

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR DISCIPLINARY BOARD

On March 17, 2020 the Virginia State Bar (“VSB”) Disciplinary Board (“Board”) entered an Order reflecting that the Board would follow the Supreme Court of Virginia’s directives contained in its March 16, 2020 Order Declaring a Judicial Emergency in Response to COVID-19 Emergency. Board proceedings scheduled for hearing through April 30, 2020 were continued and rescheduled. On May 11, 2020 the Board entered an Order directing that all proceedings scheduled for hearing before the Board on June 26, 2020 were to be conducted via video conference.

In its Order Declaring a Judicial Emergency in Response to COVID-19 Emergency and subsequent extension Orders the Supreme Court of Virginia encouraged tribunals to conduct as much business as possible by means other than in-person court proceedings. That is, tribunals are encouraged to continue and even increase the use of video conferencing, telephone, teleconferencing, email and other means that do not involve in-person contact to conduct as much business as possible. These methods are preferred over in-person proceedings.

In light of this directive, the Board hereby ORDERS that the proceedings set for hearing before the Board on August 28, 2020 shall be conducted via video conferencing, utilizing the Microsoft Teams platform. All current deadlines shall remain in full force and effect. Parties shall notify the Clerk of the Disciplinary system, within five (5) days of this Order, of any concerns or impediments to participating via video conferencing.

The Clerk of the Disciplinary System will provide the Board, counsel, respondents and witnesses with information regarding the Microsoft Teams platform and guidelines and protocols in advance of the hearing.

It is so Ordered this 28th day of July, 2020.

VIRGINIA STATE BAR DISCIPLINARY BOARD

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Yvonne S. Gibney, Chair