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VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE CITY OF NORFOLK VIRGINIA STATE BAR

VIRGINIA STATE BAR EX REL  
SECOND DISTRICT COMMITTEE

v.

Case No. CL04-21

WILLIAM P. ROBINSON, JR.

ORDER

This matter came for hearing on June 3, 2004, pursuant to Code of Virginia Section 54.1-3935, before a three-judge panel consisting of the Honorable James A. Luke, the Honorable H. Thomas Padrick, Jr. and the Honorable Walter W. Stout, III, Chief Judge presiding. The Virginia State Bar appeared through its Assistant Bar Counsel, Richard E. Slaney, and the Respondent appeared in person and through his counsel, Michael L. Rigsby, Esq.

At the misconduct stage of the hearing, the parties stipulated to many of the factual allegations contained in the Certification. The Court then received evidence and argument from the parties as to whether the evidence proved any violations of the Virginia Rules of Professional Conduct under a clear and convincing standard. Following deliberation, the Court announced its findings as reflected below.

In the matter involving Kevin Williams, the Court found by clear and convincing evidence Mr. Robinson's conduct violated Rule 1.1, relating to competence, and Rule 1.3(a), relating to reasonable diligence and promptness. The remaining charges were dismissed.

In the matter involving Malcolm Francis, the Court found by clear and convincing

evidence Mr. Robinson's conduct violated Rule 1.1, relating to competence, Rule 1.3(a), relating to reasonable diligence and promptness, Rule 1.4(a), relating to client communication, and Rule 8.4(c), relating to misrepresentation. The remaining charges were dismissed.

In the matter involving Nathaniel Bryant, the Court found by clear and convincing evidence Mr. Robinson's conduct violated Rule 1.3(a), relating to reasonable diligence and promptness. The remaining charges were dismissed.

In the matter involving Clayton Eley, the Court found by clear and convincing evidence Mr. Robinson's conduct violated Rule 1.1, relating to competence, and Rule 1.3(a), relating to diligence and promptness. The remaining charges were dismissed.

In the matter involving Lester Morris, the Court found by clear and convincing evidence Mr. Robinson's conduct violated Rule 1.4(a), relating to client communication. The remaining charges were dismissed.

In the matter involving Melvin Mizzell, the Court found by clear and convincing evidence Mr. Robinson's conduct violated Rule 1.3(a), relating to diligence and promptness, and Rule 1.4(a), relating to client communication. The remaining charges were dismissed.

The case then moved to the sanctions phase of the proceeding, and the Court heard additional evidence and the arguments of counsel. After considering same and after due deliberation, the Court

**ORDERED** a thirty (30) day suspension of Mr. Robinson's license to practice law in this Commonwealth, to begin December 1, 2004. The Court further

**ORDERED** that Mr. Robinson shall, within six (6) months from July 1, 2004, hire a law

office management consultant: (1) to design and implement a system for tracking case deadlines, and (2) to design and implement a client communication and information system. The systems and changes recommended by the consultant must be in place by the end of the six month period and shall first be reviewed and approved by Bar Counsel. The Court further

**ORDERS** that pursuant to the provisions of Part Six, Section IV, Paragraph 13(M) of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia, as amended, Mr. Robinson shall 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 then handling matters and to all opposing attorneys and presiding judges in pending litigation. Mr. Robinson shall also make appropriate arrangements for the disposition of matters then in his care in conformity with the wishes of his clients. Mr. Robinson shall give such notice within fourteen (14) days of the effective date of the suspension imposed by this order, and shall make such arrangements as are required herein within forty-five (45) days of the effective date of the suspension imposed by this order. Mr. Robinson shall also furnish proof to the Clerk of the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary System within sixty (60) days of the effective date of the suspension imposed by this order that such notices have been timely given and such arrangements for the disposition of matters have been made. Issues concerning the adequacy of the notice and arrangements required shall be determined by the Disciplinary Board, which may impose a sanction of revocation or further suspension for failure to comply with the requirements of this paragraph.

Pursuant to Part Six, § IV, ¶ 13(B)(8)(c) of the Rules of the Supreme Court, as amended, the Clerk of the Disciplinary System shall assess costs. It is further

**ORDERED** that four (4) copies of this Order be certified by the Clerk of the Circuit Court of the City of Norfolk, Virginia, and be thereafter mailed by said Clerk to the Clerk of the Disciplinary System of the Virginia State Bar at 707 East Main Street, Suite 1500, Richmond, Virginia 23219-2800, for further service upon the Respondent and Bar Counsel consistent with the rules and procedures governing the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary System.

The court reporter for the hearing was Cathy Edwards of Ronald Graham and Associates, Inc., 5344 Hickory Ridge, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23455, (757) 490-1100.

ENTERED this 28<sup>th</sup> day of JUNE, 2004.

FOR THE COURT:

Walter W. Stout III  
WALTER W. STOUT, III

Chief Judge Designate of the Three-Judge Court

H. Thomas Padrick, Jr.  
H. THOMAS PADRICK, JR.  
Judge Designate

James A. Luke  
JAMES A. LUKE  
Judge Designate

Seen:

Richard E. Slaney  
Richard E. Slaney  
Assistant Bar Counsel

COPY DESTROYED  
GEORGE E. SCHAEFER, CLERK  
NORFOLK CIRCUIT COURT  
BY Dorothy Brunton  
Dorothy Brunton, Deputy Clerk  
Authorized to sign on behalf  
of George E. Schaefer  
Date: 8/15/04

Seen:

Michael L. Rigsby  
Michael L. Rigsby, Esq.  
Counsel for Respondent