

FILE NO. _____

STATE OF MINNESOTA

IN SUPREME COURT

In Re Petition for Disciplinary Action
against ERIC CHRISTOPHER THOLE,
a Minnesota Attorney,
Registration No. 232063.

**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 Eric Christopher Thole, 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 pursuant to Rule 15, RLPR. Respondent agrees to the imposition and payment of \$900 in costs and disbursements pursuant to Rule 24, RLPR.

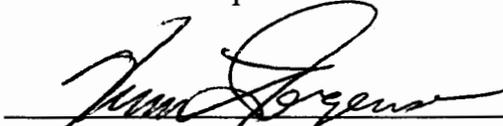
7. This stipulation is entered into by respondent freely and voluntarily, without any coercion, duress or representations by any person except as contained herein.

8. Respondent hereby acknowledges receipt of a copy of this stipulation.

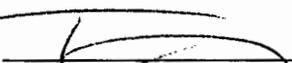
9. Respondent has been advised by the undersigned counsel concerning this stipulation and these proceedings generally.

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

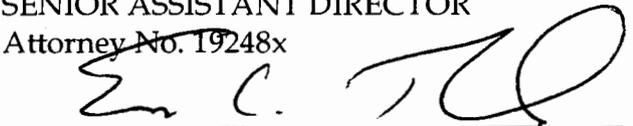
Dated: November 9, 2005.


KENNETH L. JORGENSEN
DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF LAWYERS
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
Attorney No. 159463
1500 Landmark Towers
345 St. Peter Street
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(651) 296-3952

Dated: November 9, 2005.


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

Dated: 11/22, 2005.


ERIC CHRISTOPHER THOLE,
RESPONDENT

Dated: 11/23, 2005.


CHRISTOPHER K. WACHTLER
ATTORNEY FOR RESPONDENT
Attorney No. 261373
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St. Paul, MN 55101
(651) 227-0611

DIRECTOR'S MEMORANDUM

The Director is unaware of any Minnesota lawyer discipline case involving conduct similar to this matter. Research has revealed few cases involving similar misconduct in other states. The most analogous case is *In re Albin*, 267 Kan. 451, 982 P.2d 385 (1999). In that matter, the lawyer sent letters to a prison inmate. The lawyer marked the envelopes "legal mail," even though the contents did not involve legal matters. The lawyer was censured (analogous to a public reprimand in Minnesota).

K.L.J.