

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR DISCIPLINARY BOARD

**IN THE MATTER OF
WILLIAM HALE THOMPSON, JR.**

VSB DOCKET NO. 24-000-130322

**AGREED DISPOSITION MEMORANDUM ORDER
NOTICE OF SHOW CAUSE HEARING- FTC W/TERMS**

On Monday, December 11, 2023 this matter was heard, telephonically, by the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary Board upon the joint request of the parties for the Board to accept the Agreed Disposition signed by the parties and offered to the Board as provided by Part 6, Section IV, Paragraph 13-6.H of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia. The panel consisted of Kamala Lannetti, Chair, Reba Davis, Lay Member, Alan Anderson, Alexander Simon, and Robin Kegley. The Virginia State Bar was represented by Richard Johnson, Jr, Assistant Bar Counsel. William Hale Thompson, Jr. was present and was not represented by counsel. The Chair polled the members of the Board as to whether any of them were aware of any personal or financial interest or bias which would preclude any of them from fairly hearing the matter to which each member responded in the negative. Court Reporter, Lisa Wright from Chandler and Halasz, P.O. Box 9349, Richmond, Virginia 23227, telephone (804) 730-1222, after being duly sworn, reported the hearing and transcribed the proceedings.

WHEREFORE, upon consideration of the Agreed Disposition, the Certification, Respondent's Disciplinary Record, the arguments of the parties, and after due deliberation,

It is **ORDERED** that the Disciplinary Board accepts the Agreed Disposition, and the Respondent shall receive a six-month suspension, as set forth in the Agreed Disposition, which is attached and incorporated in this Memorandum Order.

It is further **ORDERED** that the sanction is effective January 1, 2024.

It is further **ORDERED** that:

The Respondent must comply with the requirements of Part 6, Section IV, Paragraph 13-29 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia. The Respondent shall forthwith give notice by certified mail of Suspension of his license to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia, to all clients for whom he is currently handling matters and to all opposing Attorneys and presiding Judges in pending litigation. The Respondent shall also make appropriate arrangements for the disposition of matters then in his care in conformity with the wishes of his clients. The 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 of the Disciplinary System of the Virginia State Bar 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.

It is further **ORDERED** that if the Respondent is not handling any client matters on the effective date of the Suspension, he shall submit an affidavit to that effect within 60 days of the effective date of the Suspension to the Clerk of the Disciplinary System at the Virginia State Bar. 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.



The Clerk of the Disciplinary System shall assess costs pursuant to Part 6, Section IV, Paragraph 13-9. E of the Rules.

It is further **ORDERED** that an attested copy of this Order be mailed to the Respondent by electronic, regular first-class and certified mail, return receipt requested, at his last address of record with the Virginia State Bar at, 2300 Wilson Blvd, Ste 700, Arlington, VA 22201, and a copy by electronic mail to Richard Johnson, Jr, Assistant Bar Counsel.

Enter this Order this 11th day of December, 2023

VIRGINIA STATE BAR DISCIPLINARY BOARD


Kamala Lannetti
Chair

 **A COPY TESTE**
Joanne "Jo" Fronfelter

Clerk of the Disciplinary System
Virginia State Bar

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR

IN THE MATTER OF
WILLIAM HALE THOMPSON, JR.

VSB Docket No. 24-000-130322

AGREED DISPOSITION
(SIX MONTH SUSPENSION)

Pursuant to the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia, Part 6, Section IV, Paragraph 13-6.H, the Virginia State Bar, by Richard W. Johnson, Jr., Assistant Bar Counsel and William Hale Thompson, Jr., Respondent, hereby enter into the following Agreed Disposition arising out of this matter.

1. STIPULATIONS OF FACT

1. At all relevant times, Respondent was licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
2. On October 18, 2022, the Disciplinary Board of the Virginia State Bar accepted an Agreed Disposition entered into between William Hale Thomspson, Jr. ("Respondent"), and Assistant Bar Counsel imposing a public reprimand with terms in VSB Docket No. 21-041-121592.
3. Term 1 of the Public Reprimand with Terms provides as follows:

On or before one (1) year following approval of this agreed disposition by the Disciplinary Board, 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 Trust Accounting and/or Law Office Management. 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 Bar Counsel, promptly following his attendance of each such CLE program(s).
4. As of the date of this Agreement, the Office of Bar Counsel has not received completed Form 2's certifying attendance at six (6) hours of additional continuing legal education.

5. Term 4 of the Public Reprimand with Terms provides as follows:

Within thirty (30) days from the approval of this agreed disposition by the Disciplinary Board, Respondent, at his sole cost and expense, will engage the services of a CPA (Certified Public Accountant) (a) who will certify familiarity with the requirements of Rule 1.15 of the Rules of Professional Conduct, and (b) who has been pre-approved by Bar Counsel to review Respondent's attorney trust account record-keeping, accounting, and reconciliation methods and procedures to ensure compliance with Rule 1.15 of the Rules of Professional Conduct. In the event the CPA determines that Respondent is in compliance with Rule 1.15, the CPA will so certify in writing to Respondent and Bar Counsel. In the event the CPA determines Respondent is NOT in compliance with Rule 1.15, the CPA will notify Respondent and Bar Counsel, in writing, of the measures Respondent must take to bring himself into compliance with Rule 1.15. Such certification or notification must be provided to Bar Counsel within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this order. Respondent will provide the CPA with a copy of this order at the outset of his engagement of the CPA.


6. Respondent engaged the services of Earl Peek ("Peek"), Certified Public Accountant. On July 13, 2022, Peek determined Respondent was not in compliance with Virginia Rule of Professional Conduct 1.15. In August 2023, Peek terminated his services for Respondent. Respondent has not engaged the services of a subsequent CPA.
7. Respondent acknowledged that he does not currently have a CPA engaged in his practice.
8. Respondent acknowledged that he has not met the Terms of the Agreed Disposition.
9. Pursuant to the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia, Part 6, Section IV, Paragraph 13-18.O, "[i]f the Respondent has failed to comply with the Terms, including written certification of compliance, if required, within the stated time period, as determined by the Board, the alternative disposition must be imposed."


III. PROPOSED DISPOSITION

Accordingly, bar counsel and Respondent tender to the Disciplinary Board for its approval the Agreed Disposition of six-month suspension as representing an appropriate sanction if this matter were to be heard through an evidentiary hearing by a panel of the Disciplinary Board. Bar counsel and Respondent agree that the effective date for the sanction shall be January 1, 2024.

If the Agreed Disposition is approved, the Clerk of the Disciplinary System shall assess costs pursuant to ¶ 13-9.E of the Rules.

THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR

By: 
Richard W. Johnson Jr.
Assistant Bar Counsel


William Hale Thompson, Jr.
Respondent