

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR DISCIPLINARY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF
STEVEN JEFFREY RIGGS

VS B Docket No. 08-000-073269

ORDER OF REVOCATION

This matter came before the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary Board ("Board") for hearing on January 25, 2008, before a duly convened panel of the Board consisting of William E. Glover, Presiding Chair, Martha JP McQuade, John W. Richardson, Rhysa Griffith South and Dr. Theodore Smith, lay member. Edward L. Davis, Assistant Bar Counsel, appeared on behalf of the Virginia State Bar ("Bar"). Steven Jeffrey Riggs ("Respondent") did not appear after the Clerk called his name three times in the hallway outside the courtroom, nor did any counsel appear on his behalf. The court reporter for the proceeding, Donna T. Chandler, Chandler & Halasz, P.O. Box 9349, Richmond, Virginia 23227, telephone number 804-730-1222, was duly sworn by the Chair. The Chair then inquired of each member of the panel as to whether any of them had any personal or financial interest or any bias which would preclude, or reasonably could be perceived to preclude, their hearing the matter fairly and impartially. Each member, including the Chair, answered in the negative.

The matter came before the Board as a result of the Respondent being disbarred from the practice of law in the State of California, effective April 13, 2007, by order entered by the Supreme Court of California of the same date. Pursuant to Rules of Court, Part Six, Section IV, Paragraph 13.I.7, a Rule to Show Cause and Order of Suspension and Hearing was entered by the Board on December 27, 2007, and properly served on the Respondent.

All legal notices of the date and place of this hearing were timely sent by the Clerk of the Disciplinary System in the manner prescribed by law.

Part Six, Section IV, Paragraph 13.I.7 of the Rules of the Supreme Court, specifies how the Board is to proceed upon receiving notice of disbarment of a Virginia attorney in another jurisdiction. The rule states that the Board shall impose the same discipline as was imposed in the other jurisdiction unless the Respondent proves by clear and convincing evidence one or more of the following three grounds for an alternative, or no sanction, being imposed:

- (1) That the record of the proceeding in the other jurisdiction clearly shows that such proceeding was so lacking in notice or opportunity to be heard as to constitute a denial of due process;
- (2) That the imposition by the Board of the same discipline upon the same proof would result in a grave injustice; or,
- (3) That the same conduct would not be grounds for disciplinary action or for the same discipline in Virginia.

The following items were admitted into evidence as Virginia State Bar Exhibits 1 and 2 without objection: the notice dated January 10, 2008 from Edward L. Davis, Assistant Bar Counsel of the Disciplinary System, to Barbara Sayers Lanier, Clerk of the Disciplinary System with enclosures including a certified copy of Respondent's Disciplinary Record with the Virginia State Bar dated January 8, 2008 and the California State Bar Records relating to the Order of the Supreme Court of California suspending Respondent's law license filed on March 22, 2004 and Order of Public Reprimand effective November 24, 2001 which was also sent to the Respondent by certified mail return

receipt requested on January 10, 2008, and Disciplinary Board Exhibit 1 without objection: the certified notice dated December 28, 2007 from Barbara Sayers Lanier, Clerk of the Disciplinary System with attachments to the Respondent, Steven Jeffrey Riggs, Esquire.

Although Respondent had advised the Assistant Bar Counsel that he intended to file a response to these proceedings, the Respondent filed no response to these proceedings.

After receiving the evidence and hearing the argument of Assistant Bar Counsel, the Board retired to deliberate in closed session. The Board reconvened in open session and the Chair announced that the Board found, by clear and convincing evidence, that the Respondent has failed to show cause why the same discipline imposed in California should not be imposed by the Board.

Accordingly, it is hereby ORDERED that Steven Jeffrey Riggs' license to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia be, and hereby is, revoked effective January 25, 2008.

It is further ORDERED that the Respondent must comply with the requirements of Part Six, 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 revocation 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 also make appropriate arrangements for the disposition of matters then in his care in conformity with the wishes of his clients. The Respondent shall give such notice within 14 days of the effective date

of the revocation, and shall make such arrangements as are required herein within 45 days of the effective date of the revocation. The Respondent shall also furnish proof to the Virginia State Bar within 60 days of the effective date of the revocation that such notices have been timely given and such arrangements made for the disposition of these matters.

It is further ORDERED that if the Respondent is not handling any client matters on the effective date of the revocation, 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 Board, unless the Respondent makes a timely request for a hearing before a three-judge circuit court.

It is further ORDERED that the Clerk of the Disciplinary System shall mail an attested copy of this Order to the Respondent, Steven Jeffrey Riggs by certified mail return receipt requested at his address of record with the Virginia State Bar, 1146 Civil Center Drive West, Santa Ana, California 92703 and also to his address at P.O. Box 130777, The Woodlands, Texas 77393-0777 and by hand delivery to Edward L. Davis, Assistant Bar Counsel, Suite 1500, 707 East Main Street, Richmond, VA 23219.

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

ENTERED this 15th day of February, 2008

Virginia State Bar Disciplinary Board



William E. Glover, Presiding Chair