

**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**SUPREME COURT**

**O R D E R**

**LD-2007-0009, In the Matter of Robert L. Steuk**

On August 14, 2007, the Attorney Discipline Office (ADO) filed a petition for the immediate interim suspension of the respondent, Robert L. Steuk, alleging that the respondent had improperly transferred funds from the escrow/trust account of Warranty Title Company, Inc. On August 15, 2007, the court issued an order suspending the respondent from the practice of law on an interim basis.

On October 15, 2007, the respondent and ADO's disciplinary counsel filed a stipulation and consent to disbarment. In the stipulation the parties agreed that the respondent had removed approximately \$450,000 from Warranty Title Company, Inc.'s escrow/trust account and had transferred it to Warranty Title's operating account. The parties agreed that the money at issue did not belong to Warranty Title or to the respondent, and in fact, was being held in trust on behalf of various entities and individuals. As a result of the respondent's improper removal of this money from the escrow/trust account, approximately 25 checks were returned for insufficient funds. The parties stipulated that the respondent had caused replacement funds to be sent to some of the individuals affected by the returned checks, but that he was not able to reimburse all of the entities and parties affected.

The parties have stipulated that the respondent's conduct violated Rule of Professional Conduct 1.15(a) by failing to properly safeguard funds that Warranty Title Company, Inc. was holding as fiduciary and in trust for third persons. They have also agreed that disbarment is the appropriate sanction for this misconduct. Having reviewed the parties' stipulation, the court concludes that disbarment is the appropriate sanction in this case.

THEREFORE, the court orders that Robert L. Steuk be disbarred from the practice of law in New Hampshire. Attorney Steuk is hereby assessed all expenses incurred by the Professional Conduct Committee in the investigation and prosecution of this matter.

Broderick, C.J., and Dalianis, Duggan, Galway and Hicks, JJ., concurred.

DATE: November 7, 2007

ATTEST:

  
**Eileen Fox, Clerk**

Distribution:

- ✓ Margaret H. Nelson, Chair
- ✓ James L. DeHart, Esquire
- ✓ Landya B. McCafferty, Esquire
- ✓ Robert L. Steuk, Esquire
- ✓ Mark F. Weaver, Esquire
- ✓ Craig A. Calaman, CPA
- ✓ NH Bar Association x5
- Sherri Klueneser, Supreme Court
- File