

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE SIXTH DISTRICT SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR

IN THE MATTER OF
SHERIDAN L. ENGLAND

VSB Docket No. 24-060-131453

SUBCOMMITTEE DETERMINATION
(PUBLIC REPRIMAND WITH TERMS)

On August 13, 2024, a meeting was held in this matter before a duly convened Sixth District Subcommittee consisting of Jane S. Chambers, Esquire, Subcommittee Chair; Adam R. Kinsman, Esquire; and David Fagiano, Lay Member. During the meeting, the Subcommittee voted to approve an Agreed Disposition 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 Joseph M. Caturano, Jr., Esquire, Assistant Bar Counsel; Sherdan L. England, Respondent; and Jeffrey H. Geiger, Esquire, counsel for Respondent.

WHEREFORE, the Sixth District Subcommittee of the Virginia State Bar hereby serves upon Respondent the following Public Reprimand with Terms:

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent was licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia in 2018. At all times referenced herein, Respondent has been licensed and in good standing.
2. On March 8, 2022, Paul Tramontano (“Mr. Tramontano”) hired Respondent for representation in a criminal matter (GC22-469) in the City of Alexandria.
3. On March 18, 2022, a Preliminary Protective Order (GV22-725-00) was served upon Mr. Tramontano. At some point, Mr. Tramontano notified Respondent of the Preliminary Protective Order. The Preliminary Protective Order identified a hearing date of March 24, 2022; Respondent and Mr. Tramontano went to the courthouse that day, but they did not see that the matter was to proceed after checking both the posted docket and with an attorney with the Commonwealth’s Attorney Office. As a result, neither Respondent nor Mr. Tramontano appeared at the hearing. A Protective Order was entered against Mr. Tramontano at that time in the General District Court of the City of Alexandria.

4. On June 22, 2022, Respondent negotiated a plea agreement on behalf of Mr. Tramontano with the prosecutor in the criminal matter. The plea deal included, among other things, six months supervised probation, and a Protective Order for two years in duration.
5. Respondent knew the duration of the Protective Order against Mr. Tramontano was two years but believed that everything would be dropped after one year.
6. On June 23, 2023, after addressing supervised probation, and other issues, the criminal case against Mr. Tramontano was dismissed by the court as Mr. Tramontano satisfied the terms of the plea. At that time, Respondent told Mr. Tramontano that he was “good to go.”
7. One month later, on July 23, 2023, Mr. Tramontano entered a sporting goods store in Hanover County to purchase ammunition and a gun for hunting. As Mr. Tramontano was unaware that he remained subject to the Protective Order, he was arrested by the Virginia State Police for violating the Protective Order.
8. On July 25, 2023, Mr. Tramontano was charged with two felonies in Hanover County because of the violations of the Protective Order in attempting to purchase the gun and ammunition. No charges were ever filed in the City of Alexandria for any violation of the Protective Order or the criminal case.
9. On August 3, 2023, Mr. Tramontano was arraigned on the two felonies in Hanover County, and thereafter Mr. Tramontano terminated Respondent from any further representation. The charges were subsequently *nolle prossed*.

II. NATURE OF MISCONDUCT

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

As Respondent failed to thoroughly review and explain the specifics of the plea agreement to his client, specifically, whether the Protective Order was one year or two years in duration, Respondent failed to apply the thoroughness and preparation reasonably necessary for the representation, Respondent thus violated RPC 1.1¹

¹ Italicized language is for explanatory purposes only.

Rule 1.1 Competence

A lawyer shall provide competent representation to a client. Competent representation requires the legal knowledge, skill, thoroughness and preparation reasonably necessary for the representation.

As Respondent failed to act with reasonable diligence in noting court dates and noting and explaining the specific terms of the plea agreement and court order, critical for his client's full compliance in a serious criminal matter, including but not limited to, the duration of the Protective Order, Respondent violated RPC 1.3(a).

Rule 1.3 Diligence

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

III. PUBLIC REPRIMAND WITH TERMS

Accordingly, having approved the Agreed Disposition, it is the decision of the Subcommittee to impose a Public Reprimand with Terms. The terms are:

1. NO FURTHER MISCONDUCT

For a period of one (1) year following the entry of the Subcommittee Determination, Respondent will not engage in any conduct that violates the Virginia Rules of Professional Conduct, including any amendments thereto, and/or which violates any analogous provisions, and any amendments thereto, of the disciplinary rules of another jurisdiction in which Respondent may be admitted to practice law. The terms contained in this paragraph will be deemed to have been violated when any ruling, determination, judgment, order, or decree has been issued against Respondent by a disciplinary tribunal in Virginia or elsewhere, containing a finding that Respondent has violated one or more provisions of the Rules of Professional Conduct referred to above, *provided, however*, that the conduct upon which such finding was based occurred within the period referred to above, and provided, further, that such ruling has become final.

2. MCLE

Within six (6) months of the service of the Subcommittee Determination in this matter, Respondent will complete six (6) hours of continuing legal education credits by attending courses approved by the Virginia State Bar in the subject matter of legal ethics. Respondent's Continuing Legal Education attendance obligation set forth in this paragraph will not be applied toward his Mandatory Continuing Legal Education requirement in Virginia or any other jurisdictions in which Respondent may be licensed to practice law. Respondent will certify his compliance with the terms set forth in this paragraph by delivering a fully and properly executed Virginia MCLE Board

Certification of Attendance form (Form 2) to Assistant Bar Counsel, promptly following his attendance of each such CLE program(s).

If any of the terms are not met, Respondent agrees that the District Committee shall impose an alternative sanction pursuant to Part 6, § IV, ¶ 13-15.F-G of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia. Any proceeding initiated due to failure to comply with terms will be considered a new matter, and an administrative fee and costs will be assessed.

Pursuant to Part 6, § IV, ¶ 13-9.E. of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia, the Clerk of the Disciplinary System shall assess costs.

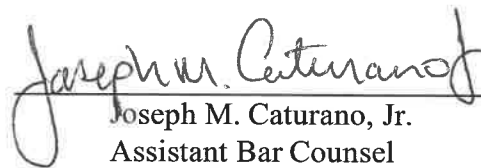
SIXTH DISTRICT SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE
VIRGINIA STATE BAR



Jane S. Chambers
Subcommittee Chair

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I certify that on September 10, 2024, a true and complete copy of the Subcommittee Determination (Public Reprimand with Terms) was sent by certified mail to Sheridan L. England, Respondent, at SL England, PLLC., 1800 Diagonal Road, #600, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, Respondent's last address of record with the Virginia State Bar, and by email to sheridan@slengland.com and to Jeffrey H. Geiger, Esquire, counsel for Respondent, at Sands Anderson, P.C., 919 East Main Street, Suite 2300, Richmond, Virginia 23218, and by email to jgeiger@sandsanderson.com.



Joseph M. Caturano, Jr.
Assistant Bar Counsel

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE SIXTH DISTRICT SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR

IN THE MATTER OF
SHERIDAN L. ENGLAND

VS B Docket No. 24-060-131453

AGREED DISPOSITION
PUBLIC REPRIMAND WITH TERMS

Pursuant to the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia, Part 6, § IV, ¶ 13-15.B.4, the Virginia State Bar, by Joseph M. Caturano, Jr., Esquire, Assistant Bar Counsel; Sheridan L. England (“Respondent”); and Jeffrey H. Geiger, Esquire, counsel for Respondent; hereby enter into the following Agreed Disposition arising out of the referenced matter.

I. STIPULATIONS OF FACT

1. Respondent was licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia in 2018. At all times referenced herein, Respondent has been licensed and in good standing.
2. On March 8, 2022, Paul Tramontano (“Mr. Tramontano”) hired Respondent for representation in a criminal matter (GC22-469) in the City of Alexandria.
3. On March 18, 2022, a Preliminary Protective Order (GV22-725-00) was served upon Mr. Tramontano. At some point, Mr. Tramontano notified Respondent of the Preliminary Protective Order. The Preliminary Protective Order identified a hearing date of March 24, 2022; Respondent and Mr. Tramontano went to the courthouse that day, but they did not see that the matter was to proceed after checking both the posted docket and with an attorney with the Commonwealth’s Attorney Office. As a result, neither Respondent nor Mr. Tramontano appeared at the hearing. A Protective Order was entered against Mr. Tramontano at that time in the General District Court of the City of Alexandria.
4. On June 22, 2022, Respondent negotiated a plea agreement on behalf of Mr. Tramontano with the prosecutor in the criminal matter. The plea deal included, among other things, six months supervised probation, and a Protective Order for two years in duration.
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9. On August 3, 2023, Mr. Tramontano was arraigned on the two felonies in Hanover County, and thereafter Mr. Tramontano terminated Respondent from any further representation. The charges were subsequently *nolle prossed*.

II. NATURE OF MISCONDUCT

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

As Respondent failed to thoroughly review and explain the specifics of the plea agreement to his client, specifically, whether the Protective Order was one year or two years in duration, Respondent failed to apply the thoroughness and preparation reasonably necessary for the representation, Respondent thus violated RPC 1.1¹

Rule 1.1 Competence

A lawyer shall provide competent representation to a client. Competent representation requires the legal knowledge, skill, thoroughness and preparation reasonably necessary for the representation.

As Respondent failed to act with reasonable diligence in noting court dates and noting and explaining the specific terms of the plea agreement and court order, critical for his client's full compliance in a serious criminal matter, including but not limited to, the duration of the Protective Order, Respondent violated RPC 1.3(a).

Rule 1.3 Diligence

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

¹ Italicized language is for explanatory purposes only.

III. PROPOSED DISPOSITION

Accordingly, Assistant Bar Counsel, Respondent, and Counsel for Respondent, tender to a Subcommittee of the Sixth District Committee for its approval the Agreed Disposition of a Public Reprimand with Terms as representing an appropriate sanction if this matter were to be heard through an evidentiary hearing by the Sixth District Committee.

1. NO FURTHER MISCONDUCT

For a period of one (1) year following the entry of the Subcommittee Determination, Respondent will not engage in any conduct that violates the Virginia Rules of Professional Conduct, including any amendments thereto, and/or which violates any analogous provisions, and any amendments thereto, of the disciplinary rules of another jurisdiction in which Respondent may be admitted to practice law. The terms contained in this paragraph will be deemed to have been violated when any ruling, determination, judgment, order, or decree has been issued against Respondent by a disciplinary tribunal in Virginia or elsewhere, containing a finding that Respondent has violated one or more provisions of the Rules of Professional Conduct referred to above, *provided, however*, that the conduct upon which such finding was based occurred within the period referred to above, and provided, further, that such ruling has become final.

2. MCLE

Within six (6) months of the service of the Subcommittee Determination in this matter, Respondent will complete six (6) hours of continuing legal education credits by attending courses approved by the Virginia State Bar in the subject matter of legal ethics. Respondent's Continuing Legal Education attendance obligation set forth in this paragraph will not be applied toward his Mandatory Continuing Legal Education requirement in Virginia or any other jurisdictions in which Respondent may be licensed to practice law. Respondent will certify his compliance with the terms set forth in this paragraph by delivering a fully and properly executed Virginia MCLE Board Certification of Attendance form (Form 2) to Assistant Bar Counsel, promptly following his attendance of each such CLE program(s).

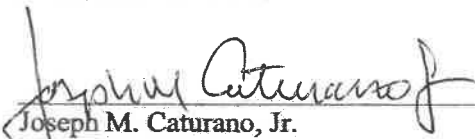
If any of the terms are not met, Respondent agrees that the District Committee shall impose an alternative sanction pursuant to Part 6, § IV, ¶ 13-15.F-G of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia. Any proceeding initiated due to failure to comply with terms will be

considered a new matter, and an administrative fee and costs will be assessed pursuant to ¶ 13-9.E of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia.


If the agreed disposition is approved, the Clerk of the Disciplinary System shall assess costs.

Pursuant to Part 6, § IV, ¶ 13-30.B of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia, Respondent's prior disciplinary record shall be furnished to the Subcommittee considering this Agreed Disposition.

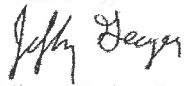
THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR



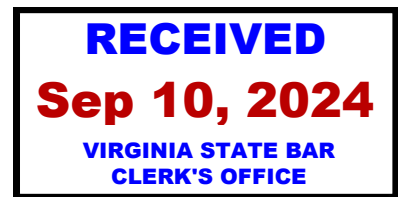
Joseph M. Caturano, Jr.
Assistant Bar Counsel, Virginia State Bar



Sheridan A. England
Respondent



Jeffrey H. Geiger, Esquire
Counsel for Respondent



Virginia State Bar

SIXTH DISTRICT COMMITTEE

PLEASE REPLY TO:
Joanne Fronfelter, Clerk
1111 East Main Street, Suite 700
Richmond, Virginia 23219-0026

September 10, 2024

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL & EMAIL: sheridan@slengland.com

Sheridan Leigh England
SL England PLLC
1800 Diagonal Road, 600
Alexandria, VA 22314

Re: In the Matter of Sheridan Leigh England
VSB Docket No. 24-060-131453

Dear Mr. England:

Enclosed is a Subcommittee Determination (Public Reprimand with Terms) hereby served on you by the Sixth District Subcommittee of the Virginia State Bar.

Please be aware that this disposition will become a part of your disciplinary record.

Pursuant to Part 6, Section IV, Paragraph 13-15.F. and 13-15.G. of the Rules of the Virginia Supreme Court, if you fail to comply with the terms by the dates indicated in the Subcommittee Determination, the alternative disposition may be imposed. Imposition of the alternative sanction may involve a public show cause notice and a public hearing pursuant to Part Six, Section IV, Paragraph 13-15.F and 13-16.BB of the Rules of Court.

Sincerely,

Jane Sherman Chambers
Subcommittee Chair

Enclosure

cc: Jeffrey Hamilton Geiger, Respondent's Counsel
Paul Anthony Tramontano, Complainant
Joanne Fronfelter, Clerk of the Disciplinary System
Joseph M. Caturano Jr., Assistant Bar Counsel
Ed Bosak, Investigator