

Minnesota Client Security Board

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NEWS RELEASE

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CLIENT SECURITY BOARD APPROVES CLAIMS

ST. PAUL -- At its November 2012 meeting, the Minnesota Client Security Board approved payment of ten claims, in the total amount of \$57,411.66, against disbarred attorneys Deno W. Berndt, Stephen J. Rondestvedt, Joseph Anthony Rymanowski, Jr., Steven Paul Lundeen, and Albert A. Garcia, Jr., and suspended attorney Nathaniel P. Hobbs.

The Board approved four claims against Deno Walter Berndt in the total amount of \$39,500. The Board has now approved five claims against Berndt in the total amount of \$99,175.45. Berndt last practiced law in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He was disbarred by the Minnesota Supreme Court in March 2012.

The Board approved two claims against Nathaniel P. Hobbs in the total amount of \$2,500. The Board has now approved three claims against Hobbs in the total amount of \$5,000. Hobbs last practiced law in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He was suspended by the Minnesota Supreme Court in May 2012.

The Board approved one claim against Joseph Anthony Rymanowski, Jr., in the total amount of \$2,262. The Board has now approved four claims against Rymanowski in the total amount of \$7,862. Rymanowski last practiced law in St. Paul, Minnesota. He was disbarred by the Minnesota Supreme Court in January 2012.

The Board approved one claim against Steven Paul Lundeen in the total amount of \$800. The Board has now approved six claims against Lundeen in the total amount of \$5,574. Lundeen last practiced law in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He was disbarred by the Minnesota Supreme Court in March 2012.

The Board reconsidered and approved payment of additional funds on a prior claim against Stephen J. Rondestvedt in the total amount of \$11,849.66. The Board has

approved 23 claims against Rondestvedt in the total amount of \$853,189.12. Rondestvedt last practiced law in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He was disbarred by the Minnesota Supreme Court in October 2003.

The Board reconsidered and approved payment of additional funds on a prior claim against Albert A. Garcia, Jr., in the total amount of \$500. The Board has approved 11 claims against Garcia in the total amount of \$34,840. Garcia last practiced law in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He was disbarred by the Minnesota Supreme Court in December 2010.

The Client Security Fund was established by the Minnesota Supreme Court, and is funded by Minnesota attorneys, 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.

For more information on the Client Security Fund, visit the Board's Web site at <http://csb.mncourts.gov>.

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