

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

IN RE: SUSPENSION OF ATTORNEYS
SOLELY FOR NON-PAYMENT OF
STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN DUES

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

NO. 20-AD-032

On March 13, 2020, the State Bar of Michigan published notice of a large number of attorneys suspended from practice solely for non-payment of dues. Attorneys who cure their dues delinquency (including payment of a separate reinstatement fee) will be automatically reinstated by the State Bar to good standing. Our Court normally applies reciprocal discipline under our Local Rules. However, unlike the State Bar of Michigan, our Local Rules do not provide a process for automatic reinstatement.

A suspension solely for non-payment of State Bar dues does not amount to professional misconduct, or otherwise suggest an inability to meet the standard of practice established for persons admitted to practice before this Court. Moreover, the process for suspending attorneys from the Bar of this Court, and then reinstating them upon their payment of dues to the State Bar of Michigan, is administratively time-consuming for the Court.

Accordingly, in my capacity as Chief Judge of the District, and after consultation with and the unanimous consent of the other Judicial Officers of the District, I determine under Local General Rule 2.3 (b)(ii) that reciprocal suspension from the Bar of this Court for any of the attorneys suspended by the State Bar of Michigan on March 13, 2020, solely for non-payment of their State Bar dues is not warranted and will not be imposed by this Court. Nothing in this Order limits the power of an authorized Judicial Officer, or panel of Judges, from imposing appropriate

discipline on an attorney who fails, without good cause, to cure a dues delinquency to the State Bar of Michigan.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

FOR THE COURT:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Jonker", written in a cursive style.

Dated: April 17, 2020

ROBERT J. JONKER
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE