

BEFORE THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR DISCIPLINARY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF
CHRISTOPHER DECOY PARROTT

VSB DOCKET NO. 17-000-108869

MEMORANDUM ORDER OF SUSPENSION

THIS MATTER came on to be heard on May 19, 2017, before a panel of the Disciplinary Board (“Board”) consisting of Second Vice Chair, John A. C. Keith (Presiding), Sandra L. Havrilak, Sandra M. Rohrstaff, Michael A. Beverly, and Stephen Wannall, Lay member.

The Virginia State Bar was represented by Elizabeth K. Shoenfeld, (“Bar Counsel”). The Respondent was present without counsel. The Chair polled the members of the Board Panel as to whether any of them was conscious of any personal or financial interest or bias which would preclude any of them from fairly hearing this matter and serving on the panel, to which inquiry each member responded in the negative. Jennifer L. Hairfield, court reporter, Chandler & Halasz, (804) 730-1222, after being duly sworn, reported the hearing and transcribed the proceedings.

The matter came before the Board pursuant to a Rule to Show Cause Order entered on April 17, 2017, directing the Respondent to appear before the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary Board on May 19, 2017, to show cause why his license to practice law should not be further suspended or revoked for failing to comply with Part Six, Section IV, Paragraph 13-29 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia pursuant to a Memorandum Order of Suspension entered on November 21, 2016 by a Three-Judge Circuit Court panel in VSB Docket No. 16-053-104072. All legal notices of the date and place were timely sent by the Clerk of the Disciplinary System (Clerk) in the manner prescribed by the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia, Part Six, Section IV, Paragraph 13-12(C) of the Rules of Court. The Respondent testified on his own behalf. No other witnesses testified on behalf of the Respondent or the Bar. The Rule to Show

Cause and Notice were received into evidence collectively as Board Exhibit 1 without objection. The Respondent presented an Affidavit to the Board dated May 19, 2017 stating that as of November 21, 2016 he did not have any clients, which was accepted as Board Exhibit 2.

Findings

This matter arises out of a Petition for Rule to Show Cause for Failure to Comply with Part Six, Section IV, Paragraph 13-29 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia filed with the Board by Bar Counsel, based upon Respondent's failure to comply with a Memorandum Order of Suspension entered on November 21, 2016 by a Three-Judge Circuit Court panel in VSB Docket No. 16-053-104072 and the aforesaid provisions of Part Six, Section IV, Paragraph 13-29 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia. The Respondent stipulated to the facts and violations contained in the Rule to Show Cause and the Petition for Show Cause Hearing. Specifically, Respondent failed to notify his clients, opposing counsel, and presiding judges of his suspension by certified mail on or before December 5, 2016 and failed to provide proof to the Virginia State Bar of his compliance in this regard on or before January 20, 2017 as required by the Memorandum Order of Suspension entered on November 21, 2016, by a Three-Judge Circuit Court panel.

Sanction

Respondent having stipulated to the violation of Part Six, Section IV, Paragraph 13-29, the Board received evidence regarding aggravation and mitigation, reviewed prior findings of misconduct, and heard argument from Bar Counsel.

The Bar presented evidence that despite providing the Respondent with numerous reminders and even providing Respondent with a template response for him to certify completion of his requirements under Paragraph 13-29, the Respondent failed to provide notice to the Bar certifying his compliance with Paragraph 13-29. The Respondent testified and accepted responsibility for failing to comply with Paragraph 13-29. In mitigation, the Bar presented evidence that the Respondent had no dishonest motive; was affected by emotional stress related

to the underlying charges; had expressed remorse; and made full and free disclosure of the violation. The Respondent has no prior discipline aside from the underlying violation that lead to the Memorandum Order of Suspension entered on November 21, 2016 by a Three-Judge Circuit Court panel in VSB Docket No. 16-053-104072.

Following argument by Bar counsel the Board recessed to deliberate and determine whether Respondent's license to practice law should be further suspended or revoked. The Board reconvened and announced that, based upon the Respondent's noncompliance with the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia the appropriate sanction to protect the public and the integrity of the Bar was the suspension of the Respondent's license for an additional six (6) months from the end of his current suspension under Memorandum Order of Suspension entered on November 21, 2016 by a Three-Judge Circuit Court panel in VSB Docket No. 16-053-104072, which is set to end on August 21, 2018.

Accordingly, it is

ORDERED that the license of Christopher DeCoy Parrott to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia be and hereby is suspended for a period of six months, effective August 22, 2018;

In light of the submission by Respondent at the hearing of an affidavit stating that he was not handling any client matters on the effective date of the Summary Order, he has met the requirements of Paragraph 13-29 and nothing further is presently required in this regard; and

It is further ORDERED that, pursuant to Part 6, 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; and

It is further ORDERED that the Clerk of the Disciplinary System shall send an attested copy of this Order, by certified mail, return receipt requested to Respondent at his last address of record with the Virginia State Bar, that being Christopher DeCoy Parrott, 12073 Lancers Ct,

Manassas, Virginia, 20112, and a copy by regular mail to Elizabeth K. Shoenfeld, Assistant Bar Counsel, 1111 East Main Street, Suite 700, Richmond, Virginia 23219-0026.

ENTERED THIS 14TH DAY OF JUNE, 2017

VIRGINIA STATE BAR DISCIPLINARY BOARD

John A.C. Keith, 2nd Vice Chair