

V I R G I N I A

BEFORE THE VIRGINIA STATE
BAR DISCIPLINARY BOARD

In re: LAWRENCE BRADFORD HASKIN
VSB docket # 05-000-4876

ORDER OF PUBLIC REPRIMAND

THIS MATTER came on to be heard upon proper Notice on August 26, 2005.

Members of the panel for this hearing were J. Rudy Austin, Leonard L. Brown, Jr., Dennis R. Gallagher (lay member) Gordon P. Peyton, and Joseph R. Lassiter, Jr. (Acting Chair). Prior to the hearing the Chair inquired of each member of the panel whether any conflict of interest existed and each member responded on the record in the negative. Paul D. Georgiadis, Assistant Bar Counsel, appeared for the Virginia State Bar. The Respondent, Lawrence Bradford Haskin, did not appear in person but was represented at the hearing by his guardian *ad litem*, Frank George Uvanni. These proceedings were transcribed by Donna T. Chandler, RPR, RMR, RCR of Chandler and Halasz, P.O. Box 9349, Richmond, Virginia 23227 (804) 730-1222.

This matter concerns an alleged violation by the Respondent of Part Six, Section IV, paragraph 13.M of the Rules of The Supreme Court of Virginia. This section sets out the duties of a disbarred or suspended attorney, specifically that he or she give a Notice, within fourteen (14) days of the effective date of the Order of Suspension to all clients, opposing attorneys and presiding judges. On February 28, 2003, the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary Board issued an Order of Indefinite Suspension for Disability suspending Respondent Haskin's license to practice law. With the Order of Indefinite Suspension, the Board also caused the Respondent to be served with a letter setting forth Respondent's duties of notice to clients,

opposing attorneys, and courts under Part Six, Section IV, Paragraph 13.M of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia, and informed Respondent that he must provide the Clerk of the Disciplinary System with proof of compliance with Paragraph 13.M by April 29, 2003. The Clerk's letter of February 28, 2003, also forwarded to Respondent sample form letters for his use in complying with Paragraph 13.M. The Clerk's letter, sent to Respondent's address of record with the Virginia State Bar, was received on March 1, 2003. Having received no proof of compliance with Paragraph 13.M, on May 6, 2003, the Clerk sent Respondent a letter advising that she had not received proof of compliance and that a show cause proceeding may be initiated against him. The letter was sent to Respondent's address of record with the Virginia State Bar, and to Respondent's then Guardian *ad litem* Elliott P. Park, Esquire. On May 14, 2003, Assistant Bar Counsel Richard E. Slaney sent Respondent a follow-up reminder urging Respondent to comply and citing a recent revocation of another attorney for failure to comply with Paragraph 13.M.

Christine Condon, a former client of Respondent, testified that after she retained the Respondent she moved to California, and she did receive a letter from him stating that he was entering disability status with the Virginia State Bar, although not in the required form. Jeal Willard, also a former client, testified that he had retained the Respondent for a personal injury case in March 2002, but had lost contact with him and had no notice of Respondent's disability. Gene Reagan, a Virginia State Bar Investigator, testified that he had interviewed Respondent prior to his suspension and the Respondent was so severely depressed that he could not even get out of bed some mornings. The Investigator returned in 2004 and the Respondent apparently said he "felt 100% better."

The Respondent's current guardian *ad litem*, Mr. Uvanni, advised the Board that he had great difficulty communicating with the Respondent, and that he was "distracted and difficult to follow."

The Board retired to determine whether there had been a violation. The Board finds from the evidence before us that there is, in fact, a violation of 13.M. The Board then heard evidence as to sanctions. The Bar introduced no current medical evidence. In July, 2005, the Bar dismissed for "exceptional circumstances" certain complaints pending against Respondent due to his disability. The Board finds that there is a paucity of medical information; that which the Board has before it could reasonably be interpreted to indicate that the Respondent had diminished capacity to comply because of his disability. We therefore impose a Public Reprimand.

Pursuant to Part Six, Section IV, Paragraph 13.B.8.c. of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia, the Clerk of the Disciplinary System shall assess all costs against the Respondent.

A copy teste shall be served by certified mail, return receipt requested, upon the Respondent, Lawrence Bradford Haskin, at his address of record with the Virginia State Bar, 1816 Duke of Norfolk Quay, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23454; by regular mail to his guardian *ad litem*, Frank George Uvanni, 9410 Atlee Commerce Boulevard, Ashland, Virginia, 23005 and by hand to Paul D. Georgiadis, Assistant Bar Counsel, at 707 East Main Street, Suite 1500, Richmond, Virginia, 23219.

ENTERED this 28 day of September, 2005.

THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR
DISCIPLINARY BOARD

By: _____
Joseph R. Lassiter, Jr.
Acting Chair

