

*People v. Shidler, No. 00PDJ057, 9/11/2000. Attorney Regulation.*

The Presiding Disciplinary Judge accepted the parties' Conditional Admission of Misconduct and suspended Respondent, Michael J. Shidler from the practice of law for a period of thirty days with the full period of suspension stayed during a one-year period of probation and subject to conditions. Respondent entered into a written fee agreement which was in part a contingency agreement, but failed to provide the client with the necessary written disclosures required under Chapter 23.3 of the Colorado Rules of Civil Procedure. Respondent failed to communicate with the client from June 1998 to March 1999 regarding the preparation and filing of the complaint. The client did not understand that the Respondent intended to file suit on her behalf. Subsequently, the client terminated the Respondent and the Respondent filed an attorney's lien on the client's property for his professional services. The Respondent failed to return the file to the client upon termination. Respondent's conduct violated Colo. RPC 1.5(c), Colo. RPC 8.4(h), Colo. RPC 1.4(a) and Colo. RPC 1.16(d). Respondent was ordered to pay the costs of the proceeding.