

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR DISCIPLINARY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF
CHRISTOPHER WILLIAM ROOP

VSB DOCKET NOS. 26-000-136140
26-000-136141

MEMORANDUM ORDER OF SUSPENSION AND OF REVOCATION

These consolidated matters came to be heard on August 22, 2025, before a panel of the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary Board (the “Board”) consisting of Yvonne S. Gibney, Chair Designate (“Chair”); Samuel Massenberg, Jr., Lay Member; Kamala H. Lannetti; Melanie A. Friend; and Dawn E. Boyce. The Chair inquired of each member of the Board whether any of them had any personal or financial interest or bias which would preclude him or her from fairly hearing this matter and serving on the Board, to which inquiry each member, including the Chair, responded in the negative.

Edward J. Dillon, Deputy Bar Counsel (“Bar Counsel”), represented the Virginia State Bar (the “VSB”). Respondent, Christopher William Roop (“Respondent”), was not present.

Beverly S. Horne, court reporter, Chandler and Halasz, P.O. Box 1975, Mechanicsville, Virginia 23116, (804) 730-1222, after being duly sworn, reported the hearing and transcribed the proceedings.

All legal notices of the date and place of the August 22, 2025, hearing were timely sent by the Clerk of the Disciplinary System (“Clerk”) in the manner prescribed by Part Six, § IV, ¶¶ 13-12 and 18 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia (“Rules”). The Board finds, in particular, that the Clerk sent notices of the hearing to the Respondent’s address of record with the VSB and to the Respondent’s last known email address.

VSB Docket No. 26-000-136140 came before the Board on the VSB's Notice of Show Cause Hearing for Failure to Comply with Part Six, § IV, ¶ 13-29 of the *Rules* and Petition for Rule to Show Cause and Rule to Show Cause issued on July 16, 2025. *See* Board Exhibits 1 and 2.

VSB Docket No. 26-000-136141 came before the Board on the VSB's Notice of Show Cause Hearing for Failure to Comply with Terms, as required under Part Six, § IV, ¶ 13-18.O of the *Rules*, issued on July 16, 2025, and the Rule to Show Cause and Pre-Hearing Order issued on July 20, 2025. *See* Board Exhibits 3 and 4.

PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

The Memorandum Order of Suspension entered on April 22, 2025, in VSB Docket No. 24-090-132393 (the "Prior Order") reflects that the Respondent and VSB stipulated that Respondent engaged in misconduct, specifically violating Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3(a), 1.4(a), 1.4(b), 1.5(a), 1.15(b)(4), 1.15(b)(5), and 1.16(d). The Prior Order further reflects that the Board also found clear and convincing evidence that Respondent had violated Rules of Professional Conduct 8.1(a), 8.4(b) and 8.4(c), based on the evidence presented at the March 28, 2025, hearing in that matter.

In the Prior Order, the Board ordered that Respondent's license to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia be suspended for a period of one year, beginning on March 28, 2025. The Prior Order also required the Respondent to comply with various terms, including the following:

3. The Respondent shall read in its entirety *Lawyers and Other People's Money* and Legal Ethics Opinion 1606 and shall certify compliance in writing to Bar Counsel no later than 60 days following the date of the entry of this Order.

The Prior Order specified an alternative sanction to be imposed if the Respondent failed to fulfill any of the terms, as follows:

If, however, any of the terms and conditions is not met by the deadlines imposed above, it is ORDERED that the alternative sanction of a two-year suspension must be imposed for Respondent's failure to comply. In the event of alleged noncompliance, a hearing will be convened upon an order for the Respondent to show cause why the alternative disposition should not be imposed. At such hearing, Respondent shall have the burden of providing [sic] compliance or good cause for the alleged noncompliance by clear and convincing evidence.

In addition to the terms the Board ordered the Respondent to fulfill, the Prior Order required the Respondent to take certain steps to notify others of his suspended law license, as follows:

It is further ORDERED that Respondent must comply with the requirements of Part 6, Section IV, Paragraph 13-29 of the Rules. The Respondent shall forthwith give notice by certified mail, of the suspension of his license to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia, to all clients he currently represents 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. The Respondent shall also furnish proof to the Clerk within 60 days of the effective date of the Suspension that such notices have been timely given and such arrangements have been made for the disposition of the matters.

In this consolidated proceeding the Respondent bore the burden of showing, by clear and convincing evidence, that he complied with ¶ 13-29 (VSB Docket No. 26-000-136140), and that he had complied with the third term listed in the Prior Order (VSB Docket No. 26-000-136141).

I. PROCEEDINGS AND FINDINGS OF FACT

At the outset of the hearing and because the Respondent was not present in the hearing room, the Clerk went into the hall and called the Respondent's name three times and reported that there was no response.

The Chair confirmed that VSB Exhibits 1-8 in VSB Docket No. 26-000-136140 and VSB Exhibits 1-6 in VSB Docket No. 26-000-136141 were admitted at the Prehearing Conference. Board Exhibits 1-4 were admitted and the Chair admitted as Board Exhibit 5 an email dated July 22, 2025, from Stephanie Blanton, a member of the VSB staff, sent to the Respondent at the

following email address: cwroop.sfg@gmail.com, to which correspondence and pleadings related to this proceeding were attached.

Bar Counsel gave an opening statement as to both matters.

No evidence was presented on behalf of the Respondent.

Bar Investigator Robert K. Baker testified under oath that with respect to VSB Docket No. 26-000-136140, he had requested certain information about the Respondent from the Staff Attorney for Legislative and Public Relations, Office of the Executive Secretary, Supreme Court of Virginia. The information Mr. Baker requested was a list of any active cases pending between March 28, 2025, and June 24, 2025, in which the Respondent was serving as an attorney. Mr. Baker authenticated and explained the response he received, which showed that the Respondent was an attorney of record in eight matters that were pending during the relevant period. *See* VSB Exhibit 8 in VSB Docket No. 26-000-136140.

Bar Counsel then gave closing arguments for both matters.

The Board considered the testimony of the witness, the exhibits, and argument of Bar Counsel and then met in private to consider its decision.

The Board makes the following findings of fact based on clear and convincing evidence:

1. The Disciplinary Board entered the Prior Order on April 22, 2025, which imposed a one-year suspension of Respondent's license to practice law, with terms, effective March 28, 2025. *See* VSB Docket No. 26-000-136140, VSB Exhibit 4; and VSB Docket No. 26-000-136141, VSB Exhibit 5.
2. Term 3 of the Prior Order required Respondent to read in its entirety *Lawyers and Other People's Money* and Legal Ethics Opinion 1606 and to certify his compliance in writing to Bar Counsel no later than 60 days following the date of entry of the Prior Order. If

- Respondent did not meet this term by the June 21, 2025, deadline, the Board, after notice and hearing, would impose an alternative sanction of a two-year suspension. *See* VSB Docket No. 26-000-136141, VSB Exhibit 5.
3. The Prior Order provided that pursuant to Part Six, § IV, ¶ 13-29 of the *Rules*, the Respondent was to give notice forthwith by certified mail of the suspension of his license to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia, to all clients he currently represented and to all opposing attorneys and presiding judges in pending matters. The Respondent was to make appropriate arrangements for the disposition of matters then in his care in conformity with the wishes of his clients. The Respondent was to provide proof to the Clerk within 60 days of the effective date of the Suspension (i.e., by May 27, 2025) that such notices had been timely given and that such arrangements had been made for the disposition of the matters. *See* VSB Docket No. 26-000-136140, VSB Exhibit 4.
 4. In VSB Docket No. 26-000-136141 the Respondent had the burden of proving by clear and convincing evidence that he complied with Term 3 of the Prior Order. *See* Part Six, § IV, ¶ 13-18.0 of the *Rules*.
 5. The Respondent had not certified his compliance with Term 3 of the Prior Order by the June 21, 2025, deadline. *See* VSB Docket No. 26-000-136141, VSB Exhibit 6.
 6. In VSB Docket No. 26-000-136140 the Respondent had the burden of proving by clear and convincing evidence that he complied with ¶ 13-29. *See* Part Six, § IV, ¶ 13-29.A of the *Rules*.
 7. The Respondent was counsel of record in eight matters that were pending at the time of the Prior Order. *See* VSB Docket No. 26-000-136140, VSB Ex. 8.

8. As of July 9, 2025, the Respondent had not submitted to the Clerk written notice of his compliance with ¶ 13-29. *See* VSB Docket No. 26-000-136140, VSB Exhibit 7.

II. SANCTIONS

Following deliberation, the Board determined that, with respect to VSB Docket No. 26-000-136141, the Respondent had not proved by clear and convincing evidence that he complied with Term 3 of the Prior Order.

Accordingly, the Board announced its findings in VSB Docket No. 26-000-136141 and ORDERED that the license of Respondent Christopher William Roop to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia be SUSPENDED for two years, effective March 28, 2025.

The Board further determined that, with respect to VSB Docket No. 26-000-136140, the Respondent had not proved by clear and convincing evidence that he complied with Part Six, § IV, ¶ 13-29 of the *Rules*.

As the Board found that the Respondent had failed to comply with ¶ 13-29, the Board then heard evidence and argument from Bar Counsel regarding mitigating or aggravating factors for the Board's determination of whether to further suspend or revoke the Respondent's license. Bar Counsel offered VSB Docket No. 26-000-136140, VSB Exhibit 9, the Certification of Respondent's disciplinary record, which the Board accepted into evidence.

The Board then convened in private to consider the evidence presented, argument of Bar Counsel, and to consider mitigating and aggravating factors. In aggravation, the Board found significant the multiple rule violations committed by the Respondent in the prior discipline matter and his failure to comply with the Board's Prior Order or participate in the disciplinary proceeding. The Board found no evidence in mitigation. Following deliberations, the Board reconvened and

announced its determination in VSB Docket No. 26-000-136140 that the Respondent's license should be revoked.

Accordingly, it is ORDERED that the license of Respondent Christopher William Roop to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia is hereby REVOKED effective August 22, 2025.

It is further ORDERED that Respondent must forthwith give notice by certified mail 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 must also make appropriate arrangements for the disposition of matters then in his care in conformity with the wishes of his clients. The Respondent must give such notice immediately and in no event later than 14 days of the effective date of the Revocation, and make such arrangements as are required herein as soon as is practicable and in no event later than 45 days of the effective date of the Revocation. The Respondent must also furnish proof to the Clerk within 60 days of the effective date of the Revocation that such notices have been timely given, and such arrangements have been made for the disposition of matters.

It is further ORDERED that pursuant to Part Six, § IV, ¶ 13-9.E of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia, the Clerk shall assess all costs against the Respondent.


It is further ORDERED that the Clerk shall mail an attested copy of this Order to Respondent by certified mail, return receipt requested and by regular first-class mail to Christopher William Roop, P.O. Box 160, Spencer, Virginia 24165 and 1200 County Line Road, Bassett, Virginia 24055-5188, and, if applicable, any other address of record with the Virginia State Bar, and by email to cwroop.sfg@gmail.com and a copy by electronic mail to Edward J. Dillon, Deputy Bar Counsel, Virginia State Bar, 1111 East Main Street, Suite 700, Richmond, Virginia 23219-0026.

ENTERED this 9th day of September 2025.

VIRGINIA STATE BAR DISCIPLINARY BOARD

Yvonne S.

Gibney

 Digitally signed by Yvonne S.
Gibney
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Yvonne S. Gibney, Chair Designate