

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR DISCIPLINARY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF
VICTOR MBA-JONAS

VSB Docket No.: 08-000-071969

ORDER AND OPINION

This matter came before the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary Board (“Board”) for hearing on September 28, 2007, upon a Rule to Show Cause and Order of Suspension and Hearing entered on September 5, 2007 (“Rule”). A duly convened panel of the Board consisting of William H. Monroe, Jr., presiding, Paul M. Black, Russell W. Updike, John W. Richardson, and Stephen A. Wannall, lay member, heard the matter. Paul D. Georgiadis, Assistant Bar Counsel, appeared on behalf of the Virginia State Bar (“VSB”). Victor Mba-Jonas (“Respondent”) did not appear. The court reporter for the proceeding, Theresa S. Griffith, Chandler and Halasz, P. O. Box 9349, Richmond, Virginia 23227, telephone 804-730-1222, was duly sworn by the Chair.

All legal notices of the date and place were timely sent by the Clerk of the Disciplinary System (“Clerk”), in the manner prescribed by law. Part Six, §IV, ¶13(I)(7)(a) of the Rules of the Supreme Court, *Disbarment or Suspension in Another Jurisdiction* provides, in relevant part, that following the issuance of a show cause order and order of suspension, the Board shall serve upon the Respondent by certified mail a copy of the suspension or revocation notice, a copy of the Board’s Order, and a notice fixing the time and place of a hearing to determine what action should be taken in

response to the suspension or revocation notice and stating the purpose of the hearing. The Board finds that the VSB has complied with these requirements by forwarding a certified letter dated September 7, 2007, return receipt requested to Respondent's address of record. The Respondent was called three times by the Clerk, and the Respondent neither answered the docket call nor appeared to defend his interests. Respondent did not file a response to the Rule as required by ¶13(I)(7)(b). The Chair opened the hearing by polling the Board members to ascertain whether any member had any personal or financial interest or bias which would interfere with or influence each such member's determination, and each member responded that there were no such conflicts.

An opinion and order of the Court of Appeals of Maryland dated March 20, 2007, indefinitely suspending the Respondent's right to practice law in the State of Maryland was filed with the Rule.

The Respondent has failed to assert a defense as provided in Part 6, §IV, ¶13(I)(7)(b) of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia. Accordingly, the Board must impose the same discipline imposed by the Court of Appeals of Maryland, to-wit: indefinite suspension of Respondent's license to practice law.

Upon consideration of the matters before this panel of the Board, it is hereby ORDERED that, pursuant to Part 6, §IV, ¶13(I)(7) of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia, the license of Respondent, Victor Mba-Jonas, to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia shall be, and is hereby, indefinitely SUSPENDED beginning September 28, 2007. Such suspension shall continue until Respondent presents satisfactory evidence to this Board that the Court of Appeals of Maryland has removed all

impediments to Respondent's practice of law in the State of Maryland, and that Respondent has fully established his rights to practice law in that State.

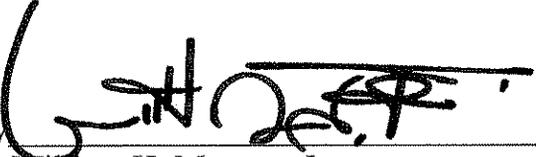
It is FURTHER ORDERED that, as directed in the Board's September 28, 2007 Summary Order in this matter, a copy of which was served on Respondent by certified mail, Respondent must comply with the requirements of Part 6, Section IV, Paragraph 13(M) of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia. The Respondent shall forthwith give notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, of the indefinite suspension of his license to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia to all clients for whom he is currently handling matters and to all opposing attorneys and presiding Judges in pending litigation. The Respondent shall give notice within fourteen (14) days of the effective date of the Summary Order and make such arrangements as are required within forty-five (45) days of the effective date of the order. The Respondent shall also furnish proof to the VSB within sixty (60) days 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 the suspension, he shall submit an affidavit to that effect to the Clerk. All issues concerning the adequacy of the notice and arrangements required by ¶13(M) shall be determined by the Board, unless Respondent makes a timely request for a hearing before a three judge court.

It is ordered that Part Six, §IV, ¶13(B)(8)(c) of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia, the Clerk shall assess all costs against Respondent.

It is further ordered that the Clerk shall send an attested copy of this Order and Opinion to Respondent, Victor Mba-Jonas, by certified mail, at his address of record, 8020 New Hampshire Avenue, Suite 130, Adelphia, MD 20783; and to Paul D. Georgiadis, Assistant Bar Counsel, 707 East Main Street, Suite 1500, Richmond, Virginia 23219-2803.

SO ORDERED, this 22nd day of October, 2007.

By 

William H. Monroe, Jr.
2nd Vice Chair