

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR DISCIPLINARY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF

SANDY YEH CHANG,
RESPONDENT

VSB DOCKET NO. 15-000-100741
and 15-000-101215

ORDER

THIS matter came to be heard on December 12, 2014 before a Panel of the Disciplinary Board (Board) consisting of Whitney G. Saunders, 1st Vice Chair, in his capacity as Chairman of this hearing; Thomas O. Bondurant, Jr., Bretta Marie Zimmer Lewis, Jeffrey L. Marks and Stephen A. Wannall, Lay Member. The Virginia State Bar (VSB) was represented by Paulo E. Franco, Jr. The Respondent, who appeared in person, was represented by Bernard J. DiMuro. The Chair polled the Members of the Board Panel (Panel) as to whether any of them was conscious of any personal or financial interest or bias which would preclude any of them from fairly hearing this matter and serving on the Panel, to which inquiry each member responded in the negative. Angela N. Sidener of the Court Reporting firm of Chandler & Halasz, Inc., P.O. Box 9349, Richmond, Virginia 23227, and telephone number (804) 730-1222, and after being duly sworn, reported the hearing and transcribed the proceedings. The matter came before the Board, pursuant to Part 6, Section IV, Paragraph 13-24 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia (Rules), on a Rule to Show Cause and Order of Summary Suspension and Hearing (Show Cause) entered November 19, 2014 against the Respondent to show cause why the same discipline imposed in the District of Columbia Court of Appeals and/or the Court of Appeals of Maryland, should not be imposed by the Board.

The case was called by the Clerk and the Respondent, who had filed a timely written response to the Show Cause, appeared with his Counsel. The Board entertained opening statements from the VSB and Respondent and received evidence.

All VSB exhibits submitted were admitted without objection. The VSB and Respondent entered into a Stipulation of Fact, admitted as a joint exhibit without objection.

After due deliberation, the Board made the following findings on the basis of clear and convincing evidence:

At all times relevant hereto, Sandy Yeh Chang, hereinafter the Respondent, has been an attorney licensed to practice law within the Commonwealth of Virginia and whose address of record with the Virginia State Bar has been The Chang Law Firm, 1 Research Court, Suite 140, Rockville, Maryland 20850. The Respondent received proper notice of these proceedings as set forth in Part Six, § IV, ¶ 13-12 C. and 13-24 C. of the Rules of the Virginia Supreme Court.

After considering all relevant facts, stipulations and argument of counsel, the Respondent failed to Show Cause as to why her license to practice law within the Commonwealth of Virginia should not be suspended pursuant to Part 6, § IV, ¶ 13-24(B) of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia.

The Respondent's license to practice law was suspended by the Court of Appeals of Maryland effective January 23, 2014 and likewise was suspended by the District of Columbia Court of Appeals effective January 23, 2014. In each instance the Respondents' license to practice law was suspended for a period of two years.

Upon review of the foregoing findings, upon review of the exhibits presented by Bar counsel on behalf of the VSB as exhibits, the Stipulation of Facts admitted as upon the joint exhibit on behalf of the Respondent and the VSB, and upon the evidence presented by

Respondent in the form of argument of counsel and stipulation and at the conclusion of the evidence, the Board recessed to deliberate. After due deliberation, the Board reconvened and stated its findings as follows:

1. The Board dismissed case no. 15-000-100741 based upon suspension of the Respondent's license in the District of Columbia, having determined that the Respondent, Sandy Yeh Chang, proved her contentions raised to the Show Cause for suspension of her license in Virginia.

2. The Board found that Sandy Yeh Chang failed to show cause why the Virginia State Bar should not impose the same discipline as was imposed by the Court of Appeals of Maryland as a result of a Petition for Disciplinary or Remedial Action brought by the Maryland Attorney Grievance Commission. The Board found that Respondent failed to provide clear and convincing evidence of any of the grounds of defense found in Part 6, Section IV, Paragraph 13-24(B) of the Rules.

With regard to the matter bearing Case No. 15-000-101215, which is the Show Cause issued as a result of the Order of the Court of Appeals of Maryland suspending the Respondent from the practice of law in Maryland for a two year period, the Board, based upon the evidence presented, found that Respondent failed to present any evidence indicating that the conduct and penalty related thereto in her agreement with the Maryland State Bar and herself should not be imposed by the Court of Appeals of Maryland and, therefore, under the reciprocal rules of Part 6, § IV, ¶ 13-24, the imposition of the suspension of the license as imposed by the Court of Appeals of Maryland, Three Judge Panel, is hereby affirmed and ordered that the Respondent's license within the Commonwealth of Virginia is hereby suspended for the same period of time based upon the foregoing. In its deliberations, the Board gave great weight to the Joint Petition for

Discipline by Consent and Order entered in the Court of Appeals of Maryland and found the Bar's evidence of the Respondent's admission of violation of Rules 1.1 and 5.3 of the Maryland Lawyers' Rules of Professional Conduct and her consent to the suspension of her right to practice law in the State of Maryland persuasive.

Accordingly, the Respondent, Sandy Yeh Chang, is found in violation of the Show Cause effective January 23, 2014 and it is ORDERED that her license to practice law is suspended for a period of two years nunc pro tunc to January 23, 2014.

It is ORDERED that as directed in the Board's Summary Order dated December 12, 2014, in this matter, Respondent must comply with the requirements of Part Six, § IV, ¶ 13-29 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia. The Respondent shall forthwith give notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, of the suspension of her license to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia to all clients for whom she is currently handling matters and to all opposing attorneys and presiding judges in pending litigation. Respondent shall also make appropriate arrangements for the disposition of matters then in the process of her office and take care in conforming with the wishes of the client. Respondent shall give such notice within fourteen (14) days of the effective date of this suspension and make such arrangements as are required within forty-five (45) days of the effective date of this Order. The Respondent shall also furnish proof to the Bar within sixty (60) days of the effective date of said Order that such notices have been timely given and such arrangements made for the disposition of matters.

It is further ORDERED that if the Respondent is not handling any client matters on the effective date of January 23, 2014, she shall submit an affidavit to that effect to the Clerk of the Disciplinary System of the Virginia State Bar within sixty (60) days of the effective of January 12, 2014. All issues concerning the adequacy of the notice and arrangements required by

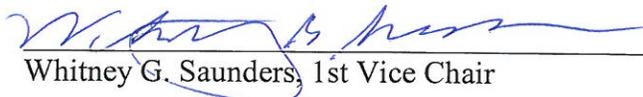
Paragraph 13-29 shall be determined by the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary Board, which may impose a sanction of Revocation or additional Suspension for failure to comply with the requirements of this subparagraph.

It is further ORDERED that pursuant to Part Six, § IV, ¶ 13-9 E. of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia, the Clerk of the Disciplinary System shall assess all costs against the respondent.

It is further ORDERED that the Clerk of the Disciplinary System shall mail an attested copy of this Order to Respondent at her address of record within the Virginia State Bar being The Chang Law Firm, 1 Research Court, Suite 140, Rockville, Maryland 20850 by certified, return receipt mail and by regular mail to Paulo E. Franco, Jr., Assistant Bar Counsel, 1111 East Main Street, Suite 700, Richmond, Virginia 23219.

ENTERED this 1st day of June, 2015

VIRGINIA STATE BAR DISCIPLINARY BOARD


Whitney G. Saunders, 1st Vice Chair