

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

At the Supreme Court of Appeals continued and held at Charleston, Kanawha County, on January 4, 2017, the following order was made and entered **in vacation**:

Office of Disciplinary Counsel,
Petitioner

vs.) No. 16-0891

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

ORDER

On September 22, 2016, the petitioner, Office of Disciplinary Counsel, by Rachael L. Fletcher Cipoletti, Chief Lawyer Disciplinary Counsel, filed a petition seeking annulment of the law license in the State of West Virginia of the respondent, Richard E. Hardison, Jr., pursuant to Rule 3.18, Rules of Lawyer Disciplinary Procedure.

Thereafter, on October 24, 2016, the respondent, Richard E. Hardison, Jr., by counsel James M. Cagle, filed a response to the petition and a request for a mitigation hearing. The Office of Disciplinary Counsel filed an objection to the request for a mitigation hearing on November 4, 2016.

On November 16, 2016, the Court received the Hearing Panel Chairperson's ruling denying the request for a mitigation hearing.

Having reviewed the Hearing Panel Subcommittee's decision denying the request for a mitigation hearing, the Court upholds the Hearing Panel Subcommittee's decision that a mitigation hearing is not warranted in this matter.

Upon consideration and review of the petition seeking annulment and the response filed herein, the Court is of the opinion to and does hereby grant the petition. It is therefore ordered that the license to practice law in the State of West Virginia of the respondent, Richard E. Hardison, Jr., shall be, and it hereby is, **annulled**.

Justices Davis and Workman disqualified.

A True Copy

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

