

VIRGINIA:

**BEFORE THE FOURTH DISTRICT, SECTION II SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR**

**IN THE MATTER OF
BRUCE ALLEN JOHNSON, JR.**

VSB Docket No. 24-042-131307

**SUBCOMMITTEE DETERMINATION
(PUBLIC REPRIMAND)**

On August 14, 2025, a meeting in this matter was held before a duly convened Fourth District, Section II Subcommittee consisting of Miles Jarrad Wright, Esq, Chair; Sean Peter Schmergel, Esq., Member; and William Earl Campbell, Lay Member. During the meeting, the Subcommittee voted to approve an agreed disposition for a Public Reprimand 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 Renu M. Brennan, Bar Counsel, and Bruce Allen Johnson, Jr. (“Respondent”), pro se.

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

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent was admitted to the Virginia State Bar (“VSB”) in 1994. At all relevant times, Respondent was a member of the VSB.
2. Effective February 16, 2024, upon a joint petition by Respondent, through his attorney, and the Attorney Grievance Commission of Maryland, the Maryland Supreme Court issued a suspended 60-day suspension of Respondent’s license to practice law in Maryland for ethical misconduct. See Exhibit 1, Order dated February 16, 2024, and Exhibit 2, Joint Petition for Sixty-Day Suspension Stayed in Favor of Twelve Months of Probation.
3. Respondent did not report this discipline from Maryland within 60 days, or at all, to the VSB.

II. NATURE OF MISCONDUCT

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

8.3 REPORTING MISCONDUCT

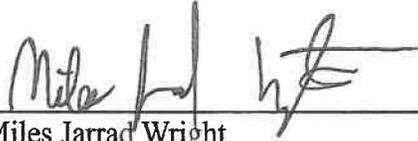
- (e) A lawyer shall inform the Virginia State Bar if:
- (1) the lawyer has been disciplined by a state or federal disciplinary authority, agency or court in any state, U.S. territory, or the District of Columbia, for a violation of rules of professional conduct in that jurisdiction;
 - (2) the lawyer has been convicted of a felony in a state, U.S. territory, District of Columbia, or federal court;
 - (3) the lawyer has been convicted of either a crime involving theft, fraud, extortion, bribery or perjury, or an attempt, solicitation or conspiracy to commit any of the foregoing offenses, in a state, U.S. territory, District of Columbia, or federal court.

The reporting required by paragraph (e) of this Rule shall be made in writing to the Clerk of the Disciplinary System of the Virginia State Bar not later than 60 days following entry of any final order or judgment of conviction or discipline.

III. PUBLIC REPRIMAND WITHOUT TERMS

Accordingly, it is the decision of the Subcommittee to impose a Public Reprimand and Bruce Allen Johnson, Jr. is 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 II SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR



Miles Jarrad Wright
Subcommittee Chair

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on August 29, 2025, a true and complete copy of the foregoing Subcommittee Determination was sent to Bruce Allen Johnson, Jr., Respondent, by certified mail at 950 North Washington Street Suite 344, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, Respondent's last address of record with the Virginia State Bar, and by email to bajjlaw@aol.com



Renu M. Brennan
Bar Counsel

VIRGINIA:

**BEFORE THE FOURTH DISTRICT, SECTION II SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR**

**IN THE MATTER OF
BRUCE ALLEN JOHNSON, JR.**

VSB Docket No. 24-042-131307

**AGREED DISPOSITION
PUBLIC REPRIMAND**

Pursuant to the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia, Part 6, Section IV, Paragraph 13-15.B.4, the Virginia State Bar, by Renu M. Brennan, Bar Counsel, and Bruce Allen Johnson, Jr., Respondent, pro se, enter into the following agreed disposition arising out of this matter.

I. STIPULATIONS OF FACT

1. Respondent was admitted to the Virginia State Bar (“VSB”) in 1994. At all relevant times, Respondent was a member of the VSB.
2. Effective February 16, 2024, upon a joint petition by Respondent, through his attorney, and the Attorney Grievance Commission of Maryland, the Maryland Supreme Court issued a suspended 60-day suspension of Respondent’s license to practice law in Maryland for ethical misconduct. See Exhibit 1, Order dated February 16, 2024, and Exhibit 2, Joint Petition for Sixty-Day Suspension Stayed in Favor of Twelve Months of Probation.
3. Respondent did not report this discipline from Maryland within 60 days, or at all, to the VSB.

II. NATURE OF MISCONDUCT

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

8.3 REPORTING MISCONDUCT

(e) A lawyer shall inform the Virginia State Bar if:

- (1) the lawyer has been disciplined by a state or federal disciplinary authority, agency or court in any state, U.S. territory, or the District of Columbia, for a violation of rules of professional conduct in that jurisdiction;

- (2) the lawyer has been convicted of a felony in a state, U.S. territory, District of Columbia, or federal court;
- (3) the lawyer has been convicted of either a crime involving theft, fraud, extortion, bribery or perjury, or an attempt, solicitation or conspiracy to commit any of the foregoing offenses, in a state, U.S. territory, District of Columbia, or federal court.

The reporting required by paragraph (e) of this Rule shall be made in writing to the Clerk of the Disciplinary System of the Virginia State Bar not later than 60 days following entry of any final order or judgment of conviction or discipline.

III. PROPOSED DISPOSITION

Accordingly, Bar Counsel and Respondent tender to a subcommittee of the Fourth District, Section II Committee for its approval the agreed disposition of a Public Reprimand as representing an appropriate sanction if this matter were to be heard through an evidentiary hearing by the Fourth District, Section II Committee.

If the agreed disposition is approved, the Clerk of the Disciplinary System shall assess costs.

Pursuant to Part 6, Section IV, Paragraph 13-30.B of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia, Respondent's prior disciplinary record shall be furnished to the subcommittee considering this agreed disposition.

VIRGINIA STATE BAR



Renu M. Brennan
Bar Counsel



Bruce Allen Johnson, Jr.
Respondent

ATTORNEY GRIEVANCE
COMMISSION OF MARYLAND

v.

BRUCE ALLEN JOHNSON, JR.

* IN THE
* SUPREME COURT
* OF MARYLAND
* AG No. 40
* September Term, 2023

ORDER

Upon consideration of the parties’ joint petition to suspend the respondent for 60 days, stayed in favor of 12 months of probation, in which respondent agrees that the conduct described in the petition violates Rules 19-301.1, 19-301.5, 19-301.7, 19-301.8, 19-301.15, and 19-308.4 of the Maryland Attorneys’ Rules of Professional Conduct, it is this 16th day of February 2024, by the Supreme Court of Maryland, a majority of the court concurring,

ORDERED that Bruce Allen Johnson, Jr. is suspended for 60 days from the practice of law in the State of Maryland; and it is further

ORDERED that the suspension is stayed in favor of 12 months of probation under the terms contained in the Probation Agreement.

/s/ Matthew J. Fader
Chief Justice



ATTORNEY GRIEVANCE COMMISSION
OF MARYLAND

Petitioner,

v.

BRUCE A. JOHNSON, JR.
10212 Balsam Poplar Place
Bowie, MD 20774

Respondent.

* IN THE
* SUPREME COURT
* OF MARYLAND
* SCM-AG-__-2023
* SCM-AG-0040-2023
*
*

**JOINT PETITION FOR SIXTY-DAY SUSPENSION,
STAYED IN FAVOR OF TWELVE MONTHS OF
PROBATION**

The Attorney Grievance Commission of Maryland, Petitioner, by Thomas M. DeGonia, Bar Counsel, and Jessica Hall, Deputy Bar Counsel, its attorneys, and Bruce A. Johnson, Jr., Respondent, through his attorney, Mark T. Foley, Esquire, pursuant to Maryland Rules 19-736 and 19-740(c), jointly petition this Honorable Court to suspend the Respondent from the practice of law in the State of Maryland for 60 days, stayed in favor of twelve months of probation with terms and conditions as set forth herein, and in support thereof state:

1. Bruce A. Johnson, Jr., Respondent, is a solo practitioner operating as the Law Offices of Bruce A. Johnson, Jr., in Prince George’s County Maryland.
2. The Respondent was admitted to the Bar of this Court on December 16, 1992.
3. On November 16, 2022, the Commission directed Bar Counsel to file a

Petition for Disciplinary or Remedial Action against the Respondent pursuant to Maryland Rule 19-721. The Petition has not yet been filed.

4. The Respondent submits his consent to a 60-day suspension from the practice of law with the knowledge that, if a hearing were held, sufficient clear and convincing evidence would be produced to establish the following facts:

Representation of Maxine Scott

On or about June 15, 2018, Maxine Scott, who was approximately 81 years old at the time, retained the Respondent to draft a revocable trust and transfer her home, located at 4407 Iowa Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20011 ("Iowa Avenue property"), into the trust. The Respondent agreed to represent Ms. Scott for a flat fee of \$2,000.00. On or about June 14, 2018, the Respondent deposited \$2,000.00 paid by Ms. Scott into his attorney trust account. On August 1, 2018, Ms. Scott executed the Maxine Scott Revocable Trust ("the Trust"). The Trust named the Respondent as Trustee and Ms. Scott's grandson, Antonio Scott, as the beneficiary upon Ms. Scott's death. In October 2018, the Iowa Avenue property was transferred into the Trust. In December 2019, Ms. Scott contacted the Respondent seeking representation to revoke the revocable trust and sell the Iowa Avenue property.

On or about January 15, 2020, Ms. Scott signed a retainer agreement, which provided that the Respondent would charge Ms. Scott hourly but failed to specify an hourly rate. The retainer agreement further provided that the Respondent would "be paid from the proceeds of the sale of the subject property at the time of settlement along with any expenses incurred on client's behalf." The Respondent failed to adequately communicate the attorneys' fees for his services to Ms. Scott and what work he would be providing for the fee.

Notwithstanding the language of the retainer agreement, the Respondent claimed that all work performed on behalf of Ms. Scott was for a flat fee. The Respondent charged Ms. Scott a \$2,000.00 flat fee to assist her in selling the Iowa Avenue Property, that was to be paid from the settlement proceeds. Despite Ms. Scott's desire to revoke the Trust and sell the Iowa Avenue Property, the Respondent did not draft a trust revocation, nor was the property transferred out of the Trust.

In January 2020, the Respondent introduced Ms. Scott to Mark Quinichett, a real estate agent and the Respondent's friend, to list and sell the Iowa Avenue property. On January 27, 2020, despite not owning the Iowa Avenue property, Ms. Scott entered into a sales contract to sell the Iowa Avenue property to Norton Homes 2 LLC for \$641,200.00. Settlement was scheduled for February 18, 2020. Ms. Scott did not have authority to enter into the sales contract. By letter dated February 12, 2020, the Respondent wrote to the title company handling the settlement of the Iowa Avenue property and requested that he receive a check for \$2,000.00 as attorneys' fees from the settlement proceeds. As of February 12, 2020, the Respondent had not sent Ms. Scott a billing invoice or otherwise communicated with her about the amount he contended was owed.

At the settlement on February 18, 2020, the Respondent appeared as Trustee of the Trust, along with Ms. Scott, and signed the settlement documents on behalf of the Trust. The home sold for \$641,200.00. According to the settlement statement, after the payment of taxes and fees, Ms. Scott was to receive \$589,803.48 and the Respondent was to receive \$2,000.00 for attorneys' fees from the settlement proceeds. In February 2020, the Respondent deposited \$589,803.48 representing the proceeds of the sale into a noninterest-bearing Capital One Bank account on behalf of the Trust, titled the Maxine Scott Revocable Trust. Between February and October 2020, the Respondent had sole access to and control over the Trust funds. Between February and June 2020, the Respondent paid himself \$5,150.00 in attorneys' fees from Ms. Scott's trust funds. The Respondent failed to provide Ms. Scott with invoices or time records to support his attorneys' fees. Instead, Ms. Scott signed written

authorizations approving the legal fees paid to the Respondent.

Between February and March, 2020, the Respondent and Mr. Quinichett assisted Ms. Scott in finding and renting an apartment at Riderwood Senior Living. The Respondent hired movers, rented storage space, and purchased new furniture for Ms. Scott using the Trust funds. On or about March 1, 2020, Ms. Scott moved to Riderwood. The Respondent was responsible for paying Ms. Scott's rent from the Trust. On March 1, 2020, the Respondent wired \$202,000.00 from the Trust account to Riderwood for the entrance fee. On March 3, 2020, the Respondent paid himself \$1,000.00 for trustee services, among other expenses, from the Trust. Again, on March 16, 2020, the Respondent paid himself \$1,000.00 for trustee services from the Trust. Each time, prior to paying himself, the Respondent failed to obtain Ms. Scott's permission or authorization regarding the payment he made from her trust funds. The Respondent failed to provide Ms. Scott with invoices or time records to support the payment he made to himself from her trust funds or advise Ms. Scott what services he provided for the fee.

On March 17, 2020, Mr. Quinichett, with the Respondent's knowledge, contacted Essita Duncan, Esquire regarding preparing a will for Ms. Scott that included bequests to the Respondent and Mr. Quinichett. Ms. Duncan was not known to the Respondent before this date. On March 19, 2020, Ms. Duncan spoke with Ms. Scott regarding drafting a new will. The same day she asked Mr. Quinichett and the Respondent for their contact information for inclusion in the will. In response, the Respondent provided his contact information and stated, "FYI, I already did the POA's, just need you to do the will."

On March 20, 2020, Ms. Duncan mailed a draft will to Ms. Scott along with a retainer agreement. The will nominated Mr. Quinichett and the Respondent as co-personal representatives. The will provided that, aside from paying the burial expenses for her son, John Theodore Scott, "all remaining funds, I give, devise and bequeath to Mark Quinichett and [the Respondent], then living, in equal shares." The will further provided that, "I give, devise, and

bequeath my residual estate to Mark Quinichett and [the Respondent] ...”

On April 27, 2020, Ms. Scott executed a Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare (“Healthcare POA”) drafted by the Respondent and the will bequeathing her assets to Mr. Quinichett and the Respondent. The Healthcare POA named the Respondent as her attorney in fact and was witnessed but not notarized. The Healthcare POA did not comply with Section 17-110 of the Estates & Trust Article. On April 28, 2020, the Respondent paid himself \$1,000.00 in attorney’s fees. The Respondent failed to provide Ms. Scott with invoices or time records to support the payment he made to himself from her trust funds. On April 29, 2020, Ms. Scott executed a Durable Power of Attorney (“POA”) drafted by the Respondent. The POA did not comply with Section 17-110 of the Estates & Trust Article.

By letter dated May 8, 2020, the Respondent provided Industrial Bank with a copy of the April 27 POA and sought access to Ms. Scott’s funds at Industrial Bank in order to close the account and transfer the funds to an account at PNC Bank held in the name of Ms. Scott. On June 17, 2020, Industrial Bank advised the Respondent that it could not honor the POA because it did not comply with Maryland law. On June 18, 2020, the Respondent paid himself \$1,000.00 in attorney’s fees from the Trust. The Respondent failed to provide Ms. Scott with invoices or time records to support the payment he made to himself from her trust funds.

In an undated Promissory Note, the Respondent’s real estate company, the Johnson Real Estate Investment Co., LLC, promised to pay the Trust \$6,000.00 with 6% interest within 60 days of the execution of the Note. The Respondent engaged in self-dealing when he signed on behalf of the Trust as Trustee and on behalf of his real estate company. On June 19, 2020, the Respondent withdrew \$6,000.00 from the Capital One Trust account as the loan funds without Ms. Scott’s knowledge or approval. By letter dated August 19, 2020, the Respondent advised Ms. Scott that the Capital One account had a balance of \$364,251.44. The Respondent otherwise failed to provide an accounting of the funds. The Respondent, however, repaid the promissory note obligation

with interest before any complaint or investigation of this matter.

On August 28, 2020, Ms. Scott, through her grandson, Antonio Scott, retained Richard B. Rosenblatt, Esquire, to draft new estate planning documents and obtain control of the Trust funds maintained by the Respondent at Capital One Bank. On September 7, 2020, the Respondent, on behalf of his real estate company, paid the Trust \$6,360.00, comprising the loan amount plus interest. On September 17, 2017, Mr. Rosenblatt advised the Respondent that he represented Ms. Scott and that pursuant to Ms. Scott's wishes, the revocable trust, POAs, and will were revoked. Mr. Rosenblatt drafted an updated will for Ms. Scott and Power of Attorney nominating her grandson as Ms. Scott's attorney in fact. On September 21, 2020, Ms. Scott revoked the revocable trust and revoked all POAs held by the Respondent. By letter dated October 7, 2020, the Respondent provided Mr. Rosenblatt with an accounting of Ms. Scott's trust funds and a Capital One bank statement. The Respondent also transferred control of the funds in the Capital One account to Ms. Scott. During the representation, the Respondent failed to provide Ms. Scott with any billing invoices for the services he provided and failed to provide Ms. Scott was an accounting of her trust funds.

5. The Respondent agrees that the conduct, as described, violated the Maryland Attorneys' Rules of Professional Conduct 19-301.1, 19-301.5, 19-301.7, 19-301.8, 19-301.15, and 19-308.4.

6. Bar Counsel and Respondent, through counsel, have conferred and agree that an appropriate disposition in this matter is a 60-day suspension from the practice of law, stayed in favor of twelve months of probation. *See Att'y Griev. Comm'n v. Kalarestaghi*, 483 Md. 180 (2023) (holding that a 60 suspension followed by probation was appropriate sanction for misconduct involving conflict of interest in a business deal);

Att'y Griev. Comm'n v. Neverdon, 473 Md. 631 (2021) (holding that a suspension was appropriate sanction for an attorney's violation of numerous MARPC including 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.7, 1.15, and 8.4). This sanction is consistent with this Court's interest in deterring future misconduct through education and rehabilitation.

7. The Parties agree, pursuant to Maryland Rule 19-740(c)(2)(B), that there is good cause to stay the execution of the 60-day suspension in favor of twelve months of probation with terms as set forth in the Probation Agreement attached as **Exhibit 1**.

8. The Respondent's consent to a 60-day suspension from the practice of law, stayed in favor of twelve months of probation, is freely and voluntarily rendered, pursuant to the provisions of Maryland Rule 19-736(b)(2) without coercion or duress.

9. The Respondent is fully aware of the implications and effects of submitting his consent to a 60-day suspension, stayed in favor of twelve months of probation with terms. Specifically, the Respondent knows that, upon a report of material non-compliance, Bar Counsel will petition this Court to request the Court take such action as it finds appropriate, which may include an immediate lifting of the probation and stay of execution.

10. The Respondent agrees to comply with the applicable provisions of Maryland Rule 19-741.

WHEREFORE, the Parties pray this Honorable Court:

- A. Order the Respondent be suspended from the practice of law in Maryland for 60 days, stayed in favor of twelve months of probation with terms and conditions as set forth in the Probation Agreement; and

B. Grant such other and further relief as the Court deems warranted.



Bruce A. Johnson, Jr.
10212 Balsam Poplar Place
Bowie, Maryland 20774
(301) 860-1505
CPF ID No. 0212180040

Respondent



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5407 Water Street
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(301) 627-5500
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Attorney for Respondent

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Thomas M. DeGonia

Thomas M. DeGonia, III
Bar Counsel
Attorney Grievance Commission of
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/s/ Jessica Hall

Jessica Hall
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Jessica.hall@agc.maryland.gov
Attorneys for Petitioner

Affidavit

I solemnly affirm under the penalties of perjury that the contents of the foregoing Joint Petition for Sixty Day Suspension, Stayed in Favor of Twelve Months of Probation are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.



Bruce A. Johnson, Jr.

2/6/2024

Date

ATTORNEY GRIEVANCE COMMISSION
OF MARYLAND

Petitioner,

v.

BRUCE A. JOHNSON, JR.
10212 Balsam Poplar Place
Bowie, MD 20774

Respondent.

* IN THE
* SUPREME COURT
* OF MARYLAND

* SCM-AG-___-2023

*

*

*

ORDER

This matter came before the Court on the Joint Petition of the Attorney Grievance Commission of Maryland, Petitioner, and Bruce A. Johnson, Jr., the Respondent, to suspend the Respondent for 60-days, stayed in favor of twelve months of probation, for his violations of Rules 19-301.1, 19-301.5, 19-301.7, 19-301.8, 19-301.15, and 19-308.4 of the Maryland Attorneys' Rules of Professional Conduct. The Court, having considered the Joint Petition and the record herein, it is this ___ day of February, 2024,

ORDERED, that Respondent, Bruce A. Johnson, Jr., be and hereby is suspended for 60 days, stayed in favor of twelve months of probation.

Justice

ATTORNEY GRIEVANCE COMMISSION
OF MARYLAND

Petitioner,

v.

BRUCE JOHNSON

Respondent.

* IN THE
* SUPREME COURT
* OF MARYLAND

* AG Docket No. _

* September Term, 2023

*

*

PROBATION AGREEMENT

Bar Counsel and Bruce Johnson, Respondent, enter into this Probation Agreement for a period of twelve months pursuant to the Joint Petition for a 60-Day Suspension Stayed in Favor of Twelve Months of Probation ("Joint Petition") filed pursuant to Maryland Rules 19- 736 and 19-740(c). The Parties agree that this Probation Agreement is effective on the date the Joint Petition is granted by the Supreme Court of Maryland, and state in furtherance thereof:

1. Bar Counsel and the Respondent agree that the cause or basis of the professional misconduct in this matter is subject to remediation or resolution through alternative programs or mechanisms, and that the public interest and welfare of the Respondent's clients and prospective clients will not be harmed if the Respondent agrees to and complies with specific measures that, if pursued, will remedy the immediate problem and likely prevent any recurrence.
2. The Parties agree, pursuant to Maryland Rule 19-740(c)(2)(B), that there is good cause to stay the execution of the 60-day suspension in favor of twelve months of probation with the terms and conditions contained in this Probation Agreement.
3. The Joint Petition is incorporated by reference herein.
4. The Respondent voluntarily consents to the terms of this Probation Agreement.
5. The terms and conditions are as follows:
 - a. The Respondent shall complete five (5) hours of continuing legal education. The programs shall include instruction in small/solo practice management, attorney trust account management, and/or legal ethics. The programs shall be pre-approved by Bar Counsel and shall be completed within twelve (12) months after approval

Exhibit 1

of this Probation Agreement. The Respondent shall provide Bar Counsel written confirmation, signed by the program registrar, of the Respondent's attendance at the approved programs within fifteen days after completion of any program.

- b. The Respondent agrees to the appointment of a Law Practice Monitor who shall provide quarterly reports to the Office of Bar Counsel. The Respondent shall provide to the Monitor, for inspection and review, all client files that are open as of the date that the Joint Petition is granted, or thereafter opened, and all financial records of the receipt and disbursement of client funds. The Respondent agrees to provide to the Monitor for inspection and review all documents of other information requested by the Monitor.
 - c. The Respondent agrees to pay all expenses reasonably incurred in connection with this Probation Agreement, including reasonable compensation for the hourly services of the Law Practice Monitor.
 - d. The Respondent agrees to not engage in any misconduct during the term of probation.
6. By signing this agreement, the Respondent warrants that he has not concealed from or misrepresented to Bar Counsel any material facts pertaining to her conduct or this Probation Agreement.
7. It is understood that this Probation Agreement is not valid until an order has been signed by the Supreme Court of Maryland granting the Joint Petition.
8. This Probation Agreement shall remain in effect for a period of twelve months from the date of its approval by the Supreme Court of Maryland.
9. Any amendment to this Probation Agreement shall be in writing signed by Bar Counsel and the Respondent.



Jessica Hall
Deputy Bar Counsel



Bruce Johnson
Respondent

Thomas DeGonia

Thomas M. DeGonia
Bar Counsel

Mark Foley

Mark Foley
Counsel for Respondent