

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release
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CLIENT SECURITY BOARD APPROVES CLAIMS

ST. PAUL -- At its March 2006, meeting, the Minnesota Client Security Board approved payment of five claims, in the total amount of \$170,664, against five former lawyers.

The Board approved a claim against John A. Nelson in the amount of \$150,000. This amount is the maximum that the Board is authorized to award on any claim. The Board has now approved three claims against Nelson in the total amount of \$245,024.03. Nelson last practiced law in Willmar, Minnesota. He was disbarred by the Minnesota Supreme Court in June 2004.

The Board approved one claim against Helen Dovolos in the amount of \$10,000. The Board has now approved 16 claims against Dovolos in the total amount of \$78,317.19. Dovolos last practiced law in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She was disbarred by the Minnesota Supreme Court in January 1998.

The Board approved one claim against William C. Mortensen in the amount of \$6,164.00. Mortensen last practiced law in St. Louis Park, Minnesota. He was placed on disability inactive status by the Minnesota Supreme Court in January 2006.

The Board approved one claim against Brian T. Pierce in the amount of \$2,500.00. Pierce last practiced law in Lakefield, Minnesota. He was disbarred by the Minnesota Supreme Court in December 2005.

The Board also approved one claim against Eric A. L. DeRycke in the amount of \$2,000.00. DeRycke last practiced law in Lake Benton, Minnesota. He was disbarred by the Minnesota Supreme Court in January 2006.

The Client Security Fund is a fund established by the Minnesota Supreme Court to reimburse clients who suffer loss of money or other property from the dishonest conduct of their attorney. The Fund is administered by a Board appointed by the Court, and consists of five lawyer members and two non-lawyer members. All serve without compensation as a public service.

The Client Security Fund covers most situations in which lawyers have stolen clients' money or other property entrusted to them. The Fund does not cover losses resulting from the malpractice or negligence of lawyers.

The Board will next meet in June 2006. For more information on the Client Security Fund, visit the Board's website at www.courts.state.mn.us/csb/csb.html.

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