

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR DISCIPLINARY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF  
EDWARD GONZALEZ

VSB Docket No. 19-000-115574

RULE TO SHOW CAUSE  
AND  
ORDER OF SUMMARY SUSPENSION AND HEARING

It appearing to the Board that Edward Gonzalez was licensed to practice law within the Commonwealth of Virginia on June 7, 1996, and,

It further appearing that Edward Gonzalez has been suspended from the practice of law for a period of one year by the District of Columbia Court of Appeals Order dated May 2, 2019 in Case No. 18-BG-1142.

It further appearing that such disciplinary action has become final.

It is ORDERED, pursuant to Rules of Court, Part Six, Section IV, Paragraph 13-24, that the license of Edward Gonzalez to practice law within the Commonwealth of Virginia be, and the same is, hereby suspended effective June 7, 2019.

It is further ORDERED that Edward Gonzalez appear before the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary Board at the State Corporation Commission – Courtroom A, Second Floor, Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, VA 23219, at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, June 28, 2019, to show cause why the same discipline that was imposed in the other jurisdiction should not be imposed by the Board.

It is further ORDERED that Edward Gonzalez shall forthwith give notice, by certified mail, of the suspension of his license to practice law in Virginia to all clients for whom he is currently handling matters and to all opposing attorneys and the presiding judges in pending litigation. The

Attorney shall also make appropriate arrangements for the disposition of matters then in his care in conformity with the wishes of his clients. The Attorney shall give such notice within fourteen (14) days of the effective date of the suspension order, and make such arrangements as are required

herein within forty-five (45) days of the effective date of the suspension order. The Attorney shall also furnish proof to the bar within sixty (60) days of the effective date of the suspension order that such notices have been timely given and such arrangements for the disposition of matters made. Issues concerning the adequacy of the notice and arrangements required herein shall be determined by the Disciplinary Board, which may impose a sanction of revocation or suspension for failure to comply with the requirements of this subparagraph.

It is further ORDERED that a copy of the Order filed by the District of Columbia Court of Appeals on January 18, 2019 in Case No. 18-BG-1142, and Opinion Order entered by the District of Columbia Court of Appeals Order dated May 2, 2019 in Case No. 18-BG-1142 be attached to this Rule to Show Cause and Order of Summary Suspension and Hearing and made a part hereof.

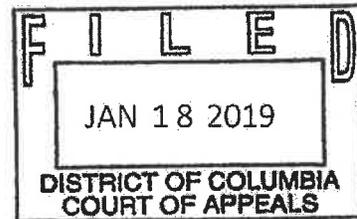
It is further ORDERED that an attested copy of this Rule to Show Cause and Order of Summary Suspension and Hearing, with attachments, shall be mailed to Edward Gonzalez by certified mail at his address of record with the Virginia State Bar, Law Office of Edward Gonzalez, 1019 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, and to Edward Gonzalez, Esquire, c/o Santiago Narvaiz, Esquire, 10605 Concord Street, Suite 440, Kensington, MD 20895, and to Renu M. Brennan, Bar Counsel, Virginia State Bar, 1111 East Main Street, Suite 700, Richmond, Virginia 23219-0026.

ENTERED THIS 30<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MAY, 2019

VIRGINIA STATE BAR DISCIPLINARY BOARD

  
Lisa A. Wilson, Chair

**District of Columbia  
Court of Appeals**



**No. 18-BG-1142**

**IN THE MATTER OF  
EDWARD GONZALEZ**

**2016 BDN 141**

A Member of the Bar of the  
District of Columbia Court of Appeals

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL

JAN 18 2019

**Bar Reg. No. 426584**

**RECEIVED**

**BEFORE:** Glickman and Fisher, Associate Judges, and Ferren, Senior Judge.

**ORDER**

On consideration of the Board on Professional Responsibility's Report and Recommendation, this court's December 4, 2018, order directing respondent to show cause why he should not be suspended pending final action on the Board's report, and no response having been filed, it is

**ORDERED** that Edward Gonzalez is hereby suspended from the practice of law in the District of Columbia pending final disposition of this proceeding. See D.C. Bar R. XI, § 9 (g). It is

**FURTHER ORDERED** that respondent's attention is directed to D.C. Bar R. XI, § 14, which sets forth various notice requirements and procedures pertaining to suspended attorneys, and D.C. Bar R. XI, § 16 (c), which addresses the timing of eligibility for reinstatement and the necessary compliance with R. XI, § 14, including filing the required affidavit.

**PER CURIAM**

**No. 18-BG-1142**

**Copies to:**

**Edward Gonazalez  
c/o S. Ricardo Narvaiz, Esquire  
10605 Concord Street  
Suite 440  
Kensington, MD 20895**

**Copies e-served to:**

**James T. Phalen, Esquire  
Executive Attorney  
Board on Professional Responsibility**

**Hamilton P. Fox, III, Esquire  
Disciplinary Counsel  
Office of Disciplinary Counsel**

**Julia L. Porter, Esquire  
Assistant Disciplinary Counsel**

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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURT OF APPEALS

No. 18-BG-1142

IN RE EDWARD GONZALEZ, RESPONDENT.

A Member of the Bar  
of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals  
(Bar Registration No. 426584)

On Report and Recommendation  
of the Board on Professional Responsibility

(BDN 141-16)

(Decided May 2, 2019)

Before GLICKMAN and FISHER, *Associate Judges*, and FERREN, *Senior Judge*.

PER CURIAM: In this case, the Board on Professional Responsibility adopts the findings of its Ad Hoc Hearing Committee that respondent Edward Gonzalez violated multiple Rules of Professional Conduct in the course of representing a married couple in bankruptcy and related proceedings, and concurs with the Committee's recommendation that respondent be suspended for a period of one year, with reinstatement conditioned on a showing of fitness to resume the practice of law. In brief, the Committee found that respondent violated Rules 1.4 (b), 1.16 (d) and 8.4 (d) by failing to provide his Spanish-speaking clients with a fee agreement and

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District of Columbia  
Court of Appeals  
*Julio Castillo*  
Julio Castillo  
Clerk of Court

related fee documents in Spanish and with translated information regarding the bankruptcy proceedings; by threatening to withdraw from the representation if his clients did not execute new fee agreements and documents to secure his requested fees; by failing to protect his clients' interests during the bankruptcy proceedings; and by his repeated failures to comply with bankruptcy reporting requirements, which seriously interfered with the administration of justice.

The Committee and the Board concluded that a fitness requirement is necessary to protect the public because it found that respondent took advantage of his clients' exceptional vulnerability (due to the language barrier they confronted), and that in his hearing testimony, respondent was dishonest, argumentative and non-responsive, and unremorseful. The Committee also took into account that respondent had been disciplined previously for disregarding a client's interests.<sup>1</sup>

Under D.C. Bar R. XI, § 9 (h)(2), "if no exceptions are filed to the Board's report, the [c]ourt will enter an order imposing the discipline recommended by the Board upon the expiration of the time permitted for filing exceptions." *See also In re Viehe*, 762 A.2d 542, 543 (D.C. 2000) ("When . . . there are no exceptions to the Board's report and recommendation, our deferential standard of review becomes

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<sup>1</sup> *In re Edward Gonzalez*, 773 A.2d 1026 (D.C. 2001) (informal admonition for failing to protect client interests).

even more deferential.”). Respondent has not taken exception to the Board’s Report and Recommendation, and we are satisfied that the record supports the findings and conclusions therein. We see no reason to reject the discipline recommended by the Board. *See, e.g., In re Guberman*, 978 A.2d 200 (D.C. 2009); *In re Cater*, 887 A.2d 1 (D.C. 2005).

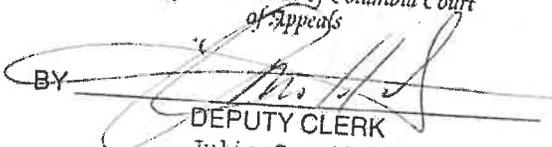
Accordingly, it is

ORDERED that respondent Edward Gonzalez is hereby suspended from the practice of law in the District of Columbia for one year and his reinstatement is conditioned on a showing of fitness. Under D.C. Bar R. XI, §§ 14 (g) and 16 (c), respondent will not be eligible to apply for reinstatement until one year after he files an affidavit that complies with § 14.

*A true Copy  
Test:*

*Julio Castillo  
Clerk of the District of Columbia Court  
of Appeals*

BY

  
DEPUTY CLERK  
Julio Castillo  
Clerk of the District of Columbia  
Court of Appeals