

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE SEVENTH DISTRICT SUBCOMMITTEE JUN 26 2013
OF THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR

IN THE MATTER OF
WILLIAM L. STABLES, JR.

VSB Docket No. 12-070-090590

SUBCOMMITTEE DETERMINATION
(PUBLIC ADMONITION WITH TERMS)

On June 3, 2013, a meeting was held in this matter before a duly convened Seventh District Subcommittee consisting of Zaida Cordero Thompson, Alfred James Sisley, and Mary Louise Costello Daniel, presiding. During the meeting, the Subcommittee voted to approve an agreed disposition for a PUBLIC Admonition with Terms pursuant to Part 6, § IV, ¶ 13-15.B.4. of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia. The agreed disposition was entered into by the Virginia State Bar, by Alfred L. Carr, Assistant Bar Counsel, and William L. Stables, Jr., (“Respondent”) *pro se*.

WHEREFORE, the Seventh District Subcommittee of the Virginia State Bar hereby serves upon Respondent the following PUBLIC Admonition with Terms:

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. At all relevant times Respondent William L. Stables, Jr., (“Respondent”) was a duly licensed attorney in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
2. Complainants hired Respondent on or about November 5, 2010, to file a Chapter 7 bankruptcy petition in the Western District of Virginia in Harrisonburg, Virginia.
3. On July 6, 2011, Complainants appeared in court for the first hearing on their bankruptcy petition because Respondent did not inform them that they did not need to appear.

4. On July 8, 2011, Respondent emailed his clients seeking their bids for each of the two trailers they owned. Respondent's clients, by email dated July 12, 2011, delivered their bids for the two trailers to Respondent. Respondent did not forward their bids to the Court.
5. On July 19, 2011, the Court ordered the two utility trailers turned over for auction because Respondent did not forward his client's bids for the two trailers to the Court in a timely fashion.
6. On the night of November 7, 2011, Respondent called his clients, who live in New Market, Virginia, to inform them that the two trailers the Court ordered sold had to be at an auction house located in Harrisonburg, Virginia, the morning of November 8, 2011.
7. On February 1, 2012, Respondent's had to appear at the auction held in Harrisonburg, Virginia to purchase the two trailers because Respondent did not timely deliver their bids to the Court in July of 2011.
8. Under cover of a letter dated January 30, 2012, a copy of this complaint was sent to Respondent at his last known address with the VSB. Despite his obligation under Rule of Professional Conduct 8.1(c) to do so, Respondent failed to file a response to the complaint.
9. Respondent did not respond to the Virginia State Bar investigator's attempts to reach him for an interview.

II. NATURE OF MISCONDUCT

Such conduct by Respondent constitutes misconduct in violation of the following provisions of the Rules of Professional Conduct:

RULE 1.3 Diligence

- (a) A lawyer shall act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client.

RULE 1.4 Communication

- (a) A lawyer shall keep a client reasonably informed about the status of a matter and promptly comply with reasonable requests for information.

RULE 8.1 Bar Admission And Disciplinary Matters

An applicant for admission to the bar, or a lawyer in connection with a bar admission application, in connection with any certification required to be filed as a condition of maintaining or renewing a license to practice law, in connection with a disciplinary matter, shall not:

- (c) fail to respond to a lawful demand for information from an admissions or disciplinary authority, except that this Rule does not require disclosure of information otherwise protected by Rule 1.6;

III. PUBLIC ADMONITION WITH TERMS

Accordingly, it is the decision of the Subcommittee to impose a PUBLIC Admonition with Terms. The terms are as follows:

1. Respondent shall schedule and attend a meeting with Lawyers Helping Lawyers (“LHL”) before August 30, 2013. Respondent hereby authorizes LHL to release to the Virginia State Bar the confidential report as to the outcome of the meeting.
2. Respondent shall mail a copy of the report to Assistant Bar Counsel Alfred L. Carr, at 707 East Main Street, 16th Floor, Richmond, Virginia 22319-2800 on or before September 15, 2013.

If the terms are not met by September 15, 2013, Respondent agrees that the District Committee shall impose a **Public Reprimand** pursuant to Part 6, Section IV, Paragraph 13-15.F of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia. Any proceeding initiated due to failure to comply with the term will be considered a new matter, and an administrative fee and costs will be assessed pursuant to Paragraph 13-9.E of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia.

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.

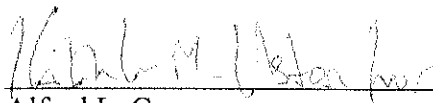
SEVENTH DISTRICT SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR



Mary Louise Costello Daniel
Chair of the Committee
Subcommittee Chair

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I certify that on June 25th 2013, a true and complete copy of the Subcommittee Determination (PUBLIC Admonition With Terms) was sent by certified mail to William L. Stables, Jr., Respondent, at Suite 209, 57 South Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801, Respondent's last address of record with the Virginia State Bar.



Alfred L. Carr
Assistant Bar Counsel