

FILE NO. _____

STATE OF MINNESOTA

IN SUPREME COURT

In Re Petition for Disciplinary Action
against THOMAS ROBERT WARD,
a Minnesota Attorney,
Registration No. 236561.

**STIPULATION FOR DISPENSING
WITH PANEL PROCEEDINGS,
FOR FILING PETITION FOR
DISCIPLINARY ACTION,
AND FOR DISCIPLINE**

THIS STIPULATION is entered into by and between Martin A. Cole, Director of the Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility, hereinafter Director, and Thomas Robert Ward, 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:

a. Respondent entered into a business transaction with a client that was not fair and reasonable, failed to fully disclose all of the terms of the transaction to the client in a manner that could be reasonably understood by the client, failed to obtain from the client a consent to the transaction in a document separate from the transaction documents, failed to notify the client in writing prior to the execution of the transaction documents that independent counsel should be considered, and utilized unfair and ambiguous terms of the transaction documents to deprive the client of her equity in the real estate that was the subject of the transaction in violation of Rules 1.8(a) and 8.4(c), Minnesota Rules of Professional Conduct (MRPC).

b. Respondent made unwanted physical contact of a sexual nature with an applicant for employment in his law office in violation of Rule 8.4(g), MRPC.

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 one year suspension pursuant to Rule 15, RLPR, effective fourteen days after the date of the Court Order imposing the suspension. The reinstatement hearing provided for in Rule 18, RLPR, is not waived. Reinstatement is conditioned upon: (1) payment of costs in the amount of \$900 pursuant to Rule 24(d), RLPR; (2) compliance with Rule 26, RLPR; (3) successful completion of the professional responsibility

examination pursuant to Rule 18(e); (4) satisfaction of the continuing legal education requirements pursuant to Rule 18(e), RLPR; and (5) demonstrated good faith efforts to satisfy the judgment entered against him by Colletta Sorrell.

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 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 18, 2006.



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

Dated: October 18, 2006.



PATRICK R. BURNS
FIRST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
Attorney No. 134004

Dated: oct 18, 2006.



THOMAS ROBERT WARD
RESPONDENT
Attorney No. 236561
5775 Wayzata Blvd., Suite 700
St. Louis Park, MN 55416
(651) 642-9500