

**BEFORE THE
VIRGINIA STATE BAR**

**In Re: Misconduct Complaint Against
Jerrauld Charles Corey Jones, aka Jay Jones
VSB No. 89299**

INTRODUCTION

The National Legal and Policy Center (NLPC) and its Chairman Peter Flaherty hereby file this Misconduct Complaint against Virginia lawyer Jerrauld Charles Corey Jones (hereinafter Jay Jones), VSB No. 89299, for violating the Virginia Rules of Professional Conduct, including but not limited to Rules 8.4 (a)-(c), with regard to violent text messages he sent in 2022. In those texts he advocated the killing of Todd Gilbert, the then Speaker of the House of Delegates and member of the Virginia State Bar; expressed his desire that his wife should experience her children dying in her arms; and that he would like to “piss on the graves” of his former Republican colleagues in the House of Delegates because they disagreed with his policy positions. This depraved and possibly illegal conduct, which on information and belief is being investigated by the Norfolk Police Department, should subject Mr. Jones to a revocation of his bar license, or at least a suspension.

Moreover, the Bar should investigate and discipline Mr. Jones for the disposition of his reckless driving conviction in 2024 for speeding 116 mph in a 70 mph zone on I-64 in 2022. In particular, there are serious questions as to whether his alleged 1,000 hours of community service to two organizations with which he was closely affiliated, including Meet our Moment, a registered political action committee, even qualified for community service as a charitable organization, let alone how and whether he completed 1,000 hours of service. This matter, which may also violate Rule 8.4 (e), is also currently being investigated by the New Kent County prosecutor.¹

INTERESTS OF COMPLAINANT

Founded in 1991, NLPC is a nonprofit public interest organization based in Falls Church, VA, which promotes ethics in public life through research, investigation, education and legal

¹ Old Dominion News, “*Investigation into Jay Jones’ community service hours raises questions*,” (Oct 14, 2025). <https://olddominionnews.com/investigation-into-jay-jones-community-service-hours-raises-questions-2/>

action. Over the years, NLPC has filed ethics and misconduct complaints against public officials in a variety of venues, such as the Federal Election Commission and the Senate Ethics Committee.² With respect to Members of the Bar, NLPC filed a bar misconduct complaint against United States Senator Charles E. Schumer, a member of the New York Bar, for threatening remarks he made against Associate Justices Brett Kavanaugh and Neil Gorsuch on the Supreme Court steps before a rally that was broadcast by the media.³ In addition, NLPC filed a misconduct complaint with the District of Columbia Bar against former FBI attorney Kevin Clinesmith for altering a CIA email that was used to obtain a FISA warrant against Carter Page and for which he pled guilty to a felony.⁴

Peter Flaherty, Chairman of NLPC, is a Virginia resident and believes that expressions of violent conduct by members of the legal profession, even if protected by the First Amendment, should nevertheless be subject to the disciplinary actions by the respective bar associations that are self-regulating entities designed to promote the integrity of the legal profession.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Jay Jones, VSB ID# 89200, is a member of the Virginia State Bar and is currently in good standing. While he lists an address in Washington, D.C., on information and belief, he is on leave of absence from the Washington, D.C., office of Hogan Lovells where he represented the Virginia NAACP in litigation against Governor Youngkin. He currently resides in Norfolk, VA. He was a Member of the House of Delegates from 2017 to 2021 when he resigned for family reasons but vowed to return to public life by running for the Office of Attorney General.

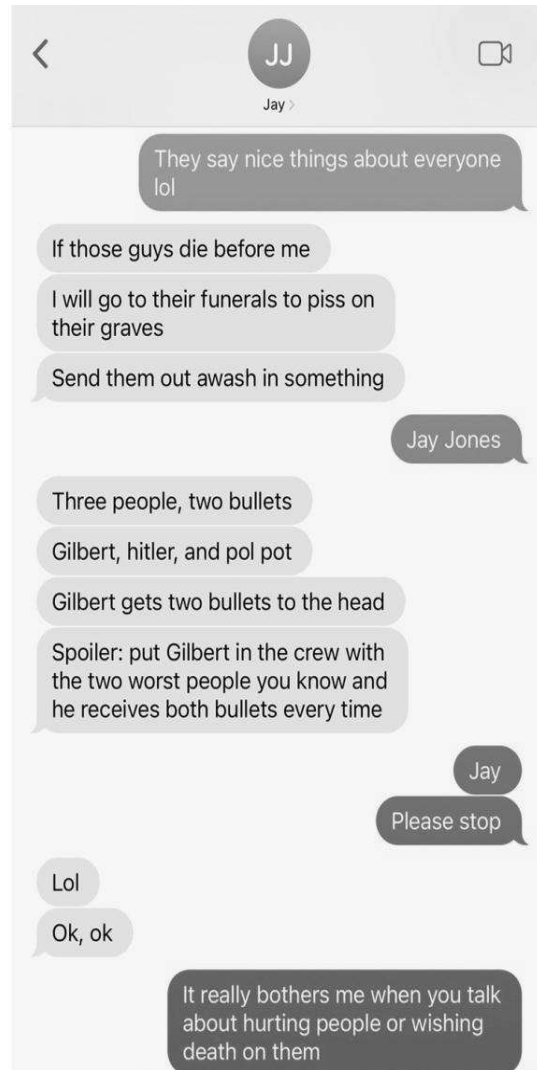
FIND										
Bar ID #	Full Name	Class	Type	Status	City	State	Zip	Has Been Publicly Disciplined	Current Suspensions	Date of License
89299	Jerrauld Charles Corey Jones	Active	Plenary	In Good Standing	Washington	DC	20004	No	None	10/30/2015

² <https://nlpc.org/government-integrity-project/>

³ <https://nlpc.org/featured-news/ny-dismissed-our-bar-complaint-against-schumer-for-threatening-kavanaugh/>

⁴ <https://nlpc.org/government-integrity-project/d-c-bar-has-not-acted-on-nlpcs-request-to-disbar-clinesmith/>

A. Jay Jones Text Messages. On or about August 8, 2022, Jones sent the following series of disturbing and violent text messages to a former colleague, Republican Delegate Carrie Coyner, also a member of the Virginia Bar, shortly after Speaker Todd Gilbert and his fellow Republican colleagues paid tribute to the passing of former Democratic Delegate, Joe Johnson, Jr.:



According to the *National Review*, which broke the story, Jay Jones doubled down on his violent rhetoric:

Coyner's alarm at her former colleague's violent rhetoric toward Gilbert prompted Jones to call her and explain his reasoning over the phone, a source familiar with the exchange told NR.

According to the source, the Democratic former legislator doubled down on the call, saying the only way public policy changes is when policymakers feel pain themselves, like the pain that

parents feel when they watch their children die from gun violence. He asked her to provide counterexamples to disprove his claim.

Then at one point, the source said, he suggested he wished Gilbert's wife could watch her own child die in her arms so that Gilbert might reconsider his political views, prompting Coyner to hang up the phone in disgust.

Afterward, Jones continued his barrage of text messages, saying he was just asking questions. Coyner dismissed his excuse via text and chastised Jones for "hopping [sic] Jennifer Gilbert's children would die."

Rather than deny that he had wished death on the children, Jones responded by saying, "Yes, I've told you this before. Only when people feel pain personally do they move on policy."

Faced with more pushback from his frazzled former colleague, Jones somehow took the conversation a step further: "I mean do I think Todd and Jennifer are evil? And that they're breeding little fascists? Yes," he wrote, referring to Gilbert's wife and two young children.⁵

The story was carried by a number of media outlets and Jones' conduct has received widespread condemnation.⁶

B. Applicable Virginia Rules of Professional Conduct

According to the Preamble of the Virginia Rules of Professional Conduct:

A lawyer's conduct should conform to the requirements of the law, both in professional service to clients and in the lawyer's business and personal affairs.... A lawyer should demonstrate respect for the legal system and for those who serve it, including judges, other lawyers and public officials.

Clearly, Jones did not "demonstrate respect for the legal system and for those who serve it, including. . . other lawyers and public officials." Our legal system includes the introduction and passage of legislation at the federal, state, and local level. Indeed, through his violent texts and phone calls with Delegate Coyner, he demonstrated disdain and ill will for "other lawyers and public officials," going so far as to wish their violent demise.

⁵ <https://www.nationalreview.com/news/dem-ag-nominee-jay-jones-fantasized-about-shooting-former-virginia-gop-speaker-he-receives-both-bullets/>

⁶ See, e.g., Matthew Xiao, Free Beacon, "Jay Jones, Who Discussed Shooting GOP Colleague, Also Said That Police Officers Might 'Move On' If 'a Few of Them' Died: Report" (Oct. 6, 2025), <https://freebeacon.com/latest-news/jay-jones-who-discussed-shooting-gop-colleague-also-said-that-police-officers-might-stop-killing-if-a-few-of-them-died-report/>

Jay Jones has also violated substantive provisions of the Rules of Professional Conduct found in Rule 8.4:

8.4 Misconduct

It is professional misconduct for a lawyer to:

1. violate or attempt to violate the Rules of Professional Conduct, knowingly assist or induce another to do so, or do so through the acts of another;
2. commit a criminal or deliberately wrongful act that reflects adversely on the lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness or fitness to practice law....

There can be no doubt that the violent text messages were deliberately sent by Jay Jones, were clearly wrongful, and may have even constituted criminal conduct by his sending these threatening messages to Delegate Coyner directed at Speaker Todd Gilbert with whom she has a close professional relationship. See Virginia Code 18.2-60. Indeed, she was so worried about the violent nature of the texts that she promptly sent them to Speaker Gilbert as a precaution for his and his family's safety.

*Asked about the years-old text exchange, Coyner condemned Jones's rhetoric and said she sent screenshots of the conversation to Gilbert that day. She said she and Jones haven't spoken since, aside from a brief conversation about policy issues. "On August 8, 2022 I had a text conversation with Jay Jones, what he said was not just disturbing but disqualifying for anyone who wants to seek public office," she told NR in a statement. "Jay Jones wished violence on the children of a colleague and joked about shooting Todd Gilbert. It's disgusting and unbecoming of any public official."*⁷

C. Questionable Community Service for Reckless Driving Conviction

According to court records, Jay Jones was cited for reckless driving on Friday, January 21, 2022, at 12:55 a.m. traveling at 116 mph in a 70 mph zone (almost 50 miles per hour over the speed limit) on Route I-64 going East from the Richmond area toward Norfolk. He has yet to explain why he was in such a hurry, where he was coming from, or whether he had been drinking that night. Attached is a copy of the police citation:

⁷ <https://virginiamercury.com/2025/10/05/beyond-disqualifying-jay-jones-controversy-jolts-virginias-pivotal-2025-elections/>

26407095 VIRGINIA UNIFORM SUMMONS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE

YOU ARE SUMMONED TO APPEAR IN THE (CITY OF / COUNTY OF) **NEW KENT**

GENERAL DISTRICT COURT (TRAFFIC)
GENERAL DISTRICT COURT (CRIMINAL)
JUVENILE & DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT
 12001 COURTHOUSE CIRCLE/PO BOX 127
 NEW KENT, VA 23124

THE ACCUSED WAS THIS DATE: **1/22/24** AT **2:00** P.M.

THE ACCUSED PLEADED: **2/9**
☐ NOT GUILTY
☐ GUILTY
☐ NO ATTORNEY
☐ ATTORNEY WAIVED
☐ NO ATTY JAIL WAIVED BY CT

AND WAS TRIED AND FOUND BY ME:
☐ FINDING SUFFICIENT
☐ NOT GUILTY
☒ GUILTY AS CHARGED
☐ GUILTY OF
☐ COMPLETED WITH LAW
 UNDER \$

IN ADDITION I FIND THE ACCUSED WAS:
☐ DRIVING A COMMERCIAL M.V.
☐ CARRYING HAZARDOUS MAT.
☐ A CDL HOLDER

AND THE OFFENSE:
☐ RESULTED IN A FATALITY
☐ WAS IN A HWY. SAFETY COR.
☐ I ORDER THE CHARGE DISMISSED
☐ I ORDER A NOLE PROCEED ON CONDOMINIAL MOTION

IMPOSE THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE:
☒ FINE **1500** WITH \$ **1500** SUSPENDED.
☐ JAIL SENTENCE OF **10** DAYS BEING OF GOOD BEHAVIOR AND KEEPING THE PEACE.
☐ ON PROBATION FOR
☐ DRIVER'S LICENSE SUSPENDED
☐ CONSECUTIVE SUSPENSION UNDER §46.2-301 ☐ YES ☐ NO
☐ RESTITUTION OF **1000** PAYABLE TO **STATE** AS CONDITION OF SUSPENDED SENTENCE.
☐ OTHER: **1000** HOURS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

DATE: **1-23-24** JUDGE: **J. R.**

26407095

NAME: **Jones, Jerrold C**
 LAST: **Jones**
 FIRST: **Jerrold C**
 MIDDLE: **C**

DATE OF BIRTH: **11/18/60**
 SEX: **M**
 RACE: **W**
 HEIGHT: **5'10"**
 WEIGHT: **160**
 EYES: **BRN**
 HAIR: **BRN**
 SKIN: **FAIR**

DRIVER'S LICENSE NO.: **11111111**
 EXPIRATION DATE: **11/18/24**
 CLASS: **1**

VEHICLE MAKE: **2003**
 MODEL: **10/10**
 YEAR: **2003**
 MAKE: **10/10**
 MODEL: **2003**
 YEAR: **10/10**

LOCATION OF OFFENSE: **E X CL 16**
 ARREST DATE: **1-23-24**
 ARREST LOCATION: **JE STEW**
 OFFICER: **JE STEW**
 CITY/TOWN: **JE STEW**
 STATE: **VA**

110/201 FINE \$ **1500**
 114/129/237 CIVIL PENALTY \$ **101**
 460 FIXED TRAFFIC INFRACTION FEE \$ **101**
 461 FIXED MISDEMEANOR FEE \$ **101**
 462 FIXED MISDEMEANOR FEE - DRUGS \$ **101**

121 TRA FEE \$ **10**
 244 C.J. SECURITY FEE \$ **10**
 120/217 CL APPE. ATTY. \$ **10**
 113 WITNESS FEE \$ **10**

TOTAL \$ **1500**
 109 INTEREST CHARGE \$ **10**
 TOTAL WITH INTEREST \$ **1500**

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VUS REV. 7-01

Jay Jones pleaded guilty to the charge of reckless driving on January 22, 2024, after getting several postponements of his trial for almost two years past the originally scheduled date of February 9, 2022.

As for his punishment, he was able to avoid any prison sentence or suspension of his license unlike the punishment given to other reckless drivers who also drove at high speeds. As reported by WJLA 7News:

Court records show, one man was found guilty of driving 115 mph in a 70 in New Kent County. He got 10 days in jail, his license was suspended for six months, he was fined \$2,000, and once he got his license back, he could only drive to and from work.

On the same day Jones received his sentence, a Woodbridge man was sentenced to 30 days in jail for driving 115 mph in a 70-mph zone. The Prince William County man's sentence was suspended as long as he didn't speed again. The Woodbridge man's license was suspended for six months, then restricted, and he was fined \$1,500.

Another man was found guilty of reckless driving for driving 104 mph in a 70-mph zone in New Kent County. That earned him 20 days in jail, a six-month license suspension, and a \$1,250 fine.

Jones, a former Virginia lawmaker, got no jail time for driving 116 mph in a 70 on I-64. He paid a \$1,500 fine, his driving privileges were not impacted and he got 1,000 hours of community service.⁸

⁸ <https://wjla.com/news/local/virginia-residents-jail-time-reckless-driving-jay-jones-community-service-virginia-democrat-attorney-general-candidate-new-kent-county-speeding>

Questions have been raised about the legitimacy of community service that Jay Jones was able to receive as a punishment along with a \$1500 fine, both respect to the two entities he allegedly provided community service and whether he provided the full 1,000 hours. As previously noted, an investigation is ongoing into the circumstances of this sentence.⁹

Community service is designed so that the defendant provides services to the community by providing unpaid labor for charitable nonprofit organizations such as food banks and the like, and where the defendant is **not** affiliated with the charity or derives some benefit from his services, whether monetary or otherwise. See Virginia Code § 19.2-303.3. As one law firm advises:

Depending on the Court's order, community service may be completed through the Court's community corrections program or through a nationally recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

Choosing an Organization

If the Court allows you to choose your own placement, make sure the organization is:

- ***Not*** a church, government agency, or group you are personally affiliated with
- A well-recognized nonprofit. If the group is lesser known, you may need to provide documentation explaining its purpose, along with the completion letter

*When service is finished, the Court requires **a notarized** letter on official letterhead, signed by an authorized representative, confirming the hours completed. Timesheets alone are not accepted.*¹⁰

In this case, Jay Jones allegedly provided 500 hours to Meet or Moment (MOM) and 500 hours to the Virginia Chapter of the NAACP. MOM is a registered political action committee and is one that Jay Jones has a close political relationship, including its Executive Director Lesley Shinbaum Stewart. She submitted a letter to the court stating that Mr. Jones had completed 500 hours of unspecified service without documenting the hours he allegedly worked.

Similarly, Rev. Cozy Bailey, writing on behalf of the NAACP in the second letter, said Jones' 500 hours of community work there "provided support in a variety of ways that benefited our organization tremendously."¹¹ That letter did not document when the hours were worked or specify what service Jones performed. As previously noted, Jones was legal counsel to the Virginia NAACP at his prior law firm in a lawsuit and thus had a relationship with the "charity" which is normally prohibited to satisfy community service.

⁹ See fn. 1, *supra*.

¹⁰ <https://stantonlawva.com/community-service-recommendations/>

¹¹ <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/virginia-dem-logged-pac-hours-skirt-possible-jail-time-reckless-driving-docs-show>

D. Violation of Rules of Professional Conduct

An investigation of the circumstances of Mr. Jones is warranted to see if he misled the court both respect to the legitimacy of the “charities” he provided service to as well as whether he in fact provided 1,000 hours in the prior year, which amounts to approximately 20 hours a week for an otherwise busy political lawyer.

Rule 8.4 (c) forbids a lawyer from “engag[ing] in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation which reflects adversely on the lawyer’s fitness to practice law.” Rule 8.4 (e) forbids a lawyer from “knowingly assist[ing] a judge or judicial officer in conduct that is a violation of applicable rules of judicial conduct or other law.” Thus, to the extent that Jones deceived the court or misrepresented the nature of the “charity” for which he performed service and the hours worked in order to avoid a more serious punishment, he should be disciplined for this conduct as well as for his violent text messages he sent.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, NLPC and its Chairman Peter Flaherty submit that Virginia State Bar conduct a full investigation of this matter and either revoke Mr. Jones’ bar license or suspend it for an appropriate amount of time considering the seriousness of the misconduct he has committed.

Dated: October 14, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Peter Flaherty

Peter Flaherty on behalf of himself and NLPC

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