

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF OPTOMETRY
FORMAL HEARING MINUTES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS
NOVEMBER 3, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting of the Virginia Board of Optometry (Board) was called to order at 12:00 p.m., on November 3, 2023, at the Department of Health Professions (DHP), Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, 2nd Floor, Board Room 2, Henrico, Virginia.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Gerald Neidigh, OD, President-elect

MEMBERS PRESENT: Corliss Booker, Ph.D., APRN, FNP-BC, Citizen Member
Fred E. Goldberg, OD
Evan Kaufman, OD

QUORUM: With four members of the Board present, a quorum was established.

STAFF PRESENT: Leslie L. Knachel, M.P.H., Executive Director
Heather Pote, Sr. Discipline Case Specialist

BOARD COUNSEL: Laura Booberg, Esq., Assistant Attorney General

COURT REPORTER: Andrea Pegram, Court Reporting Services, LLC

PARTIES ON BEHALF OF THE COMMONWEALTH: Christine Corey, Esq., Adjudication Specialist, Administrative Proceedings Division

COMMONWEALTH WITNESSES: Sarah Rogers, Regional Manager, Enforcement Division
Rebecca Britt, Health Practitioners Monitoring Program

APPLICANT WITNESSES: Ace Armani, I, TPA-Certified Optometrist Reinstatement Applicant

OTHERS PRESENT: Kelli Moss, Deputy Executive Director, Board of Optometry
Avi Efreom, Administrative Proceedings Division
Saideh Mahdavi

MATTER SCHEDULED: **Ace Armani, I., OD**
TPA-Certified Optometrist Reinstatement Applicant
License No.: 0618-001615
Case No.: 203725

Dr. Armani appeared before the Board in accordance with a Notice of Formal Hearing dated June 14, 2023, and was not represented by counsel. The Board received evidence from Dr. Armani and the Commonwealth regarding the TPA-Certified Reinstatement Application of Dr. Armani.

CLOSED SESSION: Dr. Goldberg moved that the Board convene a closed meeting pursuant to § 2.2-3711(A)(27) of the Code of Virginia (“Code”) for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter of Ace Armani, TPA-Certified Optometrist Reinstatement Applicant. Additionally, he moved that Ms. Booberg and Ms. Knachel attend the closed meeting because their presence in the closed meeting was deemed necessary and would aid the Board in its deliberations. The motion was seconded by Dr. Kaufman and carried unanimously.

RECONVENE: Dr. Kaufman moved that the Board certify that it heard, discussed or considered only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened. The motion was seconded by Dr. Goldberg and carried unanimously.

The Board reconvened in open session pursuant to § 2.2-3712(D) of the Code.

DECISION: Dr. Kaufman moved that the Board deny Ace Armani, I., OD’s reinstatement application for licensure as a TPA-Certified Optometrist, and that the basis for this decision will be set forth in a final Board Order sent to Dr. Armani at his address of record. The motion was seconded by Dr. Goldberg and carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT: The Formal Hearing adjourned at 2:23 p.m.