

Not for Publication.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN RE: CHRISTOPHER BLAKESLEE)	S. Ct. Civ. No. 2015-0004
ROBERTS,)	
Respondent.)	
_____)	

2015 FEB 24 PM 4:35

SIGNED & FILED

On Certified Copy of Order Imposing Public Discipline
Considered and Filed: February 24, 2015

BEFORE: **RHYS S. HODGE**, Chief Justice; **MARIA M. CABRET**, Associate Justice; and
IVE ARLINGTON SWAN, Associate Justice.

ORDER OF THE COURT

PER CURIAM.

THIS MATTER is before the Court pursuant to a transmittal from the Supreme Court of South Carolina, received by this Court on January 8, 2015, containing a certified copy of the final judgment entered by that court in *In re Roberts*, 725 S.E.2d 925 (S.C. 2012), on May 9, 2012, which disbarred Christopher Blakeslee Roberts from the practice of law in South Carolina as a sanction for violating numerous ethical rules. Although the May 9, 2012 opinion states that the judgment was entered as a result of a consent discipline agreement between Roberts and South Carolina’s equivalent of the Office of Disciplinary Counsel, Roberts—a member of the Virgin Islands Bar who is presently suspended for failure to comply with mandatory continuing legal education requirements—never provided the Clerk of this Court or the Office of Disciplinary Counsel with notice of the public discipline, despite the clear requirement that he do so.¹ As such, this Court, in a January 14, 2015 order, directed Roberts to show cause, in writing,

¹ At the time the Supreme Court of South Carolina ordered Roberts disbarred, Virgin Islands Supreme Court Rule 203(c)(1) required “[a]ny attorney admitted to practice before this court” to “promptly inform the clerk of this court” of any “public discipline by any court of the United States or the District of Columbia, or by a court of any state, territory, commonwealth or possession of the United States.” Effective January 1, 2015, this rule was superseded by

February 24, 2015

VERONICA HANDY, ESQUIRE
CLERK OF THE COURT

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on or before February 13, 2015, as to why this Court should not impose reciprocal discipline, and why it should not order additional sanctions for his failure to provide this Court with prompt notice of the May 9, 2012 judgment. Although this Court mailed its order to the last address Roberts provided to the Virgin Islands Bar Association, the United States Postal Service returned the order as undeliverable on February 5, 2015, and Roberts has not otherwise filed any documents with this Court as part of this proceeding.

Under the disciplinary rules in effect at the time the South Carolina Supreme Court issued its disbarment order, as well as those currently in effect, a final judgment of public discipline issued in another jurisdiction is conclusive unless (1) the procedure was so lacking in notice or opportunity to be heard so as to constitute a deprivation of due process, (2) there was such an infirmity of proof establishing the misconduct as to give rise to a clear conviction that the judgment cannot be accepted as conclusive evidence of misconduct, (3) imposing the same discipline would result in a grave injustice, or (4) the misconduct established warrants substantially different discipline or no discipline in this Territory. V.I.S.Ct.R. 207.18(d) (eff. Jan. 1, 2015); former V.I.S.Ct.R. 203(c)(4) (repealed Jan. 1, 2015). In this case, the record reflects that Roberts consented to disbarment in South Carolina, and thus we find no reason not to impose identical, reciprocal discipline in the Virgin Islands. Moreover, because we impose the most severe sanction of disbarment as reciprocal discipline, imposing an additional sanction for failure to promptly notify this Court would be futile. Accordingly, it is hereby

ORDERED that, effective immediately, Christopher Blakeslee Roberts **SHALL BE DISBARRED** as a member of the Virgin Islands Bar Association and his name removed from

Supreme Court Rule 207.18, which requires an attorney to promptly inform the Office of Disciplinary Counsel of any public discipline imposed by another jurisdiction.

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the scroll of attorneys. It is further

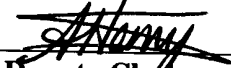
ORDERED that the Virgin Islands Bar Association **SHALL INFORM** the public of Roberts's disbarment by placing a notice on its website and publishing the notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the Virgin Islands. It is further

ORDERED that copies of this order be served on the appropriate parties.

SO ORDERED this 24th day of February, 2015.

ATTEST:

VERONICA J. HANDY, ESQ.
Clerk of the Court

By: 
Deputy Clerk

Dated: February 24, 2015

Copies to:

Justices of the Supreme Court
Judges & Magistrates of the Superior Court
Judges & Magistrate Judges of the District Court
Christopher Blakeslee Roberts
Delphine Farr Janey, Esq., Disciplinary Counsel
Regina D. Petersen, Administrative Director
Elsie-Mae King, Director of Bar Admissions
Natalie Nelson Tang How, Esq., President, Virgin Islands Bar Association
Hinda Carbon, Executive Director, Virgin Islands Bar Association
Veronica J. Handy, Esq., Clerk of the Supreme Court
Estrella H. George, Acting Clerk of the Superior Court
Glenda L. Lake, Esq., Clerk of the District Court
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