VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR

IN THE MATTER OF
SHARON ANN FITZGERALD

VSB DOCKET NO. 13-000-096146

IMPAIRMENT SUSPENSION ORDER

THIS DAY CAME the Virginia State Bar, by its Assistant Bar Counsel, Kara McGehee, Respondent, Sharon Ann Fitzgerald, by her attorney, Craig Cooley, and represented to the Board that Ms. Fitzgerald suffers from an Impairment as defined in Part 6, § IV, ¶ 13-1 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia, based upon evidence that Ms. Fitzgerald has been diagnosed with alcohol dependence and she continues to drink alcohol. Ms. Fitzgerald has appeared in court under the influence of alcohol on at least two occasions in the past 11 months, and has potentially prejudiced her clients as a result of her failure to abstain from using alcohol.

Respondent, by counsel, has agreed to the suspension of her license to practice law as a result of this impairment, pursuant to Part 6, § IV, ¶ 13-23 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia. It appearing proper to do so, it is hereby

ORDERED that the license of Sharon Ann Fitzgerald to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia is SUSPENDED indefinitely effective March 18, 2014. It is further

ORDERED that Respondent shall comply with the requirements of Paragraph 13-29. Issues concerning the adequacy of the notice and arrangements required shall be determined by the Board, which may impose a sanction of revocation or further suspension for failure to comply with the requirements of this paragraph. It is further

ORDERED that a copy of this Order be mailed by first class mail, postage prepaid, to Respondent's Counsel, Craig Cooley, at P.O. Box 7268, Richmond, Virginia, 23221, hand-delivered to Kara McGehee, Assistant Bar Counsel, and mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested, to Sharon Ann Fitzgerald, P.O. Box 1900, Chesterfield, Virginia, 23832, her address of record with the Virginia State Bar.

ENTERED THIS 21 DAY OF March 2014

FOR THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR

By _____
Barbara Sayers Lanier
Clerk of the Disciplinary System

I ASK FOR THIS:

_____
Kara McGehee, VSB #65987
Assistant Bar Counsel
Virginia State Bar
Suite 1500
707 East Main Street
Richmond, VA 23219
804-775-0560
804-775-0597 (fax)

SEEN AND AGREED:

_____
Craig Cooley, Esquire
Counsel for Respondent
P.O. Box 7268
Richmond, VA 23221
804-358-2328
804-358-3947 (fax)