



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

At a Regular Term of the Supreme Court of Appeals, continued and held at Charleston, Kanawha County, on September 14, 2016, the following order was made and entered:

Office of Disciplinary Counsel,
Petitioner

vs.) No. 16-0612

Richard E. Hardison, Jr., a member of
The West Virginia State Bar,
Respondent

ORDER

On June 27, 2016, came the Office of Disciplinary Counsel, by Rachael L. Fletcher Cipoletti, Chief Disciplinary Counsel, pursuant to Rule 3.27 of the Rules of Lawyer Disciplinary Procedure, and presented to the Court its petition seeking the immediate suspension of the respondent, Richard E. Hardison, Jr., Esq., and appointment of a lawyer to serve as trustee to protect the interests of respondent's clients. Thereafter, on July 21, 2016, the Office of Disciplinary Counsel, filed "Exhibit B" as a supplement to the petition. The respondent was provided notice of the charges and his right to a hearing upon request. A hearing request has not been filed in this matter.

On August 11, 2016, this Court entered an order authorizing the appointment of a trustee to protect the interests of respondent's clients.

Upon consideration, the Court is of the opinion that good cause exists to temporarily suspend the respondent's license to practice law in the State of West Virginia. It is therefore ordered that the respondent's license to practice law in the State of West Virginia shall be, and it hereby is, temporary suspended, effective immediately, and until the underlying disciplinary

proceedings before the Lawyer Disciplinary Board have completed. Justice Davis and Justice Workman did not participate in the consideration or decision of this matter.

Service of an attested copy of this order upon the Honorable H. L. Kirkpatrick III, the Office of Disciplinary Counsel, and Richard E. Hardison, Jr., shall constitute sufficient notice of the contents herein.

A True Copy

Attest: //s// Rory L. Perry II
Clerk of Court

