

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR DISCIPLINARY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF  
WILLIAM FRANKLIN BURTON

VS. B DOCKET NO. 21-000-121116

**RULE TO SHOW CAUSE AND  
ORDER OF SUMMARY SUSPENSION AND NOTICE OF HEARING**

It appearing to the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary Board (“Board”) that William Franklin Burton (“Respondent”) was licensed to practice law within the Commonwealth of Virginia on April 25, 1991; and

It further appearing that Respondent has been disbarred from the practice of law by Mandate dated October 13, 2020 by the Court of Appeals of Maryland, Misc. Docket AG No. 4, September Term, 2020; and

It further appearing that such disciplinary action has become final;

It is ORDERED, pursuant to Part Six, Section IV, Paragraph 13-24 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia (the “Rules”), that the license of Respondent to practice law within the Commonwealth of Virginia be, and the same is, hereby suspended effective October 30, 2020.

It is further ORDERED that Respondent appear before the Board on November 20, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. via videoconference utilizing the Microsoft Teams application, to show cause why the same discipline that was imposed in the other jurisdiction should not be imposed by the Board. Pursuant to Part Six, Section IV, Paragraph 13-24.C of the Rules, Respondent has 14 days from the date of this Rule to Show Cause and Order of Summary Suspension and Hearing to file a written response with the Clerk of the Disciplinary System, which written response shall be confined to argument and exhibits supporting one or more of the grounds for dismissal or imposition of a lesser discipline specified in Paragraph 13-24.C. Failure to file a written response within 14 days may result in the Disciplinary Board’s refusal to consider during the hearing in this matter any evidence or argument supporting the existence of one or more of the grounds specified in Paragraph 13-24.C.

It is further ORDERED that Respondent shall forthwith give notice, by certified mail, of the suspension of his license to practice law in Virginia to all clients for whom he is currently handling matters and to all opposing attorneys and the presiding judges in pending litigation. Respondent shall also make appropriate arrangements for the disposition of matters then in his care in conformity with the wishes of his clients. Respondent shall give such notice within fourteen (14) days of the effective date of the suspension order, and make such arrangements as are required herein within forty-five (45) days of the effective date of the suspension order. Respondent shall also furnish proof to the Bar within sixty (60) days of the effective date of the suspension order that such notices have been timely given and such arrangements for the disposition of matters made. Issues concerning the adequacy of the notice and arrangements required herein shall be determined by the Board, which may impose a sanction of revocation or suspension for failure to comply with the requirements of this subparagraph.

It is further ORDERED that a copy of the Order entered in the Court of Appeals of Maryland, Misc. Docket AG No. 4, September Term, 2020 (No. 481109-V, Circuit Court for Montgomery County) be attached to this Rule to Show Cause and Order of Summary Suspension and Hearing and made a part hereof.

It is further ORDERED that an attested copy of this Rule to Show Cause and Order of Summary Suspension and Hearing, with attachment, shall be mailed to William Franklin Burton by certified mail at his address of record with the Virginia State Bar: Burton Law, LLC, Suite 600, 5425 Wisconsin Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD 20815; and to M. Brent Saunders, Senior Assistant Bar Counsel, Virginia State Bar, 1111 East Main Street, Suite 700, Richmond, Virginia 23219-0026.

ENTERED THIS 29<sup>th</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER 2020  
VIRGINIA STATE BAR DISCIPLINARY BOARD

**Yvonne S.  
Gibney**

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S. Gibney  
Date: 2020.10.29 11:49:37  
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Yvonne S. Gibney  
Chair

**ATTORNEY GRIEVANCE COMMISSION \*  
OF MARYLAND**

**v.**

**WILLIAM FRANKLIN BURTON**

**IN THE  
\* COURT OF APPEALS  
\* OF MARYLAND  
\* Misc. Docket AG No. 4,  
\* September Term, 2020  
\*  
\* (No. 481109-V, Circuit Court  
\* for Montgomery County)**

**ORDER**

Upon consideration of the Joint Petition for Disbarment by Consent filed by the Attorney Grievance Commission of Maryland and the Respondent, William Franklin Burton, it is this 13th day of October, 2020

**ORDERED**, by the Court of Appeals of Maryland, that the Respondent, William Franklin Burton, be disbarred from the practice of law in the State of Maryland, effective immediately, for engaging in professional misconduct that violated Rules 1.1, 1.3, 1.4(a)(2)-(3) and (b), 1.5(a), 1.16(d), 3.4(d), 8.1(b), and 8.4(a), (c) and (d) of the Maryland Attorneys' Rules of Professional Conduct; and it is further

**ORDERED**, that the Clerk of this Court shall strike the name of William Franklin Burton from the register of attorneys in this Court, and certify that fact to the Trustees of the Client Protection Fund of the Bar of Maryland and all Clerks of all judicial tribunals in this State in accordance with Maryland Rule 19-761(b).

/s/ Robert N. McDonald  
Senior Judge