerous times. Grant states respondent only talked to him on three occasions for less than 15 minutes. Respondent did not appear for a scheduled meeting with Grant on March 21, 2001, and failed to appear at Grant's INS hearing on March 29, 2001.

28. Grant states that respondent did send some forms for him to sign. Grant states that the forms he signed were either blank or contained erroneous information. Other than one letter sent to an attorney in Colorado, there is no evidence that respondent did any other work on complainant's matter.

29. Because of the time sensitive nature of his case, Grant faxed respondent a letter terminating his representation on March 30, 2001, requesting a refund of \$3,000 and the return of his file. Grant also requested the file by telephone numerous times. Grant has not received his file or his fee.

30. Respondent's conduct in failing to communicate with Grant and failing to return his file or refund the unearned portion of his advance fee violated Rules 1.4(a) and 1.16(d), MRPC.

WHEREFORE, the Director respectfully prays for an order of this Court suspending respondent or imposing otherwise 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: June 12, 2001.

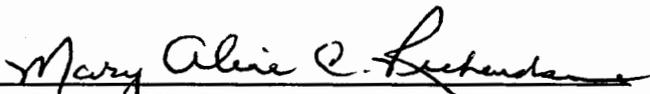

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and


MARTIN A. COLE
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This petition is approved for filing pursuant to Rules 10(e) and 12(a), RLPR, by the undersigned Panel Chair.

Dated: June 13, 2001.


MARY ALICE C. RICHARDSON
PANEL CHAIR, LAWYERS PROFESSIONAL
RESPONSIBILITY BOARD