

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

In the Disciplinary Matter
Involving:

ROBERT M. BECONOVICH,
Respondent.

) Supreme Court Nos. S-5780/7110
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O R D E R

ABA Membership No. 8111073

ABA File Nos. 1992D050, 1993D056, 1993D114, and 1994D205

Before: Compton, Chief Justice, Rabinowitz and Matthews,
Justices. [Eastaugh and Fabe, Justices, not
participating.]

These matters have come before the Court upon submission
by the Disciplinary Board of the Alaska Bar Association pursuant to
Alaska Bar Rule 22(n). After due consideration,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. No. S-7110. The Board's recommendation in S-7110
that Respondent be suspended from the practice of law for three
years, with two years of the sentence to be actually served and the
third year held "in abeyance" on the condition that there be no
further grievances related to neglect issues occurring during the
third year is accepted.

2. No. S-5780. The Board's recommendation in S-5780
that the Respondent be suspended for six months, with four months
of such sentence suspended, would not ordinarily be accepted. We
have held that the American Bar Association's Standards for
Imposing Lawyer Sanctions are an "appropriate model for determining

Supreme Court Order
Re: Robert Beconovich
File No. S-5780/7110
Page Two

sanctions for lawyer misconduct" in Alaska. In re Buckalew, 731 P.2d 48, 52 (Alaska 1986). The Standards provide in part:

Suspension is the removal of a lawyer from the practice of law for a specific minimum period of time. Generally, a suspension should be for a period of time equal to or greater than six months.

The purposes served by the standard disfavoring suspensions of less than six months are explained in the Commentary to the Standards. They are "to ensure effective demonstration of rehabilitation," and to protect clients because shorter periods of suspension allow attorneys to "merely delay performing the requested services." These purposes are met when a suspension for less than six months runs consecutively with another suspension where the composite period of suspension is greater than six months. Because we order that the sanctions imposed in S-5780 shall be consecutive to those in S-7110, we accept the recommended sanctions in S-5780.

Entered by direction of the Court at Anchorage, Alaska on March 14, 1996.

CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT



JAN HANSEN