

Recent Developments in Attorney Discipline

TOM SCOTT, ESQ.



Virginia Disciplinary Statistics

Complaints Received:

- 2,350 FY 2024 as of April 22, 2024
- 3,046 FY 2023
- 3,115 FY 2022
- 2,924 FY 2021
- 3,091 FY 2020
- 3,123 FY 2019
- 3,156 FY 2018
- 3,304 FY 2017
- 3,162 FY 2016
- 3,346 FY 2015
- 3,546 FY 2014

FY 2024

66.8% were resolved summarily at the initial Intake level after review and evaluation

14% were resolved through proactive investigations by Intake.

17.8% were formally opened and assigned to bar counsel for investigation.

Most
Common
Practice
Areas For
Open Cases

Family Law

Criminal Law

Civil Litigation

Estate Planning

Real Estate

Most Commonly Violated Rules

| Public Discipline – 54 ¹ | Private Discipline – 35 |
|---|---|
| • Competence/Diligence – 19 | • Competence/Diligence – 15 |
| • Trust Accounting/Safekeeping of Property – 9 | • Trust Accounting/Safe Keeping of Property – 8 |
| • Criminal or Deliberately Wrongful Conduct – 6 | • Fees – 4 |
| • Dishonesty – 5 | • Deliberately Wrongful Conduct – 2 |
| • Reciprocal – 3 | • Decline or Term Rep – 2 |
| • UPL – 3 | • Fairness to Opposing Party & Counsel – 1 |
| • Terms Violation – 2 | • Meritorious Claims & Contentions – 1 |
| • Fees – 2 | • UPL – 1 |
| • 13-29 - Duties of Disbarred or Suspended Respondent – 2 | • Failure to Supervise – 1 |
| • Fairness to Opposing Party & Counsel – 1 | |
| • Communication with Persons Rep'd by Counsel – 1 | |
| • Judicial Officials – 1 | |

May 17, 2021 Grand Jury

The Grand Jury charges that, in the County of Henrico,

MATTHEW CLAY PINSKER

on or about February 5, 2021, ~~feloniously~~ ^{an adult female} did sexually abuse K.B., ^{by force threat or intimidation} through the use of the complaining witness's ~~mental incapacity or physical helplessness~~, in violation of §18.2-67.3 of the Code of Virginia. _{67.4}

Witness sworn and sent by the
Court to the Grand Jury to give evidence.

D. E. Stone - 730

Henrico Police Department 210209176

☒ **A True Bill**

☐ **Not a True Bill**

6-6-2022
amended
to sexual
battery, a class
1 misdemeanor

EDH
GAC

In the Matter of Matt Clay Pinsker
One-Year Suspension

In the Matter of Joshua DeBold Revocation

Mr. Debold then approached the doorway and stood in the threshold of the door and began to communicate with Officers. He stated, "I will literally kill you right now." As he said this, he was holding his right hand behind himself and appeared to be gripping something as his right arm muscles appeared clenched. His tone was highly elevated and agitated. The defendant refused to comply with orders to show his hands. He then told officers that he had a 10mm in his hand.

Lack of Supervision and Safekeeping Property Five-Year Suspension and Receivership

In the Matter of Gordon H. Shapiro, VSB Docket Nos.
22-080-124926, 23-080-127546, and 23-080-127937

- Agreed Disposition before Disciplinary Board

In re: Gordon H. Shapiro, Roanoke Circuit Court,
Case No.CL23-280

- Receivership Pursuant to Va. Code § 54.1-3936.B

Q Well, surely when you put it in your trust account you created a client ledger for it, did you not?

A I plead the Fifth.

In the Matter of Reginald Robert Yancey

One-Year and One-Day Suspension

In the Matters of Dale Reese Jensen

Revocation

In the Matter of Nema
Sayadian

Consent to
Revocation

4. On or about August 8, 2022, B&M offered Respondent a full-time salaried position. Respondent accepted and began employment on September 12, 2022.
5. Notwithstanding her acceptance of the position with B&M, Respondent accepted an attorney position at FR&R in late August 2022 with a start date of September 6, 2022. Respondent's pay was commission-based.

In the Matter of Chandra Harris Snyder

One-Year and One-Day Suspension

In the Matter
of Denis
Englisby

Three-Year
Suspension

JAMES - WE JUST FOUND YOU.

PLEASE START PAYING AT LEAST 100/MO

STARTING THIS MONTH - MARCH.

OR

WE WILL HAVE TO SUE YOU

FOR \$1041 PLUS COURT COSTS

Another form of suffering, perhaps more broadly damage inflicted, was pretty touchingly . . . stated by Ms. Rizzo. She's lost faith in the legal system. "What kind of system can let this happen?" That, too, is a form of damage.

In the Matters of Brittani Nata'lita Baldwin

Revocation

In the Matters of Duncan Brent

One Year and One Day
Suspension With Terms

I do want to give you an update, I just called Juan to let him know you will be calling, and he informed me that he called USCIS today and was told that they did not receive an application to renew his DACA. He contacted another organization, because he was not getting a response from us, and was told to call USCIS. He was also told that because his DACA expired over a year ago, he could be in jeopardy of losing his ability to renew. His DACA expired on 07/18/2020.

In the Matter of Astrid Lockwood

Revocation

In the Matter of Ashkira Mohamud Public Reprimand With Terms

I'm going to see to it that you are for a fact rot in prison next to all your lying conniving buddies with the police and court. You are a coward, a witch, a snake, and SUCCUBUS DEVIL. I pray you repent and turn in your law degree because people like you...women like you DON'T DESERVE IT. You know for a fact you retained me. I can't prove it but you and I both know the copy of that retainer was indeed stolen from my apartment. I pray for your sake that I'm never able to prove it. Go slide back under whatever filthy rock you and yours came from and go to hell. Do not ever contact me or go anywhere near anyone I know or love.

In the Matter of Jason
Meyer Krumbein

90-Day Suspension

In the Matter of John Vena, II

Five-Year Suspension of Privilege to Practice

THE CHAIR: Your tone of voice is not appropriate for a courtroom.

MR. VENA: Your actions are not appropriate.

THE CHAIR: Noted.

Now, Mr. Vena, I'm going to ask you to keep your tone of voice down. I appreciate that you have a very difficult proceeding in front of you and I've given you a lot of leeway today.

MR. VENA: No, you haven't.

THE CHAIR: I'm trying to work with you, but your tone of voice and your interruptions and your insult of witnesses, I find it's inappropriate.

MR. VENA: I haven't insulted her. She has no credibility. That's all I've ever said.

In the Matter of Barry
Ray Taylor

Revocation

In the Matter of John Edward
Williams

Public Reprimand

In the Matter of Patrick Edwards

60-Day Suspension, Then
Revocation

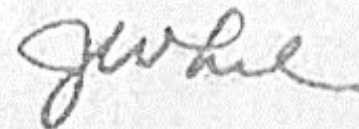
In the Matter of William Hale
Thompson

Six Month Suspension for Terms
Violation

In the Matters of
Christopher Louis
Contreras

Consent to
Revocation

ENTERED THIS ____ day of ____



JUDITH L. WHEAT
JUDGE

CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

I ASK FOR THIS:



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Clients Protection Fund

Monetary awards to persons who suffer **financial losses** due to **dishonest conduct** of Virginia lawyers

Covers lawyers who are **suspended** or **revoked** for disciplinary reasons OR **deceased** without sufficient resources to make petitioners whole.

Maximum payment: **\$75,000** per petitioner

Managed by **14-member board** of volunteers that investigates and decides all claims.



Thank you!

Your interest in these cases and collective, meaningful participation is critical to effective self-regulation.