

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE FIRST DISTRICT COMMITTEE  
OF THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR

IN THE MATTER OF  
STEPHEN L. COMFORT

VSB DOCKET NO. 25-010-135150

DISTRICT COMMITTEE DETERMINATION  
(PUBLIC REPRIMAND)

On July 2, 2025, a hearing was held in this matter before a duly convened First District Committee panel consisting of Andrew Kellam, Lay Member; Edwin S. Booth, Esq.; Christopher Spinelli, Esq.; Lee Ann Anderson, Esq.; and Patrick Maurer, Esq., Chair presiding (collectively, “the Committee”).

During the hearing, the Committee voted to approve an Agreed Disposition for a Public Reprimand pursuant to Part 6, § IV, ¶ 13-7.A.9 and Part 6, § IV, ¶ 13-15.F of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia. The Agreed Disposition was entered into by the Virginia State Bar, by Seth T. Shelley, Assistant Bar Counsel, and Stephen L. Comfort, Respondent, *pro se*.

WHEREFORE, the First District Committee of the Virginia State Bar hereby serves upon Respondent the following Public Reprimand:

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent was admitted to the Virginia State Bar (“VSB”) in 1974. At all relevant times, Respondent was a member of the VSB.
2. On January 23, 2025, a First District Subcommittee of the Virginia State Bar accepted an Agreed Disposition entered into between Respondent and undersigned Bar Counsel imposing a Private Admonition with Terms in VSB Docket No. 24-010-132301.
3. Term 1 of the Private Admonition with Terms provides as follows:

On or before March 31, 2025, Respondent will complete two (2) hours of continuing legal education credits by attending courses approved by the Virginia State Bar in the subject matter of trust accounting. 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. Term 2 of the Private Admonition with Terms provides as follows:

Respondent will read in its entirety *Lawyers and Other People's Money*, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition; Virginia Legal Ethics Opinion 1606; and Virginia Legal Ethics Opinion 1899. Respondent will certify compliance in writing to Bar Counsel no later than 30 days following the date of entry of this Subcommittee Determination.

5. The alternative disposition if Respondent failed to meet any of the terms in VSB Docket No. 24-010-132301 is a Public Reprimand.
6. Respondent did not complete the required MCLE hours on or before March 31, 2025, and did not notify the VSB within 30 days of the Subcommittee Determination that he completed the required reading.

## II. NATURE OF MISCONDUCT

Such conduct by Respondent violates Part 6, § IV, ¶ 13-15.F of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia and the Subcommittee Determination dated January 24, 2025.

## III. PUBLIC REPRIMAND

Accordingly, having approved the Agreed Disposition, it is the decision of the Committee to impose a Public Reprimand, effective July 2, 2025.

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.

FIRST DISTRICT COMMITTEE  
OF THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR

By

  
Patrick Maurer  
Chair Designate

Seen: *and agreed*



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Seen and *Agreed* \_\_\_\_\_ :



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