

People v. Good, No.02PDJ024. 01.29.03. Attorney Regulation. The Presiding Disciplinary Judge approved the parties' Conditional Admission of Misconduct and suspended Respondent Niel L. Good, attorney registration number 00458, from the practice of law in the State of Colorado for a period of three years subject to conditions. From 1987 until approximately September 1999, the respondent served as a fiduciary for an individual who had received a structured settlement resulting from a wrongful death action involving the death of his family. Respondent handled various financial matters for the individual as well as legal matters, and paid himself management and attorney fees. Respondent did not provide an accounting to the individual when requested, who ultimately hired an attorney to review respondent's handling of the funds. When the attorney requested an accounting from respondent, after considerable delay, respondent provided inadequate accountings. The attorney filed a Request for Investigation with the Office of Attorney Regulation Counsel. Respondent again failed to provide a complete accounting when requested. Respondent's conduct in failing to provide a complete accounting of his handling of the settlement funds violated Colo. RPC 1.15(b). Respondent represented the individual in connection with several felony counts arising from a domestic incident. Respondent charged a fee of \$300,000 and gradually paid himself approximately \$296,000 for his representation in the criminal matter, when \$30,000 would have been the maximum amount of reasonable fees for the services he rendered to the client. Respondent charged an unreasonable fee in violation of DR2-106(A)(for conduct prior to January 1, 1993) and Colo. RPC 1.5(a)(for conduct on or after January 1, 1993). Respondent engaged in conduct involving fraud, misrepresentation, dishonesty or deceit in violation of DR1-102(A)(4) with regard to the client. In a separate matter, respondent represented a client in a traffic matter. Respondent agreed to clear up a mistake in the records of another state which impacted the client's Colorado record and revocation of the client's Colorado driver's license. Respondent was required to obtain verification from the other state that the client's license in that state had not been suspended. Respondent did not attempt to contact the other state for a seven-month period, and thereby neglected the client's legal matter in violation of Colo. RPC 1.3. Respondent was ordered to pay restitution as a condition of reinstatement and the costs of the disciplinary proceeding.