

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR DISCIPLINARY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF )  
RICHARD MORRIS GUMMERE )  
 ) VSB DOCKET NO.: 16-000-105640  
 )

MEMORANDUM ORDER OF REVOCATION

THIS MATTER came on to be heard on May 20, 2016 before a panel of the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary Board consisting of Whitney G. Saunders, Chair, presiding, Pleasant S. Brodnax, III, J. Casey Forrester, Melissa W. Robinson, and Stephen A. Wannall, lay member. The Virginia State Bar was represented by Edward J. Dillon, Jr., Senior Assistant Bar Counsel. The Respondent, Richard Morris Gummere, failed to appear in person or by counsel, but the Respondent did file a written response. The Chair caused the Assistant Clerk to call the Respondent's name three times in the adjacent hall, but the Respondent did not answer or appear. The Chair polled the members of the Board as to whether any of them had any personal or financial interest or bias which would preclude any of them from fairly hearing this matter and serving on the panel, and each member responded that there were no such conflicts.

The court reporter for the proceeding, Angela N. Sidener of Chandler & Halasz, Post Office Box 9349, Richmond, Virginia 23227, telephone: (804) 730-1222, after duly being sworn, reported the hearing and transcribed the proceedings.

This matter came before the Board on the Rule to Show Cause and Order of Summary Suspension and Hearing entered on April 20, 2016 with the Order of the Court

of Appeals of Maryland entered on January 29, 2016 disbarring the Respondent by consent from practicing law in the State of Maryland. The Clerk of the Disciplinary System sent a notice letter dated April 20, 2016 by certified mail which was served in accordance with the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia to advise the respondent of the entry of the Rule to Show Cause and Order of Suspension and Hearing. The certified notice letter and the Rule to Show Cause and Order of Summary Suspension and Hearing with all attachments was admitted into evidence without objection as Board Exhibit 1.

The Respondent, Richard Morris Gummere, filed a written response to the Rule to Show Cause which was dated May 9, 2016 in which the respondent said that he was not able to attend the hearing due to health and transportation problems, but he conceded that he was unable to practice law and that it was appropriate that he be disbarred in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Bar offered as Bar Exhibit 1 the underlying Petition for Disciplinary or Remedial Action filed in the Court of Appeals of Maryland which was admitted without objection. An email from the Respondent dated May 19, 2016 in which he acknowledged receipt of the notice of the change of location for the hearing and again stated that he was unable to attend, was admitted into evidence without objection as Board Exhibit 2.

After review of the foregoing exhibits and the written response from the Respondent, the Board recessed to deliberate. After due deliberation, the Board reconvened and announced that it found that the Respondent had failed to show by clear and convincing evidence why the Board should not impose the same discipline imposed by the Court of Appeals of Maryland, and accordingly, the license of the Respondent to

practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia be and hereby is revoked, effective May 20, 2016.

It is further ORDERED that the Respondent must comply with the requirements of Part Six, Section IV, Paragraph 13-29 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia. The Respondent shall forthwith give notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, of the revocation 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 client(s). The Respondent shall give such notice within 14 days of the effective date of the revocation, and make such arrangements as are required herein within 45 days of the effective date of the revocation. The Respondent shall also furnish proof to the Bar within 60 days of the effective date of the revocation if such notices have been timely given and such arrangements made for the disposition of matters.

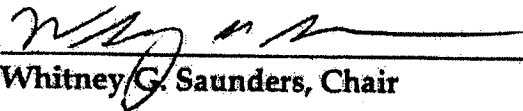
It is further ORDERED that if the Respondent is not handling any client matters on the effective date of this revocation, he shall submit an Affidavit to that effect to the Clerk of the Disciplinary System at the Virginia State Bar. All issues concerning the adequacy of the notice and arrangements required by Paragraph 13-29 shall be determined by the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary Board, unless the Respondent makes a timely request for a hearing before a three-judge court.

It is further ORDERED that costs shall be assessed by the Clerk of the Disciplinary System pursuant to the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia, Part Six, Section IV, Paragraph 13-9.E.

It is further ORDERED that the Clerk of the Disciplinary System shall send a certified copy of this Order by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Respondent, Richard Morris Gummere, at his last address of record with the Virginia State Bar at P.O. Box 30, La Plata, Maryland 20646, and at his alternate address of record at 300 Charles Street, Suite 5, La Plata, Maryland 20646; and shall hand-deliver a copy to Edward J. Dillon, Jr., Senior Assistant Bar Counsel, at 1111 East Main Street, Suite 700, Richmond, Virginia 23219-3565.

ENTERED this ~~29<sup>th</sup>~~ <sup>July</sup> day of ~~June~~, 2016.

**VIRGINIA STATE BAR DISCIPLINARY BOARD**

By:   
Whitney G. Saunders, Chair