

**NO. 2016-B-0544**

**IN RE: MICHAEL T. BELL**

**ATTORNEY DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDING**

**CRICHTON, J., dissents and assigns reasons:**

I respectfully dissent. The respondent concedes a prior disciplinary record. In fact, he received a deferred suspension from this Court less than five years ago for violations of Rules 1.4, 1.16(d), and 8.4(a) of the Rules of Professional Conduct. *In re Bell*, 13-2491 (La. 11/22/13), 129 So. 3d 521. The respondent now finds himself before this Court again in disciplinary proceedings, this time for a violation of Rule 1.7(a)(2) of the Rules of Professional Conduct, which prohibits an attorney from representing a client if the representation could be significantly, materially limited by a personal interest of the lawyer. In aggravation, the respondent also admitted that the conduct was intentional, and conceded that actual harm to his client could have resulted from his conduct. The ABA's *Standards for Imposing Lawyer Sanctions* call for a period of suspension from the practice of law for intentional misconduct of this nature. Accordingly, I would reject the consent discipline as too lenient.