

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR DISCIPLINARY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF  
KENNETH STEVEN KAUFMAN

VSB DOCKET NO. 20-000-117428

**RECIPROCAL MEMORANDUM ORDER OF REVOCATION**

This matter came before the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary Board (the “Board”) for a hearing on February 21, 2020, upon the Rule to Show Cause and Order of Summary Suspension and Hearing (“Rule to Show Cause”) entered on January 22, 2020, against and duly served on Kenneth Steven Kaufman, Esquire (“Respondent”) on January, 22, 2020. Pursuant to Part Six, Section IV, Paragraph 13-24 of the *Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia*, the Respondent’s license had been summarily suspended, effective January 28, 2020.

The hearing was held before the duly convened panel of the Board consisting of Yvonne S. Gibney, presiding Chair; Donita M. King; David J. Gogal; Steven B. Novey; and Martha J. Goodman, Lay Member. The Virginia State Bar (the “Bar”) was represented at the hearing by Assistant Bar Counsel Paulo E. Franco, Jr. The Respondent was absent from the hearing, nor was he represented by counsel. The proceedings were recorded and reported by Angela Sidener, a registered professional reporter with Chandler & Halasz, PO Box 9349, Richmond, Virginia 23227, telephone (804) 730-1222, after she was duly sworn by the Chair.

The Chair opened the hearing by polling the Board to ascertain whether any of them was conscious of any personal or financial interest or bias which would affect, or could reasonably be perceived to affect, their ability to hear the case fairly, and all members, including the Chair, answered in the negative. The Respondent was not present. The clerk called the Respondent’s name three times outside the courtroom and there was no response.

In accordance with Part Six, Section IV, Paragraph 13-24 of the *Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia* (the “*Rules*”), the purpose of the hearing was to provide the Respondent with an opportunity to show cause, if any, by clear and convincing evidence, as to why the same discipline that was imposed upon him by the State of Maryland should not be imposed by the Board. Respondent was licensed to practice law within the Commonwealth of Virginia on October 16, 2003, and at all relevant times, had been an attorney licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth.

The Rule to Show Cause and Order of Suspension and Hearing, which included as an attachment the Order of the Court of Appeals of Maryland, dated November 22, 2019, disbarring Respondent from the practice of law, were received into evidence as Board Exhibit 1. The Board then accepted into evidence the following Exhibits from the Bar: 1) a letter from the Office of Disciplinary Counsel for the District of Columbia, with an attached final Order disbarring Respondent from the practice of law in the District of Columbia; 2) a Certification from the clerk’s office of the Virginia State Bar as to the Respondent’s prior disciplinary record, of which there was none; and 3) the Membership Affidavit.

The Bar made a brief opening statement. The Bar called no witnesses to testify. The Bar then made a brief closing statement, and the Board retired to deliberate before returning to announce its decision.

After adjourning to deliberate and consider the evidence, the Board found that the absent Respondent had failed to show cause by clear and convincing evidence of any of the grounds set forth in a Part Six, Section IV, Paragraph 13-24.C. of the *Rules* as to why the Board should not impose the same discipline imposed by the State of Maryland.

Accordingly, it is ORDERED that the license of Respondent Kenneth Steven Kaufman to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia is hereby REVOKED, effective February 21, 2020.

It is further ORDERED that Respondent must comply with the requirements of Part Six, Section IV, Paragraph 13-29 of the *Rules*. 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 and conformity with the wishes of his clients. The Respondent shall give such notice within fourteen (14) days of the effective date of this order, and he shall make such arrangements as are required herein within forty-five (45) days of the effective date of the revocation. The Respondent shall also furnish proof to the Bar within sixty (60) days of the effective date of the revocation 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 revocation, he shall submit an affidavit to that effect to the Clerk of the Disciplinary System at the Virginia State Bar within sixty (60) days of the effective date of the revocation. 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, which may impose a sanction of revocation or additional suspension for failure to comply with the requirements of this subparagraph.

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

It is further ORDERED that a certified true copy of the Order of the Court of Appeals of Maryland, Misc. Docket AG No. 26, dated November 22, 2019, be attached to this Order of Revocation and made a part hereof.

It is further ORDERED that the Clerk of the Disciplinary System shall mail an attested copy of this Order to the Respondent, Kenneth Steven Kaufman, at his address of record with the Virginia State Bar, 7862 Oracle Place, Potomac, Maryland 20854, by certified mail, return receipt requested, and hand deliver a copy of this Order to Paulo E. Franco, Jr., Assistant Bar Counsel, at the Virginia State Bar, 1111 East Main Street, Suite 700, Richmond, Virginia 23219-0026.

Entered this 27th day of February 2020.  
VIRGINIA STATE BAR DISCIPLINARY BOARD

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Yvonne S. Gibney, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair