

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR DISCIPLINARY BOARD

**IN THE MATTER OF
STEVEN JEFFREY RIGGS**

VSB DOCKET NOS. 04-000-3662

ORDER OF SUSPENSION

This matter came on to be heard on July 23, 2004, at 9:00 a.m., in Courtroom C of the Virginia State Corporation Commission, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, before a panel consisting of Karen A. Gould, Chair, Bruce T. Clark, Ann N. Kathan, Robert E. Eicher, and Werner H. Quasebarth, lay member.

The Virginia State Bar was represented by Harry M. Hirsch, Deputy Bar Counsel. Steven Jeffrey Riggs (the "Respondent") did not appear, in person or by counsel, neither he nor anyone for him responded when the Clerk called his name three times in the corridor adjacent to the Courtroom.

The court reporter, Donna F. Chandler, of Chandler & Halasz, Post Office Box 9349, Richmond, Virginia 23227, (804)730-1222, was duly sworn by the Chair and thereupon reported the hearing and transcribed the proceedings.

The Chair inquired of the members of the panel of the Board whether any of them had any personal or financial interest or any bias that would preclude their hearing this matter fairly and impartially, to which inquiry each member and the Chair answered in the negative.

The matter came before the Board on the Board's Rule to Show Cause why the Respondent's license to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia should not be suspended by reason of the disciplinary suspension of his license to practice law in the State of California.

Bar counsel made an opening statement and thereafter VSB Exhibits 1 and 2 were admitted without objection.

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

The Board makes the following findings of fact based on clear and convincing evidence, to wit:

1. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent has been an attorney licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and his address of record with the Virginia State Bar has been 1146 Civil Center Drive West, Santa Ana, California 92703.

2. The Rule to Show Cause was properly issued and duly served on the Respondent by certified mail on June 25, 2004, at his address of record with the Virginia State Bar.

3. The Respondent has not filed any response to the Rule to Show Cause and has failed to appear, in person or by counsel, in response to the Rule to Show Cause.

4. By Order of the Supreme Court of California (En Banc), filed on March 22, 2004, which has become final, the Respondent has been suspended from the practice of law in the State of California for a period of two years on the terms and conditions therein provided for misconduct, subject to reinstatement upon his compliance with the conditions imposed in the Order.

II. DISPOSITION

The Board notes that if the Respondent fails to file a timely written response to the Rule to Show Cause, or fails to appear at the hearing on the Rule to Show Cause, the Board is required to impose the same discipline on the Respondent that was imposed in the State of California. Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia, Pt. 6, § IV, Para. 13(I)(6)(f).

Accordingly, it is ORDERED that the Respondent's license to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia be and hereby is SUSPENDED for a period of two years, which suspension is stayed except that an actual suspension be and hereby is imposed for a period of six months effective March 22, 2004; provided, however, that such actual suspension shall continue in effect until the Virginia State Bar receives verification that the Respondent has complied with the conditions for reinstatement contained in the Order of the Supreme Court of California, filed March 22, 2004, in State Bar Court Case No. 01-0-05002, 02-0-11248, 02-0-12626, 02-0-13024,03-H-00306; provided, further, that the Respondent is placed on probation for three years from March 22, 2004, subject to the conditions imposed by the aforesaid Order of the Supreme Court of California.

It is further ORDERED that, as directed in the Board's Summary Order of July 23, 2004, in this matter, the Respondent shall comply with the requirements of Part 6, § IV, Para. 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 suspension 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 Summary Order entered herein, and make such arrangements as are required herein within 45 days of the effective date of the Summary Order. The Respondent shall also furnish proof to the Bar within 60 days of the effective day of the Summary Order that such notices have been timely given and such arrangements made for the disposition of matters.

It is further ORDERED that if the Respondent is not handling any client matters on the effective date of the Summary Order, 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 Part 6, § IV, Para. 13(M) shall be determined by the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary Board, unless the Respondent makes a timely request for hearing before a three-judge court.

It is further ORDERED that pursuant to Part 6, § IV, Para. 13(B)(8)(c) of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia, 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 to the Respondent at his address of record with the Virginia State Bar, being 1146 Civil Center Drive West, Santa Ana, California 92703, by certified mail, return receipt requested, and by regular mail to Harry M. Hirsch, Bar Counsel, Virginia State Bar, 707 East Main Street, Suite 1500, Richmond, Virginia 23219.

Enter this Order this ____ day of July, 2004.

VIRGINIA STATE BAR DISCIPLINARY BOARD

Karen A. Gould, Chair