

FILE NO. _____

STATE OF MINNESOTA

IN SUPREME COURT

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

**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. The Director alleges:

The above-named attorney, hereinafter respondent, was admitted to practice law in Minnesota on October 30, 1998. Respondent currently practices law in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Respondent has committed the following unprofessional conduct warranting public discipline:

1. Respondent, since his admission to practice law, was associated with the law firm of Wandling, Uggen, Rugara & Fowlkes, LLC (WURF), a Minnesota law firm, until December 2000 (*see below*).
2. Respondent, as part of his duties, would find financial backing for corporations, often by acting as a private placement agent for the corporation's stock. WURF was to be paid a finder's fee for respondent's successful efforts, consisting of 10 percent of the stock price and/or shares of stock of the corporation. The shares were to be held by a company to be called DMI, whose

owners were to be the owners of WURF. DMI was never formed and never held stock.

3. One of WURF's clients, for whom respondent was to find backing, was Ballistica, Inc., a Minnesota corporation.

4. In August 2000, \$32,500 of Ballistica's stock was sold by respondent, for which a \$3,250 finder's fee was due. Respondent instructed Ballistica to leave the payor on the \$3,250 check blank. Respondent wrote his own name into the blank and deposited the check into his own account, bypassing the law firm.

5. In November 2000 respondent solicited a personal loan of \$15,000 from a friend who was also a former client.

6. When the creditor asked respondent for collateral for the loan, respondent gave the creditor a stock certificate for 30,000 shares of Ballistica, Inc., showing ownership in respondent, and signed by respondent as corporate secretary, and by the corporate president. Respondent forged the president's name on the certificate and was not the corporate secretary. The certificate was false and respondent did not own 30,000 shares of Ballistica.

7. When the false stock certificate became known, respondent advised the creditor that the collateral was false, advised WURF what had happened, and reported his conduct to the Director's Office. The false stock certificate was returned to Ballistica. Respondent resigned from WURF on December 9, 2000, and since then has been practicing on his own. Respondent and WURF are negotiating concerning the \$3,250 in a work-out arrangement.

8. Respondent's conduct in keeping the finder's fee rather than turning it over to WURF and in forging a stock certificate as collateral for a personal loan violated Rule 8.4(c), Minnesota Rules of Professional Conduct (MRPC).

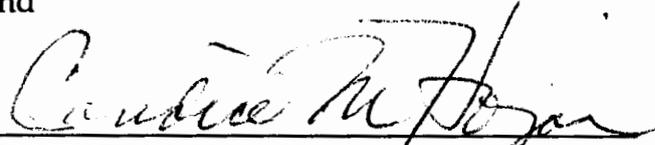
WHEREFORE, the Director respectfully prays for an order of this Court suspending respondent or imposing otherwise appropriate discipline, awarding costs and disbursements pursuant to the Rules on Lawyers Professional Responsibility, and for such other, further or different relief as may be just and proper.

Dated: August 22, 2001.



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and



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