

**BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT
PANEL A**

IN RE: **DENNIS A. CAMERON**, Respondent

Arkansas Bar ID #95038

CPC Docket No. 2002-161

ORDER OF INTERIM SUSPENSION

Respondent Dennis A. Cameron, Arkansas Bar ID #95038, an attorney practicing law primarily in Hot Springs, Garland County, Arkansas, was charged by felony information filed in Garland County Circuit Court Case No. CR-2002-631-4 on October 28, 2002, with two counts of Class B felony theft of property over \$2,500.00 involving proceeds of a personal injury case in which he represented Megan Ungerer, then a minor. Cameron received \$300,000 as proceeds of settlement in Miss Ungerer's case and was ordered by the Garland County Probate Court on November 17, 1998, to pay medical claims of United Healthcare of Arkansas of \$41,781.07, legal fees (\$99,900.00) and costs (\$2,100.00) to himself, and to place the balance of \$156,218.93 in a "locked" account for the benefit of his minor client, with such funds to only be withdrawn pursuant to court order. The \$300,000 was deposited into his attorney trust account on November 19, 1998. Since then, Respondent made withdrawals in amounts proportionate to his attorney fees and costs by April 12, 1999. Following April 12, 1999, Respondent disregarded the probate court order for final distribution and failed to deliver funds to United Healthcare of Arkansas or to maintain Miss Ungerer's funds in a "locked" account until she reached majority. It appears that all funds belonging to United Healthcare of Arkansas and Megan Ungerer have now been converted to Respondent's personal use, and that neither party has received any funds from Mr. Cameron pursuant to court order.

According to current information, Mr. Cameron has been jailed in Garland County on these charges on a substantial bond since his arrest October 11, 2002. Cameron filed a personal Chapter Seven bankruptcy on July 8, 2002, as Case No. 6:02-BK-74217 in the Bankruptcy Division of the Western District of Arkansas (Hot Springs).

The Arkansas Supreme Court Committee on Professional Conduct (Committee), pursuant to the mandate of Section 16, Procedures of the Arkansas Supreme Court Regulating Professional Conduct of Attorneys at Law (the "Procedures") (Rev. 2002), finds that Respondent Cameron's alleged conduct, and the proof shown by the Petition, demonstrate sufficient evidence that he has engaged in misconduct involving misappropriation of client funds and that there is a substantial threat of serious harm to the public and to the lawyer's clients, and that an interim suspension of Respondent's privilege to practice law under the authority of his Arkansas law license be imposed pursuant to Sections 17.E(3)(c)(1) and 16.A(3) of the Procedures.

It is therefore ORDERED that Respondent Dennis A. Cameron be, and he hereby is, SUSPENDED from the practice of law within this jurisdiction immediately upon the filing of this Order with the Clerk of the Arkansas Supreme Court.

ARKANSAS SUPREME COURT COMMITTEE

ON PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT - PANEL A

Date: _____

By: _____

Win A. Trafford, Panel A Chair