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VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE SIXTH DISTRICT SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR

JAN 18 2007

VSB CLERK'S OFFICE

IN THE MATTER OF JAMES DREWRY HUDKINS HILL, ESQUIRE
VSB Docket No. 06-060-0465

SUBCOMMITTEE DETERMINATION
PUBLIC REPRIMAND

On the 12th day of December, 2006, a meeting in this matter was held before a duly convened subcommittee of the Sixth District Committee consisting of Jean Dahnk, Esquire, Kay Forrest, and Richard Stuart, Esquire, presiding.

Pursuant to Part 6, § IV, ¶ 13(G)(1)(d) of the Rules of Virginia Supreme Court, a subcommittee of the Sixth District Committee of the Virginia State Bar hereby serves upon the Respondent the following Agreed Disposition, a Public Reprimand:

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. At all times relevant hereto the Respondent, James Drewry Hudkins Hill, Esq. (hereinafter the Respondent), has been an attorney licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
2. In the case of the estate of Laura Horton, the executor named in the will failed to fulfill her responsibilities. The Respondent was then court appointed as the administrator c.t.a.
3. On December 4, 2003, the Respondent qualified as the administrator of the estate, posted the required bond, and submitted a timely inventory to the Complainant, Mervin C. Withers, Esquire, Commissioner of Accounts of the County of Northumberland.
4. Thereafter the Respondent failed to submit timely reports regarding the estate. The settlement of accounts was due in April of 2004. Commissioner Withers sent notices of delinquency

to the Respondent in April and September of 2004 and in February and May of 2005. The Respondent failed to respond to these notices.

5. The Respondent was subsequently held in contempt by the Circuit Court of Northumberland County. He was also denied fees for his work on the estate and ordered to pay approximately \$700.00 in fees and penalties out-of-pocket rather than charging them against the estate.

6. The first and second (which was the final) accountings were submitted on September 15, 2005, and approved by the Commissioner in November of 2005. The matter is now closed.

7. The Respondent ceased practicing law on December 31, 2004, and changed his membership from active to associate status the following month. He now operates a title and settlement company, but his activities do not constitute the practice of law.

II. NATURE OF MISCONDUCT

The Subcommittee finds that the following Rules of Professional Conduct have been violated:

RULE 1.3 Diligence

- (a) A lawyer shall act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client.
- (b) A lawyer shall not intentionally fail to carry out a contract of employment entered into with a client for professional services, but may withdraw as permitted under Rule 1.16.

RULE 1.16 Declining Or Terminating Representation

- (a) Except as stated in paragraph (c), a lawyer shall not represent a client or, where representation has commenced, shall withdraw from the representation of a client if:
 - (1) the representation will result in violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct or other law;

III. PUBLIC REPRIMAND

Accordingly, it is the decision of the Subcommittee to impose a Public Reprimand on the Respondent, James Drewry Hudkins Hill, Esq. and he is so reprimanded.

IV. COSTS

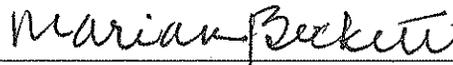
Pursuant to Part Six, § IV, ¶ 13(B)(8)(c)(1) of the Rules of the Supreme Court, the Clerk of the Disciplinary System shall assess costs.

SIXTH DISTRICT SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR

By  _____
Chair/Chair Designate

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have this th 16 day of January, 2008, mailed a true and correct copy of the Subcommittee Determination (Public Reprimand) by CERTIFIED MAIL, RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED, to the Respondent, James Drewry Hudkins Hill, Esq. at 10222 Steuben Dr., Glen Allen, VA 23060, his last address of record with the Virginia State Bar. 7 MB



Marian L. Beckett
Assistant Bar Counsel