



VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE FOURTH DISTRICT, SECTION I SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR

IN THE MATTER OF
Todd Russell Lewis

VSb Docket No. 17-041-109047

SUBCOMMITTEE DETERMINATION
(PUBLIC REPRIMAND WITHOUT TERMS)

On June 04, 2020 a meeting was held in this matter before a duly convened Fourth District, Section I Subcommittee consisting of Jason Lee McCandless, Chair presiding; Elizabeth Lauwaert Tuomey, Member; and Barbara L. Kelley, Lay Member. During the meeting, the Subcommittee voted to approve an agreed disposition for a Public Reprimand without Terms pursuant to Part 6, § IV, ¶ 13-15.B.4 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia. The agreed disposition was entered into by the Virginia State Bar, by Shelley Spalding, Assistant Bar Counsel, and Todd Russell Lewis, Respondent, and Leslie Ann Takacs Haley, Esquire, counsel for Respondent.

WHEREFORE, the Fourth District, Section I Subcommittee of the Virginia State Bar hereby serves upon Respondent the following Public Reprimand without Terms:

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. At all relevant times Respondent Todd Russell Lewis ("Respondent") was an attorney licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
2. In March 2014, Respondent filed a Chapter 7 bankruptcy petition in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Maryland on behalf of Craig and ArRee Price (the "Prices").

3. During the representation, Respondent was unprofessional in his interactions with the Chapter 7 Trustee and failed to correct known inaccuracies in the Prices' bankruptcy schedules.
4. As a result, the Chapter 7 Trustee sought a court order compelling the amendment of the Prices' schedules, which Respondent unreasonably opposed. The court entered an order compelling the amendment of the schedules.
5. After the Price's case was converted to Chapter 13, Respondent failed to submit required documentation to the Trustee, however Respondent contends that the Prices did not provide the required documentation to him.
6. The court dismissed the Prices' bankruptcy petition.
7. The professional misconduct in this matter was not the result of any willful or dishonest conduct.

II. NATURE OF MISCONDUCT

Such conduct by Respondent constitutes misconduct in violation of the following provisions of the Rules of Professional Conduct:

RULE 19-301.1. COMPETENCE (1.1)

An attorney shall provide competent representation to a client. Competent representation requires the legal knowledge, skill, thoroughness and preparation reasonably necessary for the representation.

RULE 19-301.3. DILIGENCE (1.3)

An attorney shall act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client.

RULE 19-301.15. SAFEKEEPING PROPERTY (1.15)


(a) An attorney shall hold property of clients or third persons that is in an attorney's possession in connection with a representation separate from the attorney's own property. Funds shall be kept in a separate account maintained pursuant to Title 19, Chapter 400 of the Maryland Rules, and records shall be created and maintained in accordance with the Rules in that Chapter. Other property shall be identified specifically as such and appropriately safeguarded, and records of its receipt and distribution shall be created and maintained. Complete records of the account funds and of other property shall be kept by the attorney and shall be preserved for a period of at least five years after the date the record was created.

III. PUBLIC REPRIMAND WITHOUT TERMS

Accordingly, having approved the agreed disposition, it is the decision of the Subcommittee to impose a Public Reprimand without Terms and Todd Russell Lewis is hereby so reprimanded.

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.


FOURTH DISTRICT, SECTION I SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR

By: 

Jason Lee McCandless
Subcommittee Chair

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I certify that on June 17, 2020, a true and complete copy of the Subcommittee Determination (Public Reprimand without Terms) was sent by certified mail to Todd Russell Lewis, Respondent, at Lewis Law LC, 2200 Wilson Blvd, Ste 102-50, Arlington, VA 22201, Respondent's last address of record with the Virginia State Bar, and by first class mail, postage prepaid to Leslie Ann Takacs Haley, counsel for Respondent, at Park Haley LLP, 1011 E Main St Suite 300, Richmond, VA 23219-3537.



Shelley Spalding
Assistant Bar Counsel

6/16/20