

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR DISCIPLINARY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF
ASHKIRA HASSAN MOHAMUD

VS B Docket No.: 25-000-133462

MEMORANDUM ORDER OF SUSPENSION

A panel of the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary Board (“Board”) heard this matter on November 15, 2024. Panel members included Alison G. M. Martin, Chair; Alan S. Anderson; Dawn E. Boyce; Yvonne S. Gibney; and Dr. Ted Smith, Lay Member. The Chair polled members of the panel as to whether any of them had any personal or financial interest that may affect, or may be reasonably perceived to affect, their ability to be impartial, to which inquiry each member responded in the negative.

Elizabeth L. Shoenfeld, Senior Assistant Bar Counsel represented the Virginia State Bar (“VSB”). Dale G. Mullen, Esquire represented Respondent Ashkira H. Mohamud (“Respondent”), who was present. Nicole Bemberis, law clerk with Whiteford, Taylor & Preston, was also present.

Jennifer L. Thomas, court reporter with Chandler & Halasz, P.O. Box 9349, Richmond, VA 23227, (804) 730-1222, after being duly sworn, reported the hearing and transcribed the proceedings.

The Clerk of the Disciplinary System (“Clerk”) timely sent all legal notices of the date and place in the manner prescribed by Part Six, Section IV, Paragraphs 13-12 and 13-18 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia (“*Rules*”).

This matter came before the Board upon the Rule to Show Cause & Pre-Hearing Order and Notice of Show Cause Hearing, pursuant to Part Six, Section IV, Paragraph 13-18.O of the *Rules*, which provides in relevant part that “whenever it appears that the Respondent has not complied with the Terms imposed [in a prior proceeding], Bar Counsel must serve notice requiring the

Respondent to show cause why the alternative disposition [specified in the prior proceeding] should not be imposed.” Paragraph 13-18.O further places the burden of proof on the Respondent to show compliance with the Terms by clear and convincing evidence and requires the Board to impose the alternative disposition “if the Respondent has failed to comply with the terms . . . as determined by the Board.”

Prior to the hearing at the final Prehearing Conference Call, the Chair admitted VSB Exhibits 1-9, and Respondent’s Exhibits 3, 6, and 8-11. The Chair took under advisement the VSB’s objection to Respondent’s Exhibit 5 but admitted the exhibit at the outset of the hearing following consultation with the other members of the panel.

At the outset of the hearing, the parties moved to close the hearing, pursuant to Part Six, Section IV, Paragraph 13-30.A.8 of the *Rules*, which motion the Board sustained for good cause shown. The Board also sealed the Findings of Fact for good cause shown and they are not made part of this document and are rather subject to review only by the parties, the Board, or a court of competent jurisdiction. The Board also excluded the witnesses on the motion of the parties.

The Board heard sworn testimony from the Respondent and Sarah Endres. The Board considered the testimony of witnesses and the exhibits introduced by the parties, heard arguments of counsel, and met in private to consider its decision.

I. DISPOSITION

Following deliberation in closed session of the evidence presented and argument of counsel, the Board reconvened in open session to announce that the Board finds that the Respondent has failed to prove by clear and convincing evidence that she complied with the terms of the Memorandum Order of Public Reprimand with Terms, entered on April 25, 2024, and that the alternative sanction should therefore be imposed.

II. SANCTION

Accordingly, it is **ORDERED** that the license of Respondent, Ashkira Hassan Mohamud, be and hereby is **SUSPENDED** for a period of **THREE YEARS**, effective November 15, 2024.

It is further **ORDERED** that as directed in the Board's November 15, 2024, Summary Order in this matter, Respondent must comply with the requirements of Part Six, Section IV, Paragraph 13-29 of the *Rules*. The Respondent shall forthwith give notice, by certified mail, of the Three-Year Suspension of Respondent's license to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia to all clients for whom she is currently handling matters and to all opposing Attorneys and presiding Judges in pending litigation. Respondent shall give such notice immediately and in no event later than 14 days of the effective date of the Suspension, 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 Suspension. 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 matters.

The Respondent shall also make appropriate arrangements for the disposition of matters then in her care in conformity with the wishes of her clients. It is further **ORDERED** that if the Respondent is not handling any client matters on the effective date of the Suspension, Respondent shall submit an affidavit to that effect to the Clerk within 60 days of the effective date of the Suspension. The Board shall decide all issues concerning the adequacy of the notice and arrangements required herein. The burden of proof shall be on the Respondent to show compliance. If the Respondent fails to show compliance, the Board may impose a sanction of

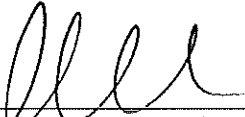
Revocation or additional Suspension for failure to comply with the requirements of subparagraph 13-29.

It is further **ORDERED** that pursuant to Part Six, Section IV, Paragraph 13-9.E of the Rules, 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 the Respondent by certified mail, return receipt requested, and by regular First-Class mail, to her address of record with the Virginia State Bar at the Law Office of Ashkira H. Mohamud, PLLC; 4029 Justine Drive; Annandale, Virginia 22003; and a copy by electronic mail to Dale G. Mullen and Michelle E. Hoffer, Respondent's Counsel, and to Elizabeth K. Schoenfeld, Senior Assistant Bar Counsel.

ENTERED this 20th day of November 2024

VIRGINIA STATE BAR DISCIPLINARY BOARD



Alison G. M. Martin, Chair