

# COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA



EDWARD W. HANSON, JR.  
THOMAS S. SHADICK  
FREDERICK B. LOWE  
A. BONWILL SHOCKLEY  
H. THOMAS PADRICK, JR.  
A. JOSEPH CANADA, JR.  
PATRICIA L. WEST  
STEPHEN C. MAHAN  
WILLIAM R. O'BRIEN

CIRCUIT COURT  
CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH  
JUDICIAL CENTER, BLDG. 10  
2425 NIMMO PARKWAY  
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23456-9017  
(757) 427-4501  
[www.vbgov.com/courts](http://www.vbgov.com/courts)

## SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Direct Dial # 757-385-8680

February 7, 2007

000-000-000

George W. Chabalewski, Esquire  
Office of Bar Counsel  
Virginia State Bar  
Suite 1500, 707 East Main Street  
Richmond, VA 23219

### Re: Ethics Complaint Against Attorney Harvey L. Bryant, III

Dear Mr. Chabalewski:

It has been brought to our attention that on Saturday, February 3, 2007, Virginia Beach Commonwealth's Attorney, Harvey L. Bryant, III, was the featured speaker at the Saturday morning breakfast for the Virginia Beach Republican Party. During his speech, Mr. Bryant reportedly criticized the Virginia Beach Judiciary and made the statement that he was keeping a record of all the "illegal conduct" of Virginia Beach judges "until I need it." We are advised that there were approximately 90 citizens present at this meeting.

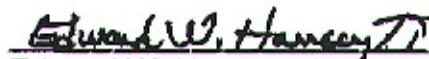
The irresponsibility of the chief law enforcement officer for Virginia Beach standing up in a public forum and falsely accusing the Virginia Beach Judiciary of illegal conduct is of great concern to us. Not only do his comments illustrate a reckless disregard of the truth concerning the integrity of our judiciary, but it also demonstrates disrespect for our entire legal system. A public statement that judges are participating in illegal conduct can only lessen the public's confidence in our legal system. When that statement comes from the chief law enforcement officer it has even greater impact.

The statement that he was retaining the records of illegal conduct "until I need it" would additionally seem to imply an ability to improperly influence at a future date.

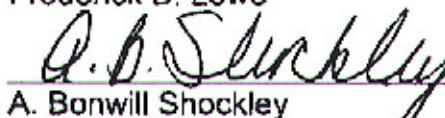
The integrity of our judiciary in this commonwealth and this country is too important to allow such false public statements to stand without an appropriate response. We, the judges of the Circuit Court for the City of Virginia Beach, therefore, are hereby requesting that the Virginia State Bar take immediate action to investigate what we believe to be unethical conduct of Attorney Harvey L. Bryant, III.

Sincerely,

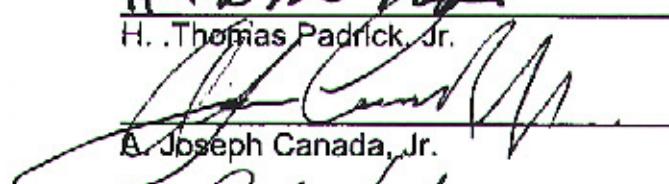
  
Thomas S. Shadrick, Chief Judge

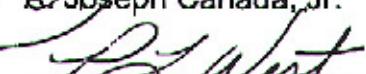
  
Edward W. Hanson, Jr.

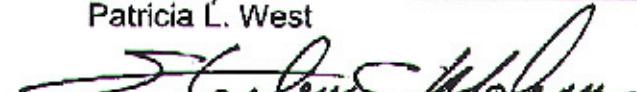
  
Frederick B. Lowe

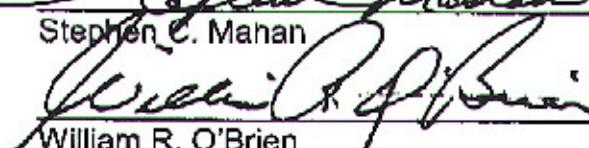
  
A. Bonwill Shockley

  
H. Thomas Padrick, Jr.

  
A. Joseph Canada, Jr.

  
Patricia L. West

  
Stephen C. Mahan

  
William R. O'Brien