

V I R G I N I A

BEFORE THE VIRGINIA STATE  
BAR DISCIPLINARY BOARD

In re: CATHERINE ANN LEE  
VSB DOCKET # 05-000-3966

**IMPAIRMENT SUSPENSION ORDER**

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. Barbara Ann Williams, Bar Counsel, appeared for the Virginia State Bar (hereinafter "VSB" or "Bar"). The Respondent, Catherine Ann Lee, did not appear in person but was represented at the hearing by her attorney, Michael L. Rigsby. 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.

The matter comes before the Board on the Bar's Petition for an Expedited Hearing on an Impairment Suspension pursuant to Part Six, Section IV, Paragraph 13.I.6. In April, 2005, the Bar initiated an investigation to determine whether Ms. Lee is impaired as defined in Paragraph 13 cited above. On April 29, 2005, the Bar filed a Petition for Disability Examination and Releases for various psychiatric, psychological and medical records. At a hearing on May 20, the matter was continued generally after Ms. Lee agreed to submit to an impairment examination and release of the requested records. Bar Counsel represented to the panel that Ms. Lee was indeed severely impaired, and introduced into evidence a copy of

various reports and correspondence which establish Ms. Lee's disability. Counsel for Respondent advised the Board that Ms. Lee had recently admitted herself to a program designed for professionals suffering from alcohol and substance abuse addictions. Counsel urged the Board to continue the hearing until Ms. Lee completes her rehabilitation program and to then assess her disability.

The panel retired to consider the evidence. Having reconvened, the Board announced its finding and Ordered that Ms. Lee's license to practice law be suspended indefinitely, effective August 26, 2005, pursuant to Part Six, Section IV, Paragraph 13.I.6, until such time as she is able to prove by clear and convincing evidence that she is no longer impaired.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED pursuant to Part Six, Section IV, Paragraph 13 (M) of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia, the Respondent shall forthwith give notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, of the suspension of her 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. The Respondent shall also make appropriate arrangements for the disposition of matters then in her care in conformity with the wishes of her clients. Respondent shall give such notice within 14 days of the effective date of the suspension, and make such arrangements as are required herein within 45 days of the effective date of the suspension. The Respondent shall also furnish proof to the Bar within 60 days of the effective date of the suspension that such notices have been timely given and such arrangements 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 her suspension, she shall submit an affidavit to that effect to the Clerk of the Disciplinary System at the Virginia State Bar. All issues concerning the adequacy of

the notice and arrangements required by Paragraph 13 (M) shall be determined by the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary Board, unless the Respondent makes a timely request for hearing before a three-judge court.

A copy teste shall be served by certified mail, return receipt requested, upon the Respondent, Catherine Ann Lee, Esquire, at Linda J. Woods, P.C., 103 East Williamsburg Road, Sandston, Virginia 23150-1634, and by regular mail to her counsel, Michael L. Rigsby, Esquire, Carrell Rice & Rigsby, 7275 Glen Forest Drive, Forest Plaza II, Suite 309, Richmond, Virginia 23226, 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

