

## PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND DISCIPLINE

By

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### MORE ABOUT NEGLIGENCE

In my article in the October issue of *BENCH & BAR*, headed "A Warning", I called the attention of the profession to the fact that almost 45% of the complaints which crossed my desk involved neglect of clients' business and the failure to keep the clients and others entitled thereto advised as to the status quo.

I made it clear that because of the frequency of this type of complaint and the serious consequences to the profession on account of it, this type of professional misconduct must be, and will be, stopped.

I further said that the practice will be stopped if we have to seek the suspension of lawyers in order to drive home to the profession the fact that this type of professional misconduct will no longer be permitted.

The percentage of complaints involving neglect of clients' affairs is now approaching 50%. So that the profession may again be warned, we call your attention to the fact that two petitions have been filed with the Supreme Court and are now pending there, seeking the discipline of lawyers for misconduct consisting solely of the neglect of their clients' legal affairs. We will continue to file such petitions with the Supreme Court so long as lawyers continue to neglect their clients' affairs.

I suggest that all Minnesota lawyers who read this article check the files in their office. If you find that you are neglecting one matter, I suggest you take care of it. If you are neglecting two matters, I advise you to take care of them. If you are neglecting more than two matters, I urge you to take care of them.