

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE NINTH DISTRICT SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR

JUL 7 2014

IN THE MATTER OF
William Craig Meyer, II

VSB Docket Nos. 14-090-096700
14-090-096586

SUBCOMMITTEE DETERMINATION
(PUBLIC REPRIMAND WITHOUT TERMS)

On June 27, 2014 a meeting was held in these matters before a duly convened Ninth District Subcommittee consisting of Christopher A. Corbett, Esq., Chair; Steven R. Grant, Esq.; and Rayburn G. Smith. During the meeting, the Subcommittee voted to approve an Agreed Disposition for a Public Reprimand without Terms pursuant to Part 6, § IV, ¶ 13-15.B.4 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia. The Agreed Disposition was entered into by the Virginia State Bar, by Edward James Dillon, Jr., Assistant Bar Counsel, and William Craig Meyer, II, Respondent, *pro se*.

WHEREFORE, the Ninth District Subcommittee of the Virginia State Bar hereby serves upon Respondent the following Public Reprimand without Terms:

VSB Docket No. 14-090-096586 (Complainant William H. Lee)

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. At all relevant times, William Craig Meyer, II ("Respondent") has been an attorney licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
2. In or about February 2012, the Pittsylvania County Circuit Court appointed Respondent to represent William Henry Lee, Jr. in a criminal matter.
3. Following a bench trial in or about March 2012, Mr. Lee was convicted. Mr. Lee was sentenced by the Pittsylvania County Circuit Court in or about May 2012.

4. On or about June 15, 2012, Respondent timely noted an appeal of Mr. Lee's conviction.
5. On or about October 3, 2012, Respondent timely filed a Petition for Appeal on behalf of Mr. Lee with the Court of Appeals of Virginia.
6. By order entered on December 6, 2012, the Court of Appeals of Virginia denied Mr. Lee's appeal.
7. Respondent did not communicate with Mr. Lee about the denial of the appeal and did not advise Mr. Lee of his further appellate options.
8. Mr. Lee eventually learned that his appeal had been denied from the Clerk of the Pittsylvania County Circuit Court.
9. In or about June 2013, Mr. Lee sent Respondent a letter requesting a copy of his file. Respondent did not respond to that letter or timely provide Mr. Lee with a copy of his file.
10. In or about August 2013, Mr. Lee filed a Bar Complaint against Respondent with the Virginia State Bar. By letter dated August 6, 2013, the Virginia State Bar mailed a copy of Mr. Lee's Bar Complaint to Respondent at his address of record with the Virginia State Bar and requested that Respondent submit a written answer to the Bar Complaint within 21 days. The letter reminded Respondent of his duty, pursuant to Rule of Professional Conduct 8.1(c), to comply with the Virginia State Bar's lawful demands for information not protected from disclosure by Rule of Professional Conduct 1.6.
11. Respondent did not submit a written response to Mr. Lee's Bar Complaint within 21 days or anytime thereafter.
12. On or about September 19, 2013, Respondent met with a Virginia State Bar Investigator and acknowledged that he had "screwed up" Mr. Lee's appeal and that he had failed to communicate with Mr. Lee about the status of his appeal or his further appellate options.
13. In or about October 2013, Respondent mailed a copy of Mr. Lee's file to Mr. Lee.
14. Respondent stated that he is revising his office procedures in regard to appeals.

NATURE OF MISCONDUCT

Such conduct by Respondent constitutes misconduct in violation of the following provisions of the Rules of Professional Conduct:

RULE 1.3 Diligence

(a) A lawyer shall act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client.

RULE 1.4 Communication

(a) A lawyer shall keep a client reasonably informed about the status of a matter and promptly comply with reasonable requests for information.

(b) A lawyer shall explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation.

RULE 8.1 Bar Admission And Disciplinary Matters

An applicant for admission to the bar, or a lawyer already admitted to the bar, in connection with a bar admission application, any certification required to be filed as a condition of maintaining or renewing a license to practice law, or in connection with a disciplinary matter, shall not:

(c) fail to respond to a lawful demand for information from an admissions or disciplinary authority, except that this Rule does not require disclosure of information otherwise protected by Rule 1.6; or

VSB Docket No. 14-090-096700 (Complainant Arsha Henderson)

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. At all relevant times, William Craig Meyer, II ("Respondent") has been an attorney licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
2. In or about July 2012, the Danville Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court appointed Respondent to represent Arsha D. Henderson in a criminal matter.
3. Following a bench trial in or about November 2012, Mr. Henderson was convicted. Mr. Henderson was sentenced by the Danville Circuit Court in or about January 2013.
4. Respondent timely noted an appeal of Mr. Henderson's conviction.
5. On or about May 24, 2013, Respondent filed a Petition for Appeal on behalf of Mr. Henderson with the Court of Appeals of Virginia. The deadline for filing the Petition for Appeal with the Court of Appeals was May 20, 2013.

6. By order entered on June 21, 2013, the Court of Appeals dismissed Mr. Henderson's appeal because the Petition for Appeal was not timely filed by Respondent.
7. Respondent did not communicate with Mr. Henderson about the dismissal of the appeal and did not immediately advise Mr. Henderson of his further appellate options.
8. In or about August 2013, Mr. Henderson filed a Bar Complaint against Respondent with the Virginia State Bar. By letter dated August 16, 2013, the Virginia State Bar mailed a copy of Mr. Henderson's Bar Complaint to Respondent at his address of record with the Virginia State Bar and requested that Respondent submit a written answer to the Bar Complaint within 21 days. The letter reminded Respondent of his duty, pursuant to Rule of Professional Conduct 8.1(c), to comply with the Virginia State Bar's lawful demands for information not protected from disclosure by Rule of Professional Conduct 1.6.
9. Respondent did not submit a written response to Mr. Henderson's Bar Complaint within 21 days or anytime thereafter.
10. On or about September 19, 2013, Respondent met with a Virginia State Bar Investigator and acknowledged that he had "screwed up" Mr. Henderson's appeal and that he had failed to communicate with Mr. Henderson about the status of his appeal or his further appellate options.
11. Respondent subsequently communicated with Mr. Henderson about the status of the appeal and timely filed a Motion for Delayed Appeal with the Court of Appeals.
12. By order entered on or about December 9, 2013, the Court of Appeals granted Mr. Henderson a delayed appeal.
13. Respondent stated that he is revising his office procedures in regard to appeals.

NATURE OF MISCONDUCT

Such conduct by Respondent constitutes misconduct in violation of the following provisions of the Rules of Professional Conduct:

RULE 1.3 Diligence

- (a) A lawyer shall act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client.

RULE 1.4 Communication

- (a) A lawyer shall keep a client reasonably informed about the status of a matter and promptly comply with reasonable requests for information.
- (b) A lawyer shall explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation.

RULE 8.1 Bar Admission And Disciplinary Matters

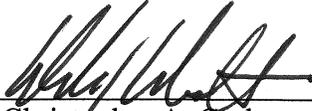
An applicant for admission to the bar, or a lawyer already admitted to the bar, in connection with a bar admission application, any certification required to be filed as a condition of maintaining or renewing a license to practice law, or in connection with a disciplinary matter, shall not:

- (c) fail to respond to a lawful demand for information from an admissions or disciplinary authority, except that this Rule does not require disclosure of information otherwise protected by Rule 1.6; or

PUBLIC REPRIMAND WITHOUT TERMS

Accordingly, having approved the Agreed Disposition, it is the decision of the Subcommittee to impose a Public Reprimand Without Terms and William Craig Meyer, II is hereby so reprimanded. Pursuant to Part 6, § IV, ¶ 13-9.E of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia, the Clerk of the Disciplinary System shall assess costs.

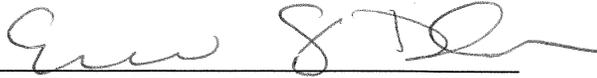
NINTH DISTRICT SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR

By: 

Christopher A. Corbett
Subcommittee Chair

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I certify that on July 7, 2014, a true and complete copy of the Subcommittee Determination (Public Reprimand Without Terms) was sent by certified mail to William Craig Meyer, II, Respondent, at P.O. Box 1053, Chatham, VA 24531-1053, Respondent's last address of record with the Virginia State Bar.



Edward James Dillon, Jr.
Assistant Bar Counsel