

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE FIFTH DISTRICT, SECTION I SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR

IN THE MATTER OF
ELIZABETH S. HORN

VSJ Docket No. 26-051-137037

SUBCOMMITTEE DETERMINATION
(PUBLIC REPRIMAND WITHOUT TERMS)

On April 6, 2026, a meeting in this matter was held before a duly convened Fifth District, Section I Subcommittee consisting of Craig Alan Guthery, Esq, Chair; Staci Holloway Figueroa, Esq., Member; and Jennifer L. Neel, Lay Member. During the meeting, the Subcommittee voted to approve an agreed disposition for a Public Reprimand without 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 Richard W. Johnson Jr., Assistant Bar Counsel, and Elizabeth S. Horn (“Respondent”), pro se.

WHEREFORE, the Fifth District, Section I Subcommittee of the Virginia State Bar hereby serves upon Respondent the following Public Reprimand without Terms:

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent is an attorney admitted to practice in Louisiana and North Carolina. Respondent is not a member of the Virginia State Bar (“VSB”) and is not admitted to practice in Virginia.
2. On April 29, 2024, Diana Thomas (“Thomas”) hired Respondent to work at her Fairfax law firm, Thomas Law. Respondent billed at an hourly rate of \$450 per hour.
3. Respondent worked remotely from her home in Winston Salem, North Carolina.
4. In July 2024, Thomas noted her appearance as plaintiff’s counsel in the matter of *Melanie Dos Reis v. David Baum, et al*, (“Dos Reis matter”) a business litigation matter in Fairfax Circuit Court. Shirley Steinbach (“Complainant”) was one of two opposing counsels in the Dos Reis matter.

5. On August 13, 2024, Respondent submitted to Complainant “Plaintiff’s Objections and Responses to Defendant Baum’s First Set of Interrogatories.” Respondent endorsed the discovery response:

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Elizabeth S. Horn
D. Margeaux Thomas (VA Bar # 75582)
Elizabeth S. Horn (*pro hac vice* pending)
THE THOMAS LAW OFFICE PLC
11130 Fairfax Boulevard, Suite 200
Fairfax, Virginia 22030
Telephone: 703.957.2577
Email: mthomas@thomaslawplc.com
ehorn@thomaslawplc.com
Counsel of record for Plaintiff Melanie Dos Reis derivatively on behalf of Dos Reis & Baum LLC; for Melanie Dos Reis derivatively on behalf of Kelly and Company, LLC; and for Melanie Dos Reis directly

6. Respondent also endorsed the certificate of service in identical fashion.
7. On August 13, 2024, Respondent submitted “Plaintiff’s Objections And Responses To Defendant Baum’s First Set of Requests for Production.” Respondent endorsed the discovery response and the certificate.
8. On August 15, 2024, Respondent submitted “Plaintiff’s Supplemental Objections And Responses To Defendant Baum’s First Set of Interrogatories.” Respondent endorsed the discovery response and the certificate
9. In each of the above discovery response submitted to Complainant, Respondent’s signature block stated “*pro hac vice* pending”:

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Elizabeth S. Horn
D. Margeaux Thomas (VA Bar # 75582)
Elizabeth S. Horn (*pro hac vice* pending)
THE THOMAS LAW OFFICE PLC
11130 Fairfax Boulevard, Suite 200
Fairfax, Virginia 22030
Telephone: 703.957.2577
Email: mthomas@thomaslawplc.com
ehorn@thomaslawplc.com
Counsel of record for Plaintiff Melanie Dos Reis derivatively on behalf of Dos Reis & Baum LLC; for Melanie Dos Reis derivatively on behalf of Kelly and Company, LLC; and for Melanie Dos Reis directly

10. As of August 15, 2025, Thomas had not filed a Motion for Admission *Pro Hac Vice* on behalf of Horn in the Dos Reis matter. Respondent was not admitted *pro hac vice* in the Dos Reis matter.

11. On September 20, 2024, Respondent and Thomas filed a Motion for Admission *Pro Hac Vice*.
12. On December 23, 2024, Respondent and Thomas withdrew from the Dos Reis matter prior to the Motion for Admission *Pro Hac Vice* prior to the motion being heard.

II. NATURE OF MISCONDUCT

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

RULE 8.5 Disciplinary Authority; Choice Of Law

(a) **Disciplinary Authority.** A lawyer admitted to practice in this jurisdiction is subject to the disciplinary authority of Virginia, regardless of where the lawyer's conduct occurs. A lawyer not admitted in Virginia is also subject to the disciplinary authority of Virginia if the lawyer provides, holds himself out as providing, or offers to provide legal services in Virginia. By doing so, such lawyer consents to the appointment of the Clerk of the Supreme Court of Virginia as his or her agent for purposes of notices of any disciplinary action by the Virginia State Bar. A lawyer may be subject for the same conduct to the disciplinary authority of Virginia and any other jurisdiction where the lawyer is admitted.

(b) **Choice of Law.** In any exercise of the disciplinary authority of Virginia, the rules of professional conduct to be applied shall be as follows:

- (1) for conduct in connection with a proceeding in a court, agency, or other tribunal before which a lawyer appears, the rules to be applied shall be the rules of the jurisdiction in which the court, agency, or other tribunal sits, unless the rules of the court, agency, or other tribunal provide otherwise[.]

By providing legal services in Virginia and engaging in conduct in connection with a proceeding in Fairfax County, Virginia, Respondent is subject to the disciplinary authority pursuant to Rule of Professional Conduct 8.5(a) and subject to the Virginia Rules of Professional Conduct pursuant to Rule 8.5(b)(1).

RULE 4.1 Truthfulness In Statements To Others

In the course of representing a client a lawyer shall not knowingly:

- (a) make a false statement of fact or law[.]

By stating in the signature block of submitted discovery responses to opposing counsel that “pro hac vice” was pending when no Motion for Admission Pro Hac Vice had been filed, Respondent violated Rule 4.1(a) of the Rules of Professional Conduct.

RULE 5.5 Unauthorized Practice Of Law; Multijurisdictional Practice of Law

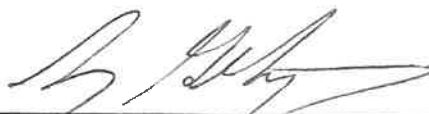
(c) A lawyer shall not practice law in a jurisdiction in violation of the regulation of the legal profession in that jurisdiction, or assist another in doing so.

By endorsing the pleadings "Plaintiff's Objections And Responses To Defendant Baum's First Set of Requests for Production" and "Plaintiff's Supplemental Objections And Responses To Defendant Baum's First Set of Interrogatories" while not licensed to practice law in Virginia and while employed at a Thomas Law, Respondent violated Rule 5.5(c) of the Rules of Professional Conduct.

III. PUBLIC REPRIMAND WITHOUT TERMS

Accordingly, it is the decision of the Subcommittee to impose a Public Reprimand without Terms, and Elizabeth S. Horn is so reprimanded. 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.

FIFTH DISTRICT, SECTION I SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR



Craig Alan Guthery
Subcommittee Chair

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on April 29, 2026, a true and complete copy of the foregoing Subcommittee Determination was sent to Elizabeth S. Horn, Respondent, by certified mail at 933 West Salem, Winston-Salem, NC 27101, Respondent's last address of record with the Virginia State Bar, and by email to elizabeth.s.horn@gmail.com.



Richard W. Johnson Jr.
Assistant Bar Counsel

VIRGINIA:

**BEFORE THE FIFTH DISTRICT, SECTION I SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR**

**IN THE MATTER OF
ELIZABETH S. HORN**

VSB Docket No. 26-051-137037

**AGREED DISPOSITION
PUBLIC REPRIMAND WITHOUT TERMS**

Pursuant to the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia, Part 6, Section IV, Paragraph 13-15.B.4, the Virginia State Bar, by Richard W. Johnson Jr., Assistant Bar Counsel, and Elizabeth S. Horn, Respondent, pro se, enter into the following agreed disposition arising out of this matter.

I. STIPULATIONS OF FACT

1. Respondent is an attorney admitted to practice in Louisiana and North Carolina. Respondent is not a member of the Virginia State Bar (“VSB”) and is not admitted to practice in Virginia.
2. On April 29, 2024, Diana Thomas (“Thomas”) hired Respondent to work at her Fairfax law firm, Thomas Law. Respondent billed at an hourly rate of \$450 per hour.
3. Respondent worked remotely from her home in Winston Salem, North Carolina.
4. In July 2024, Thomas noted her appearance as plaintiff’s counsel in the matter of *Melanie Dos Reis v. David Baum, et al*, (“Dos Reis matter”) a business litigation matter in Fairfax Circuit Court. Shirley Steinbach (“Complainant”) was one of two opposing counsels in the Dos Reis matter.
5. On August 13, 2024, Respondent submitted to Complainant “Plaintiff’s Objections and Responses to Defendant Baum’s First Set of Interrogatories.” Respondent endorsed the discovery response:

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Elizabeth S. Horn
D. Margeaux Thomas (VA Bar # 75582)
Elizabeth S. Horn (*pro hac vice* pending)
THE THOMAS LAW OFFICE PLC
11130 Fairfax Boulevard, Suite 200
Fairfax, Virginia 22030
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Counsel of record for Plaintiff Melanie Dos Reis derivatively on behalf of Dos Reis & Baum LLC; for Melanie Dos Reis derivatively on behalf of Kelly and Company, LLC; and for Melanie Dos Reis directly

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/s/ Elizabeth S. Horn
D. Margeaux Thomas (VA Bar # 75582)
Elizabeth S. Horn (*pro hac vice* pending)
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III. PROPOSED DISPOSITION

Accordingly, Assistant Bar Counsel and Respondent tender to a subcommittee of the Fifth District, Section I Committee for its approval the agreed disposition of a Public Reprimand without Terms as representing an appropriate sanction if this matter were to be heard through an evidentiary hearing by the Fifth District, Section I Committee.

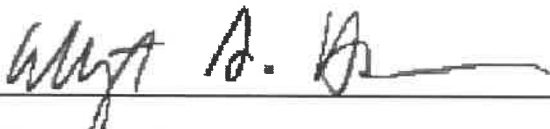
If the agreed disposition is approved, the Clerk of the Disciplinary System shall assess costs.

Pursuant to Part 6, Section IV, Paragraph 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.

VIRGINIA STATE BAR



Richard W. Johnson Jr.
Assistant Bar Counsel



Elizabeth S. Horn
Respondent



RECEIVED
Apr 29, 2026
VIRGINIA STATE BAR
CLERK'S OFFICE

Virginia State Bar

FIFTH DISTRICT, SECTION I COMMITTEE

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

April 29, 2026

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL & EMAIL: elizabeth.s.horn@gmail.com

Elizabeth S. Horn
933 West Salem
Winston-Salem, NC 27101

Certified Article Number
9414 7266 9904 2248 6767 21
SENDER'S RECORD


Re: In the Matter of Elizabeth S. Horn
VSB Docket No. 26-051-137037

Dear Ms. Horn:

Enclosed is a Subcommittee Determination (Public Reprimand without Terms) hereby served on you by the Fifth District, Section I Subcommittee of the Virginia State Bar.

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

Sincerely,


Craig Alan Guthery
Subcommittee Chair

Enclosure

cc: Shirley May Steinbach, Complainant
Joanne Fronfelter, Clerk of the Disciplinary System
Richard W. Johnson Jr., Assistant Bar Counsel
Matthew Foley, Investigator