

**KRISTIAN S. BECKETT**  
(Suspension, Withheld Suspension and Probation)

On January 29, 2018, the Idaho Supreme Court issued a Disciplinary Order suspending Bellevue, Washington attorney Kristian S. Beckett from the practice of law for a period of sixty (60) days, with all but twenty-eight (28) days of that suspension withheld. The Disciplinary Order included a six (6) month disciplinary probation upon Mr. Beckett's reinstatement. Mr. Beckett's twenty-eight (28) day suspension will be from February 1 through 28, 2018.

The Idaho Supreme Court's Order followed a stipulated resolution of a disciplinary proceeding relating to Mr. Beckett's representation of a client in a personal injury case. Mr. Beckett successfully negotiated a settlement for the client, who then requested immediate access to a portion of the settlement funds to pay her living expenses. At the client's requests, Mr. Beckett provided two advances, totaling \$16,000 using his own funds and funds from a bank account of a company he owned. He did not fully explain that options other than the advances may have been more suitable for his client's financial situation. Mr. Beckett held some of the advance funds the client was entitled to receive in his company's bank account, together with non-client funds, and not in a trust account. The client received all settlement funds she was entitled to receive, was not charged any interest or fees, and did not suffer any financial loss as a result of Mr. Beckett's actions. Mr. Beckett did not financially benefit from the transactions. With respect to that conduct, the Idaho Supreme Court found that Mr. Beckett violated I.R.P.C. 1.4(b) [A lawyer shall explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation] and I.R.P.C. 1.15(a) [A lawyer shall hold property of clients or third persons that is in the lawyer's possession in connection with a representation separate from the lawyer's own property].

Following the twenty-eight (28) day suspension, Mr. Beckett will serve a six (6) month probation following any reinstatement, subject to the conditions of probation specified in the Disciplinary Order. Those conditions include that Mr. Beckett will serve the period of withheld suspension if he admits or is found to have violated any of the Idaho Rules of Professional Conduct for which a public sanction is imposed for any conduct during his probation period.

Inquiries about this matter may be directed to: Bar Counsel, Idaho State Bar, P.O. Box 895, Boise, Idaho 83701, (208) 334-4500.