



BY EMAIL

March 1, 2021

Virginia State Bar
Complaint Intake Office
1111 East Main, Suite 700
Richmond, VA 23219-0026

Re: Checks and Balances Complaint Against Attorney Jamie B. Martin

To Whom It May Concern:

Attorney Jamie B. Martin of Williams Mullen appeared before Norfolk Circuit Chief Judge Mary Jane Hall to represent Sentara Healthcare in the 2019 case Chesapeake Hospital Authority v. State Health Commissioner. Judge Hall ruled in favor of Sentara.

We believe attorney Martin had the ethical duty to inform opposing counsel and the public of her previous work relationship with Norfolk Circuit Court Judge Mary Jane Hall on another case involving Martin's client – Sentara Healthcare.

Court records show Martin and Hall co-represented Sentara in a four-year legal fight to start a liver-transplant facility at its Norfolk hospital from 1996-2000. At the time, Martin and Hall worked for the firm McCandlish Kaine and Grant. Supreme Court of Virginia. See: [STATE HEALTH COMMISSIONER v. SENTARA NORFOLK GENERAL HOSPITAL. Record No. 992018. Decided: September 15, 2000](#)

Our complaint seeks a determination on the appropriateness of Martin's conduct, specifically her failure to report potential conflicts.

The contentious Virginia Certificate of Public Need process is complex enough without having the attorney for one side and the judge having a prior business relationship with one of the parties to the case.

Here is the contact information for Ms. Martin:

Jamie B. Martin, Esq.
Williams Mullen
200 South 10th Street, Suite 1600
Richmond, VA 23219
804.420.6000

The online complaint form asks for names, etc. of persons who might be able to give additional information about our complaint. They include:

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Peter M. Mellette (Elizabeth D. Coleman; H. Guy Collier; Mellette, P.C.; McDermott Will & Emery LLP, on briefs), for appellant. Vanessa C. MacLeod, Assistant Attorney General (Mark R. Herring, Attorney General; Keonna C. Austin, Deputy Attorney General; Allyson K. Tysinger, Senior Assistant Attorney General, on brief), for appellee State Health Commissioner. Jamie B. Martin (Jeremy A. Ball; Matthew M. Cobb; Jennifer L. Ligon; Williams Mullen, on brief), for appellee Sentara Hospitals.

[Chesapeake Hosp. Auth. v. State Health Comm'r, Record No. 0116-20-1, \(Va. Ct. App. Oct. 27, 2020\)](#)

C&BP is separately filing a complaint against Judge Hall with the Judicial Inquiry and Review Commission. The case in question, Chesapeake Hospital Authority v. State Health Commissioner, is now before the Virginia Supreme Court, which makes it essential that any potential ethical issues involving the parties in the case be resolved before that court can render its judgment in the case. The failure to resolve those issues could leave a cloud hanging over any decision made by the Supreme Court or other legal bodies.

Checks and Balances Project is a national, nonpartisan, investigative watchdog blog based in Virginia. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Scott Peterson
Executive Director
Checks and Balances Project
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