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NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

BEFORE THE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE
OF THE
NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR
99G 1165

THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR
Petitioner

v.

PAUL C. BLAND, ATTORNEY
Respondent

ORDER OF RECIPROCAL
DISCIPLINE PROCEEDING

Pursuant to the authority vested in me as Chair of the Grievance Committee of the North Carolina State Bar by 27 N.C. Admin. Code Chapter 1, Subchapter B, §§ .0105(a)(12) and .0116(a) of the N.C. State Bar Discipline & Disability Rules and based upon the record in this matter, the undersigned finds as follows:

1. By order dated May 11, 1999, the Virginia State Bar issued two orders of Public Reprimand With Terms against you.
2. On October 25, 1999, a Notice of Reciprocal Discipline Proceeding was served upon you by the North Carolina State Bar via certified mail. The Notice advised you that the North Carolina State Bar was considering imposing identical discipline, based upon the issuance of the orders of Public Reprimand in Virginia.
3. You failed to show cause that imposition of the identical discipline would be unwarranted within 30 days of service upon you of the Notice of Reciprocal Discipline.

BASED UPON THE FOREGOING FINDINGS the Chair of the Grievance Committee makes the following CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

1. The North Carolina State Bar has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this proceeding and over the person of the respondent, Paul C. Bland.
2. The procedure for imposition of reciprocal discipline pursuant to 27 N.C. Admin. Code Chapter 1, Subchapter B, § .0116(a) of the N.C. State Bar Discipline & Disability Rules has been complied with.

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3. The Virginia State Bar found that Bland undertook to handle a matter respecting which he was not competent without associating competent counsel, failed to disburse fiduciary funds promptly as directed by a client, failed to hold an advance fee in trust, failed to maintain appropriate trust account ledgers and neglected two clients' legal matters. These actions constitute conduct in violation of Rules 1.1, 1.3 and 1.15-2 of the Revised Rules North Carolina Rules of Professional Conduct and justify the imposition of reciprocal discipline in this state.

4. The Public Reprimand imposed by the Virginia State Bar are the equivalent of a Reprimand as described and set out in North Carolina General Statute Section 84-28(c). Two Reprimands should be imposed on the Respondent's right to practice law in the state of North Carolina.

THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The Respondent, Paul C. Bland is hereby reprimanded twice.
2. Respondent is hereby taxed with the costs of this proceeding as assessed by the Secretary.

This the 5 day of July, 2000.


James K. Dorsett III, Chair
Grievance Committee