BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT
PANEL A

IN RE: **Paul D. Petersen**, Respondent
    Arkansas Bar No. 2015249
    Docket No. CPC 2019-033

ORDER OF INTERIM SUSPENSION

Stark Ligon, Executive Director of the Supreme Court Office of Professional Conduct, has presented to the Committee his verified Petition for Interim Suspension, pursuant to Section 16.A(3) of the Supreme Court Procedures Regulating Professional Conduct of Attorneys at Law (2011) (the "Procedures"), alleging Respondent Paul D. Petersen, Arkansas Bar No. 2015249, an attorney practicing law primarily in Mesa, Arizona, but also licensed in Utah and Arkansas and practicing in numerous adoption cases in all three states, presently poses a substantial threat of serious harm to the public and to his clients if he continues to practice law.

The Arkansas Supreme Court Committee on Professional Conduct (the "Committee"), pursuant to the mandate of Section 16 of the Procedures, finds the allegations of the petition are "serious misconduct," and involve alleged violations of the Arkansas Rules of Professional Conduct for mishandling of client funds; being recently charged in all three states, in either state of federal courts, with engaging in felony criminal conduct including human trafficking involving pregnant foreign birthmothers; and engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation involving numerous pending adoptions in Arkansas and the other states.

The Committee further finds that an interim suspension of Respondent's privilege to practice law under the authority of his Arkansas law license shall be imposed pursuant to Section 16.A(3) of the Procedures (2011).

It is therefore ORDERED that Respondent Paul D. Peterson be, and he hereby is, SUSPENDED from the practice of law within this jurisdiction immediately upon the filing of this Order with the Clerk of the Arkansas Supreme Court.

Date: _10/30/19_

       ARKANSAS SUPREME COURT COMMITTEE
       ON PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT, PANEL A

BY: _____
    T. Benton Smith, Jr., Chair, Panel A