



# Virginia State Bar

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**PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL**

Joanna Burke  
46 Kingwood Greens Dr.  
Kingwood, TX 77339

via e-mail only: [kajongwe@gmail.com](mailto:kajongwe@gmail.com)

Re: Complaint about Matthew Stephen Sheldon and Thomas Michael Hefferon

Dear Mrs. Burke:

The Virginia State Bar received your complaint. We reviewed your complaint to ascertain whether it described conduct violating a provision of the Virginia Rules of Professional Conduct.

We will not take further action on your complaint. The VSB's disciplinary process is not a substitute forum to address concerns that were the subject of court proceedings. A lawyer's methods and tactics in litigation are subject to the court's scrutiny and, of course, can be challenged in court by the adverse party or the adverse party's lawyer. The VSB does not audit the court's administration of litigation or the court's decisions. Those matters must be addressed through the appellate process.

I understand that the litigation was a difficult experience for you. That is regrettable, yet not every disappointing or frustrating experience with a lawyer rises to the level of lawyer misconduct subject to the Virginia State Bar's regulation. Based on my review of the file and my experience in the legal ethics rules and the disciplinary process, I conclude that a formal investigation into the complaint is not warranted.

The VSB has limited authority and cannot address all situations through its disciplinary process. It is the policy of the VSB not to respond to multiple requests for reviews of the same complaint. Please review our website at: [www.vsb.org](http://www.vsb.org) for information about the disciplinary process.

Although we can take no further action, we thank you for sharing your concerns with the VSB.

Very truly yours,

James C. Bodie  
Intake Counsel

JCB/ar