

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR DISCIPLINARY BOARD

IN RE: JEFFREY ELLIS GONZALEZ-PEREZ      VSB DOCKET NO. 07-000-2848

ORDER

This matter came before the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary Board pursuant to Part Six, Section IV, Paragraph 13.I.7, of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia, "Proceedings Upon Disbarment, Revocation, or suspension in Another Jurisdiction".

On March 28, 2007 the Disciplinary Board issued a Rule to Show Cause to Jeffrey Ellis Gonzalez-Perez in which it was alleged that Mr. Gonzalez-Perez's license to practice law in the District of Columbia had been suspended for a period of ninety (90) days, effective March 1, 2007, and in which Mr. Gonzalez-Perez was required to show cause why the Board should not impose the same discipline. The hearing was held on April 27, 2007, in Lewis F. Powell, Jr., U.S. District Courthouse, 1000 East Main Street, Tweed Courtroom, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Richmond, Virginia 23219, at 9:00 a.m.

The Disciplinary Board Panel consisted of James L. Banks, Jr., 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair (the "Chair"), David R. Schultz, John W. Richardson, Rhysa Griffith South, and Stephen A. Wannall (lay member). The Bar was represented by Assistant Bar Counsel Marian L. Beckett, and the Respondent did not appear and was not represented by counsel. The proceedings were recorded by Donna T. Chandler, Chandler & Halasz, P.O. Box 9349, Richmond, Virginia 23227 (804) 730-1222.

The Chair convened the hearing and polled the Panel as to whether any conflicts or biases existed which would prevent them from hearing the matter fairly and

objectively. All members answered in the negative, including the Chair.

It being apparent that Mr. Gonzalez-Perez was not present, the Chair asked the Clerk to call Mr. Gonzalez-Perez's name three times in the hall. The Clerk did so with no response.

Ms. Beckett then informed the Board that she had spoken with Mr. Gonzalez-Perez and that he did not plan to attend the hearing.

Evidence was then presented by the State Bar consisting of a certified copy of an Order of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals in which the Court suspended Mr. Gonzalez-Perez's license to practice law for ninety (90) days. The Virginia State Bar also introduced the Respondent's disciplinary record in Virginia as well as his Virginia State Bar membership status.

The Board finds as follows:

1. All notices required by the Rules of the Supreme Court were issued and properly served. Mr. Gonzalez-Perez's license to practice law was suspended by the District of Columbia Court of Appeals effective March 1, 2007.
2. The Court's ruling was final.
3. Mr. Gonzalez-Perez presented no evidence which would establish that (i) the record of the proceeding in the other jurisdiction would clearly show that such proceeding was so lacking in notice or opportunity to be heard as to constitute a denial of due process; (ii) the imposition by the Board of the same discipline, upon the same proof, would result in a grave injustice; or (iii) the

same conduct would not be grounds for disciplinary action or for the same discipline in Virginia.

Accordingly, the Board hereby suspends Respondent's license law in the Commonwealth of Virginia for period of (90) days under the same conditions as enumerated in the Order of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, effective April 27, 2007.

The Respondent must comply with the requirements of Part 6, Section IV, and Paragraph 13.M of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia and notify all appropriate persons about the suspension of his license if he is handling any client matters at the time. If the Respondent is not handling any client matters on the effective date of his license 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 Paragraph 13.M shall be determined by the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary Board, unless the Respondent makes a timely request for hearing before a three-judge court.

### **COSTS**

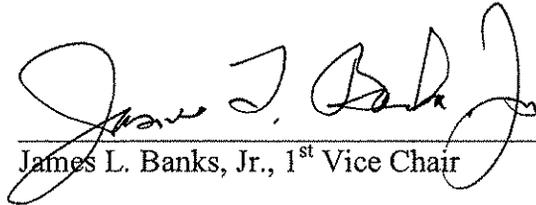
Pursuant to Part 6, Section IV, Paragraph 13.B.8.c of the Rules, the Clerk of the Disciplinary System shall assess costs.

It is further ORDERED that the Clerk of the Disciplinary System shall mail an attested copy of this order to the Respondent, Jeffrey Ellis Gonzalez-Perez at his addresses of record with the Virginia State Bar, 2111 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 700, Arlington, VA 22201 and the alternate address at 2300 Lee

Highway, #102, Arlington, Virginia 22201, by certified mail, return receipt requested, and by regular mail to Marian L. Beckett, Assistant Bar Counsel, Virginia State Bar 707 East Main Street, Suite 1500, Richmond, Virginia 23219.

ENTERED this 7<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2007

VIRGINIA STATE BAR DISCIPLINARY BOARD

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James L. Banks, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and somewhat stylized, with a large loop at the end.

James L. Banks, Jr., 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair