

BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

PANEL A

IN RE: BARBARA KETRING-BEUCH
 Arkansas Bar ID # 97074
 CPC Docket No. 2005-097

CONSENT FINDINGS AND ORDER

The formal charges of misconduct upon which this Findings and Order is based arose from information provided to the Committee by Arnetta Fry on December 17, 2004. The information related to the representation of Ms. Fry by Respondent beginning in June 2004.

On July 29, 2005, Respondent was served with a formal complaint, supported by an affidavit from Ms. Fry. A response was filed. The Respondent and the Executive Director negotiated a discipline by consent proposal which was submitted to the Panel.

The facts giving rise to this formal complaint are that Ms. Fry hired Respondent on June 29, 2004, to file contempt charges against her ex-husband for failing to pay medical bills as ordered in the divorce decree. Ms. Fry paid Respondent a \$200 retainer. Respondent told Ms. Fry that though her office was being remodeled, she would get to her case. Ms. Fry called Respondent every week to check on the status of her case but nothing was done. On November 17, 2004, Ms. Fry visited Respondent's office to request a refund of her retainer. Respondent told Ms. Fry she would call her the following Thursday with a check. Respondent failed to refund the retainer and never filed any pleadings on behalf of Ms. Fry. After the Office of Professional Conduct served Respondent with a formal complaint in this matter she refunded \$132.50 to Ms. Fry.

Upon consideration of the formal complaint and attached exhibit materials, the response, the consent proposal, and other matters before it, and the Arkansas Model Rules of Professional Conduct, Panel A of the Arkansas Supreme Court Committee on Professional Conduct finds:

1. That Ms. Ketring-Beuch's conduct violated Model Rule 1.3 when she failed to file contempt charges against Ms. Fry's ex-husband. Model Rule 1.3 provides that a lawyer shall act with

reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client.

2. That Ms. Ketring-Beuch's conduct violated Model Rule 1.4(a) when she failed to respond to the numerous phone calls and messages Ms. Fry made to her office and when she failed to refund the \$200 retainer as Ms. Fry requested. Model Rule 1.4(a) provides that a lawyer shall keep a client reasonably informed about the status of a matter and promptly comply with reasonable requests for information.

WHEREFORE, it is the decision and order of the Arkansas Supreme Court Committee on Professional Conduct, acting through its authorized Panel A, that Barbara Ketring-Beuch, Arkansas Bar ID # 97074, be and hereby is, REPRIMANDED for her conduct in this matter, ordered to pay \$67.50 in RESTITUTION for the benefit of Ms. Fry, and ordered to pay \$50 in costs. The restitution and costs assessed herein shall be payable by cashier's check or money order payable to the "Clerk, Arkansas Supreme Court" delivered to the Office of Professional Conduct within thirty (30) days of the state this Findings and Order is filed of record with the Clerk of the Arkansas Supreme Court.

ARKANSAS SUPREME COURT COMMITTEE
ON PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT - PANEL A

By: _____

Bart F. Virden, Chair, Panel A

Date: _____