



**IN RE: G. RONALD KESINGER**  
**NO. BD-2013-035**

**S.J.C. Order of Term Suspension entered by Justice Lenk on May 15, 2013.<sup>1</sup>**

**SUMMARY<sup>2</sup>**

On January 18, 2013, the respondent, G. Ronald Kesinger, was suspended from the practice of law for six months by the Supreme Court of Illinois, effective February 8, 2013. The suspension was based upon the respondent's misconduct in representing clients in two criminal matters.

In the first matter, the respondent represented a defendant on a charge of first-degree murder. After meeting with his client in preparation for trial, the respondent wrote a letter to the prosecutor asserting that the client had been present when the victim was shot but that another person had fired the gun. While the respondent intended by his letter to begin a plea negotiation, the prosecutor used the letter to amend the charges to include felony murder and home invasion. The client then testified at trial, against the advice of both the respondent and the trial judge, admitting to the version of events in the respondent's letter. He was convicted of home invasion and felony murder. The respondent was found to have failed to adequately communicate with his client and to have improperly disclosed confidential client information.

In the second matter, the respondent represented a defendant on a charge of possession of cocaine with intent to deliver for a flat fee of \$5,000. The client posted bond of \$10,000 and assigned his rights in the bond to the respondent, with the agreement that the respondent would obtain the bond refund, keep \$5,000 and give the remainder to the client. Shortly before trial, the respondent demanded that the client allow him to keep the full bond, but the client refused. Later, when the bond funds of \$9,000 were released to the respondent, he kept the funds and claimed them as his fee. After the client filed a disciplinary complaint, the respondent returned \$4,000 to the client. The respondent was found to have engaged in overreaching by attempting to renegotiate his fee on the eve of trial, and of conversion of the bond funds.

On April 8, 2013, bar counsel filed a petition for reciprocal discipline with the Supreme Judicial Court for Suffolk County. The parties filed a waiver of hearing and assent to an order of reciprocal discipline. On May 15, 2013, the Court (Lenk, J.) entered an order suspending the respondent for six months, retroactive to February 8, 2013, the effective date of the Illinois suspension, with the respondent's reinstatement in Massachusetts conditioned upon his reinstatement in Colorado.

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<sup>1</sup> The complete Order of the Court is available by contacting the Clerk of the Supreme Judicial Court for Suffolk County.

<sup>2</sup> Compiled by the Board of Bar Overseers based on the record filed with the Supreme Judicial Court.