

VIRGINIA:  
BEFORE THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR DISCIPLINARY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF  
PETER ROBIN ESTES

VSB DOCKET NO.: 16-000-103726

**ORDER OF SUSPENSION**

**THIS MATTER** came to be heard on Friday, October 23, 2015, before a panel of the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary Board consisting of Esther J. Windmueller, 2nd Vice Chair, Sandra W. Montgomery (Lay Member), John A. C. Keith, Jeffrey L. Marks and Melissa W. Robinson (collectively, the "Board"). The Virginia State Bar ("Bar") was represented by Elizabeth Shoenfeld, Assistant Bar Counsel. The Respondent, Peter R. Estes ("Respondent"), appeared telephonically. Jennifer L. Hairfield, Registered Professional Court Reporter with Chandler & Halasz, Post Office Box 9349, Richmond, Virginia 23227, (804) 730-1222, after being duly sworn, reported the hearing and transcribed the proceedings. The Chair opened the hearing by calling the case in the hearing room and polling the members of the Board 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.

The matter came before the Board on the Rule to Show Cause and Order of Summary Suspension and Hearing entered on September 25, 2015, with an attached copy of the Order entered on May 7, 2015 by the Supreme Court of California approving a negotiated discipline of suspension imposed in that jurisdiction on the Respondent, and the Clerk of the Disciplinary System's September 28, 2015 certified Notice Letter to the Respondent served

in accordance with the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia. In accordance with Part 6, § IV, ¶ 13-24 of the Rules of the Virginia Supreme Court (the "Rules"), the purpose of the hearing was to provide the Respondent with an opportunity to show cause, by clear and convincing evidence, why the same discipline that was imposed upon him by the California Supreme Court should not be imposed by this Board. The Rule to Show Cause and Notice were received into evidence collectively as State Bar Exhibit 1. All legal notices of the date and place were timely sent by the Clerk of the Disciplinary System (Clerk) in the manner prescribed by Part 6, § IV, ¶ 13-18 of the Rules of Court.

The Respondent did not file a written response to the Rule to Show Cause in accordance with Part 6, § IV, ¶ 13-24(B) of the Rules and did not provide *ore tenus* testimony during the hearing, appearing telephonically for the limited purpose of presenting argument. Accordingly, after the Board accepted into evidence the Bar's Exhibits, considered the arguments of Respondent and Bar Counsel and duly deliberated on this matter it found that the Respondent had failed to show cause by clear and convincing evidence why the Board should not impose the same discipline imposed by the Supreme Court of California.

Accordingly, by this Memorandum Order, and in accordance with the Summary Order entered on September 25, 2015, it is ORDERED that the Respondent, Peter Robin Estes, is suspended from the practice of law in the Commonwealth of Virginia, effective September 25, 2015, for a period of ninety (90) days. It is further ORDERED that the Respondent must comply with all other terms and conditions imposed by the State Bar of California in its Order filed January 12, 2015, or the alternative sanction of a one-year suspension shall be imposed.

**WHEREFORE**, in accordance with Part Six, § IV, ¶ 13-29 of the Rules, it is further ORDERED that Peter Robin Estes shall forthwith give notice, by certified mail, return receipt requested, of the suspension of his license to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia, to all clients for whom he is currently handling matters and for all opposing attorneys and presiding Judges in pending litigation. The Respondent shall also make appropriate arrangements for the disposition of matters then in his care in conformity with the wishes of his clients. Respondent shall give such notice within fourteen (14) days of the effective date of the suspension, and makes such arrangements as now required herein 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 the suspension that such notices have been timely given and such arrangements made for the disposition of matters.

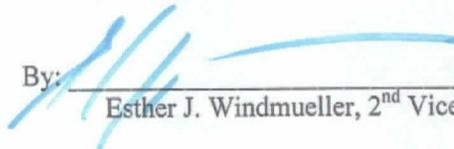
It is further ORDERED that if Respondent is not handling any client matters on the effective date of the suspension, he shall submit an Affidavit to that effect to the Clerk of the Disciplinary System at the Virginia State Bar. All issues concerning the adequacy of the notice and arrangements required by ¶ 13-29 shall be determined by the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary Board.

It is further ORDERED that pursuant to Part 6, § IV, ¶ 13-9E. of the Rules, 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 by certified mail, return receipt request to the Respondent, Peter Robin Estes, at his address of record with the Virginia State Bar, 7108 Evanston Road, Springfield, VA 22150-3623, with a copy by certified mail to his alternate address, 15601 Farmington Court, Accokeek, MD 205607, and by hand-delivery to Elizabeth Shoenfeld, Assistant Bar Counsel, Virginia State Bar, 1111 E. Main Street, Suite 700, Richmond, Virginia, 23219.

ENTERED this 10<sup>ye</sup> day of November, 2015.

VIRGINIA STATE BAR DISCIPLINARY BOARD

By: 

Esther J. Windmueller, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair