

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE THIRD DISTRICT SUBCOMMITTEE  
OF THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR

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IN THE MATTER OF  
TRAVIS RYAN WILLIAMS

VSB CLERK'S OFFICE

VSB Docket No. 07-031-1459

SUBCOMMITTEE DETERMINATION  
PUBLIC REPRIMAND WITH TERMS

On April 21, 2008 a meeting in this matter was held before a duly convened Third District, Section I Subcommittee consisting of Joseph P. Rapisarda, Jr., Chair, Larry A. Pochucha, Esquire and William Manns, Lay Member to consider an Agreed Disposition tendered by The Virginia State Bar and Respondent. The Subcommittee voted to accept the Agreed Disposition.

Pursuant to Part 6, Section IV, Paragraph 13.G.4. of the Rules of the Virginia Supreme Court, the Third District, Section I Subcommittee of the Virginia State Bar hereby serves upon the Respondent the following PUBLIC Reprimand with Terms:

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. At all times relevant hereto, Travis Ryan Williams ("Respondent"), has been an attorney licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
2. Respondent was admitted to the practice of law in the Commonwealth of Virginia on October 6, 1994.
3. The Circuit Court for the City of Colonial Heights appointed Respondent to represent Daryl B. Bolden on several criminal charges.
4. Mr. Bolden was convicted of one count of malicious wounding and one count of unlawful wounding by the court on December 10, 2002. He was sentenced to 10 years with 6 suspended on the malicious wounding charge and 5 years with 5 suspended on the unlawful wounding charge.
5. Mr. Bolden directed Respondent to file an appeal of his convictions to the Virginia Court of Appeals.

6. The Virginia Court of Appeals denied his appeal because Respondent failed to take appropriate steps to ensure that all the transcripts of the proceedings were filed in a timely fashion with the court.

7. Respondent advised Mr. Bolden of the dismissal and advised him that he needed to prepare a Writ of Habeas Corpus.

8. Respondent prepared such a writ for Mr. Bolden but failed to advise Mr. Bolden that he needed to sign it.

9. Mr. Bolden alleges that he contacted Respondent on several occasions as to the status of the Writ of Habeas Corpus, but received correspondence stating Respondent would look into the matter.

10. Mr. Bolden never received a definitive response as to the status of the Writ of Habeas Corpus Respondent prepared for him.

11. The Writ of Habeas Corpus originally filed was dismissed due to a lack of signature by Mr. Bolden.

12. Respondent prepared another Writ and forwarded it to Mr. Bolden for him to sign, but never advised Mr. Bolden that the original Writ had been denied.

13. Mr. Bolden did not learn of the dismissal of his Habeas Corpus petition until he filed the instant Complaint.

## II. NATURE OF MISCONDUCT

Such conduct by Travis Ryan Williams 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.

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### **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.

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### III. PUBLIC REPRIMAND WITH TERMS

Accordingly, it is the decision of the subcommittee to offer the Respondent an opportunity to comply with certain terms and conditions, compliance with which will be a predicate for the disposition of a PUBLIC Reprimand with Terms of this complaint. The terms and conditions are:

1. Within thirty days from the date of the Subcommittee's Determination, Respondent shall tender to the Office of Bar Counsel proof of proper docket and calendaring controls to the satisfaction of Bar Counsel.
2. Within thirty days from the date of the Subcommittee's Determination, Respondent shall tender to the Office of Bar Counsel proof that he has taken at least four (4) hours of CLE in the area of appeals within the last twelve months. If Respondent has not taken such CLE, then Respondent shall take four (4) hours of CLE in the area of appeals within 12 months from the date of the Subcommittee's Determination. Such hours shall be in addition to, and not a part of, Respondent's CLE obligations for that year.

Upon satisfactory proof that such terms and conditions have been met, this matter shall be closed. If, however, the terms and conditions are not met by the dates set forth above, the Respondent agrees that the district committee shall impose an alternate sanction pursuant to Rules of Court, Part Six, Section IV, Paragraph 13.G.5.

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.

THIRD DISTRICT SUBCOMMITTEE  
OF THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR

By Joseph P. Rapisarda, Jr.  
Joseph P. Rapisarda, Jr.  
Chair

'CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on this 29<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2008, I mailed by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, a true and correct copy of the Subcommittee Determination PUBLIC Reprimand with Terms) to Travis Ryan Williams, Esquire, Respondent, at Daniels & Morgan, 4401 West Hundred Road, P.O. Box 3570, Chester, VA 23831, Respondent's last address of record with the Virginia State Bar, and by first class mail, postage prepaid to Michael L. Rigsby, Esquire, Carrell, Rice & Rigsby, 7275 Glen Forest Drive, Forest Plaza II, Suite 310, Richmond Virginia 23226, counsel for Respondent.



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Paulo E. Franco, Jr., Assistant Bar Counsel