

**VIRGINIA :**

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA**

**VIRGINIA STATE BAR EX REL.  
FOURTH DISTRICT, SECTION I COMMITTEE  
VSB DOCKET NO. 24-041-132040**

**Complainant,**

**v.**

**Case No. CL25000531-00**

**LOUIS BERNARDO ANTONACCI**

**Respondent.**

**FINAL JUDGMENT MEMORANDUM ORDER**

THIS MATTER was heard on June 11, 2025 before a Three-Judge Circuit Court duly impaneled pursuant to Section 54.1-3935 of the Code of Virginia (1950) as amended, consisting of the Honorable Kimberly A. Irving of the Thirty-first Judicial Circuit as Chief Judge Designate (“Chief Judge”), the Honorable Stephen E. Sincavage of the Twentieth Judicial Circuit as Judge, and the Honorable Stephen B. Novey of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit as Judge (collectively, “the Court”).

Assistant Bar Counsel Richard W. Johnson Jr. represented the Virginia State Bar (“VSB”). Respondent Louis Bernardo Antonacci (“Respondent”), having received proper notice, appeared in person at all times throughout the proceedings and acted *pro se*.

The Chief Judge swore the court reporter, and each member of the Court verified that they had no personal or financial interest that might affect or reasonably be perceived to affect their ability to be impartial in this matter.

WHEREUPON a hearing was conducted upon the Rule to Show Cause issued on March 7, 2025 against Respondent. The Rule directed Respondent to appear and to show cause why

their license to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia should not be suspended, revoked, or otherwise sanctioned in accordance with Part Six, Section IV, Paragraph 13 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia by reason of the allegations of ethical misconduct set forth in the Certification issued on January 17, 2025.

### **MISCONDUCT PHASE**

The parties presented opening statements.

During the Misconduct phase, the VSB called the following witnesses:

1. Shaun So;
2. Robert Graves.

During the VSB's presentation of evidence, the Court admitted VSB Exhibits 1-7, 12-13, and 16-17 into evidence.

Thereafter, the VSB rested.

Respondent testified on his own behalf. During Respondent's presentation of evidence, the Court admitted Respondent's exhibits 6-15 into evidence.

Thereafter, Respondent then rested.

At the conclusion of all the evidence in the Misconduct phase, counsel presented closing arguments to the Court, and the Court thereafter retired to deliberate.

Upon due deliberation and consideration of the parties' exhibits, witness testimony, and the arguments of counsel, the Court found that the following facts were proven by clear and convincing evidence.

### **FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Respondent was admitted to the VSB on March 10, 2008. At all relevant times, Respondent was a member of the VSB. *See VSB Exhibit 4.*

2. From 2015 to 2023, Respondent represented Shaun So (“Complainant”) in the review and negotiation of contracts, Respondent learned sensitive information about Complainant, including his intelligence background and skills developed while Complainant served in the military. Respondent learned that Complainant’s business partner was also involved in sensitive activities while serving in the military. *See Testimony of Shaun So; VSB Exhibit 4.*
3. In December 2023, Respondent terminated his representation of Complainant. *See Testimony of Shaun So; Testimony of Respondent VSB Exhibit 2.*
4. On February 14, 2024, Respondent filed a civil action in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia (“EDVA”) against a host of individuals and organizations alleging violations of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (“RICO”). Respondent alleged that Rahm Emmanuel, Joe Biden, his former employers, and Complainant engaged in a criminal enterprise to derail Respondent’s career. *See Testimony of Shaun So; Testimony of Respondent; Testimony of Robert Graves; VSB Exhibit 12.*
5. In his complaint, Respondent asserted:
  245. Antonacci was introduced to So and Wheeler under the false pretense that Storij needed legal assistance with its government contracts work.
  246. So and Wheeler had served in the Army together doing intelligence work.
  247. Specifically, Wheeler worked in signals intelligence and has expertise hacking, infiltrating, and exploiting computer systems and mobile devices.
  248. So’s expertise is human intelligence and interrogation.
  249. So and Wheeler are part of this enterprise.

*See VSB Exhibit 12.*

6. Respondent's allegations against Complainant include:

488. So, Wheeler, Stori, and other Defendants conspired to knowingly, and with intent to defraud, access Antonacci's computer systems and mobile phone without authorization or exceeding authorized access, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1830(b).

489. Alternatively, So, Wheeler, Stori, and other Defendants conspired to provide false, incomplete, and/or misleading information to U.S. government officials in order to obtain illegally a warrant allowing them to do so.

*See VSB Exhibit 12.*

7. Respondent's complaint further references Complainant's "dubious pandemic loan." *See Testimony of Shaun So, Testimony of Respondent, VSB Exhibit 7.*

8. Complainant did not give permission to Respondent to divulge any information that Respondent gained during Respondent's representation of Complainant for eight years. Complainant wanted this sensitive information to remain confidential and disclosure of such information would likely be detrimental to Complainant's career. Complainant has not initiated any legal action against Respondent, nor placed himself in an adversarial position to Respondent until filing the instant bar complaint. *See Testimony of Shaun So.*

9. Thus far, Complainant has expended \$150,000.00 in legal fees to defend himself against Respondent's lawsuit. *See Testimony of Shaun So.*

10. Respondent previously filed a similar complaint in the United States District Court for Northern Illinois ("Illinois Court") in 2015 . The Illinois Court dismissed the matter before defendants were served, stating that the allegations that Respondent "had assertedly been the victim of a massive global conspiracy on the part of what seems to be the entire world with which he comes into contact plainly appear to fail-flat out-the 'plausibility' requirement established by the *Twombly-Iqbal* canon." On May 5, 2015, the Illinois Court ruled that it lacked subject matter jurisdiction because Respondent's

claims were too implausible to engage federal jurisdiction. On March 18, 2016, the Seventh Circuit affirmed, holding that the RICO claims were “legally frivolous.” See *Testimony of Shaun So, Testimony of Respondent, VSB Exhibit 7, VSB Exhibit 11.*

11. On May 24, 2024, the EDVA dismissed the matter for identical reasons, stating, in part:  
Although Antonacci has added new defendants and allegations, the alleged conspiracy—and the fundamental implausibility of it—has not changed. This Court agrees with the Seventh Circuit’s assessment that Antonacci’s previous, and now renewed, allegations are “legally frivolous” because they are “so unsupported by any plausible detail as to be preposterous.” 640 F. App’x at 557. And the new allegations do not move the needle towards plausibility—if anything, they reinforce the implausibility of the alleged conspiracy. Antonacci continues to “fl[ing] wild  
*See VSB Exhibit 11.*
12. When asked by a VSB investigator what evidence he had to support his claim, Respondent stated that the “circumstantial evidence is overwhelming” but that he had no “hard proof.” *See VSB Exhibit 4; Testimony of Robert Graves.*

### FINDINGS OF MISCONDUCT

Based on the foregoing findings of fact, the Court found that the VSB proved by clear and convincing evidence that Respondent violated the following Virginia Rules of Professional Conduct: 1.9(c)(1)(Conflict of Interest: Prohibited Transactions); 1.9(c)(2)(Conflict of Interest: Prohibited Transactions); and 3.1(Meritorious Claims and Contentions). The Court found that the exceptions to Rule 1.9(c)(1)(Conflict of Interest: Prohibited Transactions) and Rule 1.9(c)(2) (Conflict of Interest: Prohibited Transactions) found in Rule 1.6(b)(2)(Confidentiality of Information) were not applicable.

In regard to the violation of Rule 3.1, the Chief Judge stated:

“With regard to the 3.1 we find, based on the standard of an objectively reasonable person, that ... the claims at issue were without merit. We found -- in respect to the witnesses, we found Mr. So to be credible. We believed his testimony. We didn't

find him to be lying at all. We found Mr. Antonacci to believe himself what he was saying, but we did not find that his belief was objectively reasonable.”

### **SANCTIONS PHASE**

The Court then convened the sanctions phase of the proceeding. The parties presented opening statements. The VSB incorporated by reference all of the exhibits introduced and the testimony elicited during the Misconduct phase of the hearing, admitted VSB Exhibit 18 and presented the testimony of the following witness: Shaun So. The VSB then moved into evidence VSB Ex. 19, a Certification of Respondent’s prior disciplinary record in Virginia.

Respondent testified on their own behalf during the sanctions phase of the proceeding and presented the testimony of no other witnesses: Respondent moved no additional exhibits into evidence.

Counsel for the VSB and Respondent presented arguments regarding the sanction to be imposed on Respondent for the Misconduct found, and the Court recessed to deliberate.

### **DETERMINATION**

After due consideration of the evidence as to mitigation and aggravation, and the arguments of counsel, the Court reconvened to announce its sanction of **SUSPENSION** of Respondent’s license to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia for a period of **ONE YEAR AND TWO DAYS**, effective June 11, 2025.

Accordingly, it is hereby **ORDERED** that Respondent’s license to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia be, and the same hereby is, **SUSPENDED FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR AND TWO DAYS**, effective June 11, 2025.

It is further ORDERED that Respondent must comply with the requirements of Part Six, Section IV, Paragraph 13-29 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia. Respondent must forthwith give notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, of the Suspension of their license to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia, to all clients for whom Respondent is currently handling matters and to all opposing attorneys and presiding judges in pending litigation. Respondent must also make appropriate arrangements for the disposition of matters then in Respondent's care in conformity with the wishes of their clients. Respondent must give such notice immediately and in no event later than 14 days from the effective date of the Suspension, and make such arrangements as are required herein as soon as practicable and in no event later than 45 days from the effective date of the Suspension. Respondent must also furnish proof to the VSB within 60 days of the effective date of the Suspension that such notices have been timely given and such arrangements made for the disposition of matters.

It is further ORDERED that, if Respondent is not handling any client matters on the effective date of the Suspension, Respondent must submit an affidavit to that effect to the Clerk of the Disciplinary System of the VSB. Issues concerning the adequacy of the notice and arrangement required by Paragraph 13-29 must be determined by the VSB Disciplinary Board, which may impose a sanction of Suspension or Revocation for failure to comply with these requirements.

It is further ORDERED that the Clerk of the Disciplinary System of the VSB must assess all costs pursuant to Paragraph 13-9.E.

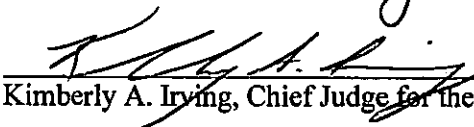
It is further ORDERED that the Clerk must send a copy teste of this order to Louis Bernardo Antonacci, Respondent, at Antonacci PLLC, 501 Holland Ln Unit 107, Alexandria, Virginia 22314-3539; and to Richard W. Johnson Jr., Assistant Bar Counsel, Virginia State Bar,

1111 E. Main St., Suite 700, Richmond, VA 23219; and to Joanne Fronfelter, Clerk of the Disciplinary System, Virginia State Bar, 1111 E. Main St., Suite 700, Richmond, VA 23219.

The proceedings were transcribed by ICR Rudiger and Green, 8551 Rixley Lane Unit 330, Manassas, Virginia 20109, phone number (703) 331-0212.

This Order is the final judgment of this Court as provided by Rule 5:21(b)(2)(ii) of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia.

ENTERED this 30 day of June 2025

  
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Kimberly A. Irving, Chief Judge for the Court

**SEEN:**



\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard W. Johnson Jr. (VSB No. 51024)  
Assistant Bar Counsel  
Virginia State Bar  
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Richmond, VA 23219  
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**SEEN AND \_\_\_\_\_:**

**Waived Pursuant to Rule 1.13 (see attached)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Louis Bernardo Antonacci (VSB No. 75840)  
Respondent, *pro se*  
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