

RULES OF SUPREME COURT OF VIRGINIA
PART FIVE
THE SUPREME COURT
F. SPECIAL RULES

Rule 5:21. Special Rules Applicable to Certain Appeals of Right.

(a) Appeals from the State Corporation Commission.

(1) Applicability. Paragraph (a) of this Rule applies to all appeals from the State Corporation Commission and supersedes all other Rules except as otherwise specified herein.

(2) Party. For the purposes of this Rule, the Commission, the Attorney General, the applicant or petitioner, and every person who made an appearance in person in a capacity other than as a witness or by counsel at any hearing in any proceeding before the Commission shall be the parties to such proceeding. Upon the request of any party, the clerk of the Commission shall prepare and certify a list of all parties (including their addresses and the names and addresses of their counsel) to a proceeding before the Commission. Initially, the parties to an appeal from an order in a proceeding shall be the parties to that proceeding, but the number of parties to an appeal may thereafter be limited as hereinafter provided. Service upon a party represented by counsel shall be made upon his counsel.

(3) Notice of Appeal. No appeal from an order of the Commission shall be allowed unless, within 30 days after entry of the order appealed from, counsel files in the office of the clerk of the Commission a notice of appeal. A copy of the notice of appeal shall be mailed or delivered to each party to the appeal, including the Attorney General of Virginia, and an acceptance of such service or a certificate showing the date of delivery or mailing shall be appended thereto. All petitions for appeal from the same order shall be deemed to be a consolidated case for the purpose of oral argument in this Court unless this Court shall order a severance for convenience of hearing.

(4) Record. The clerk of the Commission shall prepare and certify the record as soon as possible after the notice of appeal is filed and shall, as soon as it has been certified by him, transmit it to the clerk of this Court within 4 months after entry of the order appealed from. In the event of multiple appeals in the same case or in cases tried together below, only one record need be prepared and transmitted.

(5) Contents of Record. The record on appeal from the Commission shall consist of all notices of appeal, any application or petition, all orders entered in the case by the Commission, the opinions, the transcript of any testimony received, and all exhibits accepted or rejected, together with such other material as may be certified by the clerk of the Commission to be a part of the record. The record shall conform as nearly as practicable to the requirements of Rule 5:10.

(6) Alignment of Parties. Within 21 days after the notice of appeal shall have been filed in the office of the clerk of the Commission, each party who has not filed a notice of appeal and who intends to participate in the appeal shall file in the office of the clerk of the Commission and shall mail to every other party a notice that he

intends to participate as an appellant or as an appellee. Every party who seeks reversal or modification of the order appealed from shall be deemed an appellant, and every party who seeks affirmance of the order appealed from shall be deemed an appellee. Every party who does not file such a notice and every party who, having filed such a notice as an appellant, does not thereafter file a petition for appeal shall be deemed no longer to be a party to the appeal, and no further papers need be served on him. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, (i) a necessary party who does not file such a notice or petition for appeal shall be deemed an appellee, and (ii) the Commission need not file such a notice and shall be deemed an appellee.

(7) Petition for Appeal. The petition(s) for appeal, accompanied by the prescribed filing fee, shall be filed in the office of the clerk of this Court within 4 months after entry of the final order, judgment or finding by the Commission. Each party deemed to be an appellant shall file a petition for appeal, as limited hereafter, and shall, before the petition is filed, mail or deliver a copy to every other party to the appeal. Except as provided herein, the provisions of Rule 5:17 do not apply to a petition filed pursuant to this paragraph. The petition for appeal need only identify the order appealed from, with its date, contain a prayer that the appeal be granted, and include the certificate required by Rule 5:17(i). Oral argument on the petition shall not be allowed nor will a brief in opposition be received. If the petition prays for a suspension of the effectiveness of the order appealed from, it shall contain such statements of the facts and argument as shall be necessary for an understanding of the assignments of error. In that event, a brief in opposition will be received and oral argument may be granted.

(8) Award of Appeal. When the notice of appeal, the record, and the petition(s) for appeal appear to have been filed in the manner provided herein and within the time provided herein and by law, the clerk of this Court shall forthwith enter an order docketing the appeal, requiring such bond as the clerk shall deem proper. The clerk's action shall be subject to review by this Court.

(9) Assignments of Error. Within 10 days after the issuance by the clerk of this Court of the certificate pursuant to Rule 5:23, each party appellant shall file assignments of error in the office of the clerk of this Court and mail a copy thereof to every other party to the appeal. Under a heading entitled "Assignments of Error" shall be listed, clearly and concisely and without extraneous argument, the specific errors in the rulings below upon which the party intends to rely. A clear and exact reference to the pages of the transcript, written statement of facts, or record where the alleged error has been preserved shall be included with each assignment of error. Only errors so assigned will be noticed by this Court and no error not so assigned will be considered as grounds for reversal of the decision below. No ruling by the Commission will be considered as a basis for reversal unless an objection was stated with reasonable certainty at the time of the ruling, except for good cause shown or to enable this Court to attain the ends of justice. An assignment of error which merely states that the judgment is contrary to the law and the evidence is not sufficient.

(10) Further Proceedings. Further proceedings in this Court shall conform to Rules 5:23 through 5:38 provided that (i) the time within which the appellee may file with the clerk of this Court a designation of the additional parts of the record that the appellee wishes included in the appendix (Rule 5:32(b)) shall be extended to 30 days after the date of the certificate of the clerk of this Court pursuant to Rule 5:23 an appeal has been awarded; and (ii) the time within which the opening brief of the

appellant shall be filed in the office of the clerk of this Court shall be extended to 50 days after such date.

(11) Additional Brief. An appellant who seeks relief different from that sought by another appellant may file an answering brief at the time prescribed for filing the brief of appellee.

(b) Appeals from the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary Board or a Three-Judge Circuit Court Determination.

(1) Applicability. Paragraph (b) of this Rule applies to appeals from the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary Board, pursuant to Part 6, § IV, Paragraph 13-26 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia, and to appeals from the decisions of a three-judge circuit court pursuant to Code § [54.1-3935](#). As used in this paragraph, “Respondent” is defined as the attorney who is appealing the decision of the disciplinary proceeding.

(2) Perfecting the Appeal.

(i) Provisions for Appeals from the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary Board. No appeal shall be allowed under this paragraph unless the Respondent files a notice of appeal and assignments of error with the clerk of the Disciplinary System within 30 days after the Memorandum Order is served on the attorney by certified mail, return receipt requested, at the attorney’s last address on record for membership purposes with the Virginia State Bar. At the same time the Respondent files a notice of appeal and assignments of error, a copy of the notice of appeal and assignments of error must be sent to the counsel for the Bar and the Attorney General of Virginia. The Respondent is responsible for filing a transcript in compliance with Rule 5:11. The date of the Memorandum Order shall be the date from which the time limits contained in Rule 5:11 shall run. This action within the time prescribed is mandatory. Upon timely compliance with these rules, the Clerk of the Supreme Court shall docket the appeal as provided in Rule 5:23.

(ii) Provisions for Appeals from a Three-Judge Circuit Court. No appeal shall be allowed under this paragraph unless the Respondent files a notice of appeal and assignments of error with the clerk of the three-judge circuit court within 30 days after the entry of the final judgment and, at the same time, mails a copy of the notice of appeal and assignments of error to counsel for the Bar and the Attorney General of Virginia. The Respondent is responsible for filing a transcript in compliance with Rule 5:11. The date of the judgment shall be the date from which the time limits contained in Rule 5:11 shall run. This action within the time prescribed is mandatory. Upon timely compliance with these rules, the Clerk of the Supreme Court shall docket the appeal as provided in Rule 5:23.

(3) Record on Appeal. The clerk of the Disciplinary System or the clerk of the three-judge circuit court shall compile and transmit the record as set out in Rules 5:10, 5:11, and 5:13. The clerk shall immediately notify by certified mail the Respondent, and the Respondent’s counsel, if any, and the Attorney General of the date the record is filed with the clerk of this Court. At the time the record is filed, the clerk shall also notify the clerk of this Court and the Respondent whether the

Attorney General or Bar Counsel will represent the interests of the Commonwealth as appellee.

(4) Time for Filing Briefs and Appendix. The parties shall designate the contents of the appendix pursuant to the requirements of Rule 5:32 and the Respondent shall be responsible for filing the appendix pursuant to that Rule. The Respondent shall file the opening brief in the office of the clerk of this Court within 40 days after the date the record is filed. The opening brief shall contain assignments of error and references to the pages of the appendix, transcript, written statement, or record where each assignment of error was preserved. The brief of the appellee shall be filed in the office of the clerk of this Court within 25 days after the filing of the Respondent's opening brief. The Respondent may file a reply brief within 14 days after the filing of the appellee's brief. All briefs and the appendix shall conform to the provisions of Rules 5:26 through 5:32.

(5) Stay Pending Appeal. The Respondent may file a motion with the clerk of this Court requesting a stay pending appeal of an order suspending or revoking the Respondent's license. The Respondent must file four copies of the motion for stay along with a copy of the order imposing the suspension or revocation and a copy of the Respondent's notice of appeal, which must contain the date stamp of the clerk showing the date the notice of appeal was filed. Any order of Admonition or Public Reprimand shall be automatically stayed prior to or during the pendency of an appeal of the order.

(6) Procedure on Appeal. Except as provided in this paragraph, further proceedings shall be as provided in this Court's procedure following the perfection of an appeal set out in Rules 5:23, 5:25, and Rules 5:33 through 5:38.

Last amended by Order dated January 31, 2014; effective January 31, 2014.