

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE SECOND DISTRICT SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR

IN THE MATTER OF
PAUL GRANVILLE WATSON, IV

VS B Docket No. 09-022-075543 (Eugene Terrell)

SUBCOMMITTEE DETERMINATION
(PUBLIC REPRIMAND WITHOUT TERMS)

On February 11, 2009, a hearing in this matter was held before a duly convened Second District Subcommittee consisting of Mark Del Duca, Esquire, Mr. David Jones, lay member, and Bobby W. Davis, Esquire, Chair.

Pursuant to Part 6, Section IV, Paragraphs 13.G.4. and 13G.1.d.(3) of the Rules of the Virginia Supreme Court, the Second District Subcommittee of the Virginia State Bar hereby serves upon the Respondent the following Public Reprimand without Terms entered into as an agreed disposition between the bar and the Respondent:

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. At all times relevant hereto, Paul Granville Watson, IV, hereinafter "Respondent", has been an attorney licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
2. On or about June 20, 2008, the Virginia State Bar received an inquiry from Respondent's client Eugene Terrell alleging that Respondent was neglecting his case by not promptly moving for a bond hearing and by failing to communicate with him.
3. Prior to opening a formal ethics inquiry, the bar attempted to informally resolve the dispute between client Eugene Terrell and Respondent by sending Respondent a pro-active letter on June 24, 2008 that forwarded to Respondent Mr. Terrell's inquiry letter and demanded that Respondent respond to Mr. Terrell and advise the bar in writing thereof on or before July 7, 2008. The bar's letter advised Respondent that pursuant to RPC 8.1(c), Respondent had a duty to comply with said demand and that the failure to do so "in a timely manner may result in the imposition of disciplinary sanctions."
4. Notwithstanding the bar's demand, Respondent failed to respond to the bar.

5. On July 14, 2008, the bar sent Respondent a reminder letter advising that if Respondent did not respond within five days, it was likely the bar would open a formal and active investigation.
6. Notwithstanding the bar's reminder, Respondent failed to respond to the bar by July 19, 2008 or at any time thereafter.
7. On July 28, 2008, the bar opened an active investigation and sent Respondent formal notice along with another copy of Mr. Terrell's complaint. Therein, the bar demanded that Respondent submit a written answer to the complaint within 21 days. Again citing Rule 8.1(c), the bar advised Respondent that : "Failure to respond in a timely manner to this and other lawful demands from the bar for information about the complaint may result in the imposition of disciplinary sanctions."
8. Notwithstanding the bar's demand, Respondent failed to respond to the bar's demand for a written answer to the complaint.
9. With Respondent failing to answer the complaint, the bar was compelled to refer this matter to the Second District Committee for a full investigation. In conjunction with this, the bar issued a subpoena duces tecum for Respondent's client file on October 14, 2008, returnable on November 4, 2008. With the subpoena, the bar advised Respondent that "failure to comply with this lawful demand can subject you to additional disciplinary sanctions, including an interim suspension under Paragraph 13.B.5.b.(3) and other sanctions under Rule of Professional Conduct 8.1(c).
10. Although Respondent received the subpoena on October 15, 2008, Respondent failed either to object or respond to the subpoena.
11. On November 5, 2008, the bar sent Respondent a reminder letter that enclosed the original subpoena and demanded compliance by November 13, 2008. Therein, the bar again advised that should Respondent not comply, the bar would move for the administrative suspension of his license.
12. Not receiving a response, the bar issued a Notice of Noncompliance and Request for Suspension on November 18, 2008 notifying Respondent that his license would be suspended on November 28, 2008.
13. Thereafter, Respondent produced his client file on November 20, 2008.

II. NATURE OF MISCONDUCT

Such conduct by Paul Granville Watson, IV constitutes misconduct in violation of the following provisions of the Rules of Professional Conduct:

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;

III. PUBLIC REPRIMAND WITHOUT TERMS

Accordingly, it is the decision of the subcommittee to impose a Public Reprimand without Terms and the Respondent is hereby so reprimanded.

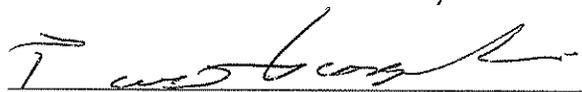
Pursuant to Paragraph 13.B.8.c., the Clerk of the Disciplinary System shall assess costs.

SECOND DISTRICT SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR

By 
Bobby Wayne Davis
Chair

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on the 23rd day of March, 2009, I caused to be mailed by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, a true and correct copy of the Subcommittee Determination (PUBLIC Reprimand Without Terms) to Paul Granville Watson, IV, Esquire, Respondent, at, P.O. Box 600, Eastville, VA 23347, his last address of record with the Virginia State Bar.


Paul D. Georgiadis
Assistant Bar Counsel