

**VIRGINIA: BEFORE THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR DISCIPLINARY BOARD**

**IN THE MATTER OF  
ROBERT LANGSTON WILLIAMS**

**VSB Docket Numbers  
16-000-103421**

**ORDER OF SUSPENSION**

**THIS MATTER** came to be heard on Friday, October 23, 2015, before a panel of the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary Board which consisted of Esther J. Windmueller, 2nd Vice Chair, Sandra W. Montgomery (Lay Member), John A. C. Keith, Melissa W. Robinson and Jeffrey L. Marks (collectively, the "Board"). The Virginia State Bar ("Bar") was represented by Paul D. Georgiadis, Assistant Bar Counsel. The Respondent, Robert Langston Williams ("Respondent") did not make an appearance, and his name was called three (3) times in the hearing room and hall without any response by the Respondent. Jennifer L. Hairfield, Registered Professional Court Reporter with Chandler & Halasz, Post Office Box 9349, Richmond, Virginia 23227, (804) 730-1222, after being duly sworn, reported the hearing and transcribed the proceedings.

The Chair opened the hearing by calling the case in the hearing room and polling the members of the Board Panel as to whether any of them was conscious of any personal or financial interest or bias which would preclude any of them from fairly hearing this matter and serving on the Panel. Each member responded to the inquiry in the negative.

The matter came before the Board on the *Rule to Show Cause and Order of Summary Suspension and Hearing* ("Rule to Show Cause") entered on September 29, 2015, which included a copy of the *Order* entered on April 21, 2015 by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in which the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania (i) considered the accompanying *Report and Recommendations of the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania* and (ii) ordered that the Respondent is suspended from the practice of law for a period of five (5) years

retroactive to April 16, 2013. Also before the Board was the certified Notice Letter from the Clerk of the Disciplinary System to the Respondent dated September 30, 2015 which was served *in accordance with the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia* (“Notice”).

In accordance with Part 6, § IV, ¶ 13-24 of the Rules of the Virginia Supreme Court (the “Rules”), the purpose of the hearing was to provide the Respondent with an opportunity to show cause, by clear and convincing evidence as to why the same discipline that was imposed upon him by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania should not be imposed by this Board.

*The Rule to Show Cause and Notice were received into evidence collectively as Board Exhibit 1*. All legal notices of the date and place were timely sent by the Clerk of the Disciplinary System (Clerk) in the manner prescribed by Part 6, § IV, ¶ 13-18 of the Rules of Court.

The Bar introduced Bar Exhibit 1 through Bar Exhibit 6 (these exhibits along with Board Exhibit 1 are collectively referred to as the “Exhibits”) which were accepted into evidence without objection.

The Respondent did not file a written response to the Rule to Show Cause in accordance with Part 6, § IV, ¶ 13-24(B) of the Rules. The Respondent did not provide *ore tenus* testimony during the hearing.

Accordingly, after the Board accepted into evidence the Exhibits, considered the arguments of Bar Counsel, and duly deliberated on this matter, the Board found that the Respondent had failed to show cause by clear and convincing evidence as to why the Board should not impose the same discipline imposed by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

Accordingly, by this Memorandum Order, and in accordance with the Summary Order entered on October 23, 2015, it is ORDERED that the Respondent, Robert Langston Williams,

is suspended from the practice of law in the Commonwealth of Virginia for a period of five (5) years effective April 16, 2013.

*It is further ORDERED that the Respondent must comply with all other terms and conditions imposed by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in its Order entered August 3, 2015.*

**WHEREFORE**, in accordance with Part Six, § IV, ¶ 13-29 of the Rules, it is further ORDERED that Robert Langston Williams shall forthwith give notice, by certified mail, return receipt requested, of the suspension of his license to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia, to all clients for whom he is currently handling matters and for 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. Respondent shall give such notice within fourteen (14) days of the effective date of the suspension, and makes such arrangements as now required herein within forty-five (45) days of the effective date of this Order. The Respondent shall also furnish proof to the Bar within sixty (60) days of the effective date of the suspension that such notices have been timely given and such arrangements made for the disposition of matters.

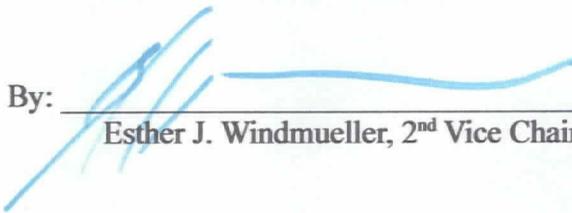
It is further ORDERED that if Respondent is not handling any client matters on the effective date of the suspension, he shall submit an Affidavit to that effect to the Clerk of the Disciplinary System at the Virginia State Bar. All issues concerning the adequacy of the notice and arrangements required by ¶ 13-29 shall be determined by the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary Board.

It is further ORDERED that pursuant to Part 6, § IV, ¶ 13-9E. of the Rules, the Clerk of the Disciplinary System shall assess all costs against the Respondent.

It is further ORDERED that the Clerk of the Disciplinary System shall mail an attested copy of this Order by certified mail, return receipt request to the Respondent, Robert Langston Williams, at his address of record with the Virginia State Bar of The Design Center, Suite 640, 5001 Baum Boulevard, Pittsburgh, PA 15213, with a copy by certified mail to his alternative address, 140 Cherrywood Drive, New Kensington, PA 15068, and by hand-delivery to Paul D. Georgiadis, Assistant Bar Counsel, Virginia State Bar, 1111 E. Main Street, Suite 700, Richmond, Virginia, 23219.

ENTERED this 6<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2015.

VIRGINIA STATE BAR DISCIPLINARY BOARD

By: 

Esther J. Windmueller, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair