

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA  
(Before a Grievance Committee)

THE FLORIDA BAR,  
  
Complainant,

The Florida Bar File  
No. 2016-50,052(15G)

v.

JARED G. DOKOVNA,  
  
Respondent.

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**GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE FINDING OF NON-COMPLIANCE AND  
FAILURE TO RESPOND TO OFFICIAL BAR INQUIRY AND  
CONTEMPT**

On December 16, 2015, pursuant to Rule 3-7.11(f), Rules Regulating The Florida Bar, the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit Grievance Committee "G" considered whether to issue a Finding of Non-Compliance and Failure to Respond to Official Bar Inquiry and Finding of Contempt and made the following findings:

1. On July 15, 2015, The Florida Bar sent Respondent a letter by regular U.S. Mail to Respondent's record Bar address advising of a complaint in this case and was requested to respond by July 30, 2015. A copy of the letter was attached to the Request for Issuance of Notice of Non-Compliance and Finding of Contempt as "Exhibit A".

2. Respondent failed to respond to The Florida Bar as requested in the letter of July 15, 2015.

3. On September 4, 2015, Respondent was sent another letter, by regular U.S. Mail to Respondent's record Bar address, advising of a complaint in this case and was requested to respond in ten days to the letter. A copy of the letter was attached to the Request for Issuance of Notice of Non-Compliance and Finding of Contempt as "Exhibit B".

4. Respondent failed to respond to The Florida Bar as requested in the letter of September 4, 2015.

5. On September 30, 2015, Respondent was sent another letter, by email and regular U.S. Mail to Respondent's record Bar address and record Bar email address, advising of a complaint in this case and was requested to respond in ten days to the letter. A copy of the letter was attached to the Request for Issuance of Notice of Non-Compliance and Finding of Contempt as "Exhibit C."

6. On September 30, 2015 at 12:38 p.m., Respondent acknowledged receipt of the email correspondence and asked if he could provide his response that evening.

7. By return email on September 30, 2015 at 12:41p.m., Respondent's request was granted with a reminder to furnish a copy of his response to the complainant. A copy of the email chain was attached to Request for Issuance of Notice of Non-Compliance and Finding of Contempt as "Exhibit D."

8. Despite being granted until that evening to respond, Respondent failed to provide his response to The Florida Bar.

9. On October 15, 2015 at approximately 12:00 noon, Bar Counsel attempted to contact respondent regarding his outstanding response. Bar Counsel left a voice mail message that should Bar Counsel not hear back from Respondent by close of business that date, the matter would be forward to the grievance committee for further action.

10. By end of business on October 15, 2015, no communication had been received by The Florida Bar from the respondent.

11. Respondent was given notice that on December 16, 2015, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit Grievance Committee "G" would hold a hearing on the Request for Issuance of Notice of Non-Compliance and Finding of Contempt. A copy of the Notice of Hearing and the Request for Issuance of Notice of Non-Compliance and Finding of Contempt are attached hereto as "Exhibit A".

12. Respondent made no response to the Request for Issuance of Notice of Non-Compliance and Finding of Contempt.

13. As of the date of this Request for Issuance of Notice of Non-Compliance and Finding of Contempt, Respondent has failed to respond to the official Bar inquiries dated July 15, 2015, September 4, 2015 and September 30, 2015.

14. The Grievance Committee found that Respondent failed to show good cause for failing to respond to the official Bar inquiries and that the non-compliance was willful.

15. The Grievance Committee found Respondent to be in contempt and requested The Florida Bar to file a Petition for Contempt and Order to Show Cause with the Supreme Court.

Dated this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 2015.

Fifteenth Judicial Circuit Grievance  
Committee "G"



Michael Joseph Napoleone, Chair

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that the original hereof has been furnished by regular U.S. Mail to, Jared G. Dokovna, Law Office of Jared G. Dokovna, P.A., 6231 PGA Blvd., Ste. 104-242, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418-4033 and via e-mail to [jared@dokovna.com](mailto:jared@dokovna.com); Michelle Renee Suskauer, Designated Reviewer, The Suskauer Law Firm PA, 1601 Forum Place, Ste. 610, West Palm Beach, FL 33401-8106, and to Staff Counsel, The Florida Bar via e-mail at [aquintel@flabar.org](mailto:aquintel@flabar.org), this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 2015.



Navin A. Ramnath, Bar Counsel



## The Florida Bar

Ft. Lauderdale Branch Office  
Lake Shore Plaza II  
1300 Concord Terrace, Suite 130  
Sunrise, Florida 33323

John F. Harkness, Jr.  
Executive Director

(954) 835-0233  
www.FLORIDABAR.org

November 9, 2015

Jared G. Dokovna, Esq.  
Law Office of Jared G. Dokovna, P.A.  
6231 PGA Blvd., Ste. 104-242  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418-4033

Re: Complaint by Darren Palmer against Jared G. Dokovna  
The Florida Bar File No. 2016-50,052(15G)

Dear Mr. Dokovna:

This letter is to advise you that Fifteenth Judicial Circuit Grievance Committee "G" will consider the above-referenced case on December 16, 2015, pursuant to Rule 3-7.4, Rules Regulating The Florida Bar. The matter to be heard is the **Request For Issuance of Notice of Non-Compliance and Finding of Contempt.**

There will be no appearances by either party or by any witnesses in the case. However, you may make a written statement, sworn or unsworn, explaining, refuting, or admitting the alleged misconduct. If you wish to make a written statement, it must be received by The Florida Bar at least five (5) working days in advance of the date noted in paragraph one. Please provide a copy of your statement to the committee chair as well.

The Committee has discretion to schedule a live hearing prior to making a decision about this proceeding. In this case, the Committee has determined that a live hearing would not be of assistance in its consideration of the matter. **No live hearing has been scheduled nor is expected.** If you believe that a live hearing would be useful to the Committee's deliberations, you may request that the Committee revisit its decision. You may do so by sending a written request for a live hearing to the Chair of the Committee, with a copy to the Bar's counsel. Your request should include an explanation of why a live hearing is needed to supplement the written record, including a description of the evidence and issues you would expect to be presented at such a hearing. Your request should be received by the Chair at least five (5) business days prior to the scheduled summary proceeding.

Mr. Jared G. Dokovna  
November 9, 2015  
Page Two

If the Committee decides to schedule a live hearing, you will be notified of that fact. The decision whether to hold a live hearing is left to the absolute discretion of the Committee; there is no right to appeal or review this decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N-Ram" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Navin Ramnath  
Bar Counsel

NAR/aak

cc: Darren Palmer  
Michael Joseph Napoleone, Esq, Chair  
Michelle Renee Suskauer, Designated Reviewer

Enclosure: Grievance Committee Roster

**FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE “G”**

Michael Joseph Napoleone, Esq., *Richman Greer, P.A.*

Carl Tucker Williams, Esq.

Gregor J. Schwinghammer, Jr., *Gunster, Yoakley & Stewart, P.A.*

Ellen Steingesser Malasky, Attorney

Kimberly Rutger Tendrich, Attorney

James D. Sallah, Esq., *Sallah, Astarita & Cox, LLC*

Pamela Triolo, (N/L)

Vincent Cuomo (NL)

Sheri Resnick (NL)

**NOTE:**

The above list of grievance committee members is furnished in accordance with Rules Regulating The Florida Bar, Chapter 3, Rule 3-7.4, solely for the purpose of determining whether a basis for recusal may exist with respect to any particular member or members of the grievance committee who may hear the matter under consideration. Rule 3-3.4(c) precludes a member of a grievance committee from performing a grievance committee function when that member: (1) is related by blood or marriage to the complainant or respondent; (2) has a financial, business, property or personal interest in the matter under consideration, or with the complainant or respondent; (3) has a personal interest which could be affected by the outcome of the proceedings or which could affect the outcome; or (4) is prejudiced or biased toward either the complainant or the respondent. The individual members of the grievance committee, other than the investigating member, should not be contacted concerning the merits of the matter under consideration. If you determine that a member of the grievance committee should recuse himself or herself from hearing the matter under consideration, you should contact the staff attorney with The Florida Bar who is assigned your file and the grievance committee chairperson.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA  
(Before A Grievance Committee)

THE FLORIDA BAR,  
  
Complainant,

The Florida Bar File  
No. 2016-50,052(15G)

v.

JARED G. DOKOVNA,  
  
Respondent.

---

**REQUEST FOR ISSUANCE OF NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANCE  
AND FINDING OF CONTEMPT**

Pursuant to Rule 3-7.11(f)(2), Rules Regulating The Florida Bar, the undersigned Bar Counsel hereby requests that on December 16, 2015, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit Grievance Committee “G” hear the issue of whether Respondent has willfully failed to respond to an official Bar inquiry without good cause and whether Respondent has good cause to excuse Respondent's failure to respond to an official Bar inquiry and whether Respondent should be held in contempt for failure to respond to an official Bar inquiry as set forth below:

1. On July 15, 2015, Respondent was sent a letter by regular U.S. Mail to Respondent's record Bar address advising of a complaint in this case and was requested to respond by July 30, 2015. A copy of the letter is attached hereto as “Exhibit A”.



2. Respondent failed to respond to The Florida Bar as requested in the letter of July 15, 2015.

3. On September 4, 2015, Respondent was sent another letter, by regular U.S. Mail to Respondent's record Bar address, advising of a complaint in this case and was requested to respond in ten days to the letter. A copy of the letter is attached hereto as "Exhibit B".

4. Respondent failed to respond to The Florida Bar as requested in the letter of September 4, 2015.

5. On September 30, 2015, Respondent was sent another letter, by email and regular U.S. mail to Respondent's record Bar address and record Bar email address, advising of a complaint in this case and was requested to respond in ten days to the letter. A copy of the letter is attached hereto as "Exhibit C."

6. On September 30, 2015 at 12:38 p.m., Respondent acknowledged receipt of the email correspondence and asked if he could provide his response that evening.

7. By return email on September 30, 2015 at 12:41p.m., Respondent's request was granted with a reminder to furnish a copy of his response to the complainant. A copy of the email chain is attached hereto as "Exhibit D."

8. Despite being granted until that evening to respond, Respondent failed to provide his response to The Florida Bar.

9. On October 15, 2015 at approximately 12:00 noon, Bar Counsel

attempted to contact respondent regarding his outstanding response. Bar Counsel left a voice mail message that should Bar Counsel not hear back from Respondent be close of business that date, the matter would be forward to the grievance committee for further action.

10. By end of business on October 15, 2015, no communication had been received by The Florida Bar from the Respondent.

11. As of the date of this Request for Issuance of Notice of Non-Compliance and Finding of Contempt, Respondent has willfully failed to respond to an official Bar inquiry without good cause.

WHEREFORE, the undersigned Bar Counsel respectfully requests that this Grievance Committee issue its findings as to whether Respondent has willfully failed to respond to an official Bar inquiry and whether Respondent should be held in contempt for failure to respond to an official Bar inquiry.

Respectfully submitted,



Navin A. Ramnath, Bar Counsel  
The Florida Bar  
Ft. Lauderdale Branch Office  
Lake Shore Plaza II  
1300 Concord Terrace, Suite 130  
Sunrise, Florida 33323  
(954) 835-0233  
Florida Bar No.: 41979  
[nramnath@flabar.org](mailto:nramnath@flabar.org)

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify the original hereof has been furnished by regular U.S. Mail to Michael Joseph Napoleone, Chair at Richman Greer, P.A., 250 S. Australian Ave., Ste. 1504, West Palm Beach, FL 33401-5016; with copies to Respondent, Jared G. Dokovna, Law Office of Jared G. Dokovna, P.A., 6231 PGA Blvd., Ste. 104-242, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418-4033; and via E-mail to [jared@dokovna.com](mailto:jared@dokovna.com); to Michelle Renee Suskauer, Designated Reviewer, at The Suskauer Law Firm PA, 1601 Forum Place, Ste. 610, West Palm Beach, FL 33401-8106, and via E-mail to Staff Counsel, The Florida Bar at [aquintel@flabar.org](mailto:aquintel@flabar.org), all this 9th day of November, 2015.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. Ramnath". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Navin A. Ramnath, Bar Counsel



## THE FLORIDA BAR

651 EAST JEFFERSON STREET  
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32399-2300

JOHN F. HARKNESS, JR.  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

850/561-5600  
WWW.FLORIDABAR.ORG

July 15, 2015

Mr. Jared G. Dokovna  
Law Office of Jared G. Dokovna, p.a.  
6231 PGA Blvd Ste 104-242  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418-4033

Re: Complaint by Darren Palmer against Jared G. Dokovna  
The Florida Bar File No. 2016-50,052 (15G)

Dear Mr. Dokovna:

Enclosed is a copy of an inquiry/complaint and any supporting documents submitted by the above referenced complainant(s). Your response to this complaint is required under the provisions of Rule 4-8.4(g), Rules of Professional Conduct of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar, and is due in our office by **July 30, 2015**. Responses should not exceed 25 pages and may refer to any additional documents or exhibits that are available on request. Failure to provide a written response to this complaint is in itself a violation of Rule 4-8.4(g). Please note that any correspondence must be sent through the U.S. mail; we cannot accept faxed material. **You are further required to furnish the complainant with a complete copy of your written response, including any documents submitted therewith.**

Pursuant to Rule 3-7.1(f), Rules of Discipline, you are further required to complete and return the enclosed Certificate of Disclosure form.

Finally, the filing of this complaint does not preclude communication between the attorney and the complainant(s). Please review the enclosed Notice for information on submitting your response.

Sincerely,

William W. Wilhelm, Bar Counsel  
Attorney Consumer Assistance Program  
ACAP Hotline 866-352-0707

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Darren Palmer

The Florida Bar Exhibit A

Pursuant to Rule 3-7.1(f), Rules of Discipline, you must execute the appropriate disclosure paragraph below and return the form to this office by **July 30, 2015**. The rule provides that the nature of the charges be stated in the notice to your firm; however, we suggest that you attach a copy of the complaint.

**CERTIFICATE OF DISCLOSURE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 201\_\_\_\_, a true copy of the foregoing disclosure was furnished to \_\_\_\_\_, a member of my present law firm of \_\_\_\_\_, and, if different, to \_\_\_\_\_, a member of the law firm of \_\_\_\_\_, with which I was associated at the time of the act(s) giving rise to the complaint in The Florida Bar File No. 2016-50,052 (15G).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jared G. Dokovna

**CERTIFICATE OF DISCLOSURE**  
(Corporate/Government Employment)

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 201\_\_\_\_, a true copy of the foregoing disclosure was furnished to \_\_\_\_\_, my supervisor at \_\_\_\_\_ (name of agency), with which I was associated at the time of the act(s) giving rise to the complaint in The Florida Bar File No. 2016-50,052 (15G).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jared G. Dokovna

**CERTIFICATE OF NON-LAW FIRM AFFILIATION**  
(Sole Practitioner)

I HEREBY CERTIFY to The Florida Bar on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 201\_\_\_\_, that I am not presently affiliated with a law firm and was not affiliated with a law firm at the time of the act(s) giving rise to the complaint in The Florida Bar File No. 2016-50,052 (15G).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jared G. Dokovna

## NOTICE OF GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

1. The enclosed letter is an informal inquiry. Your response is required under the provisions of The Rules Regulating The Florida Bar 4-8.4(g), Rules of Professional Conduct. Failure to provide a written response to this complaint is in itself a violation of Rule 4-8.4(g). If you do not respond, the matter will be forwarded to the grievance committee for disposition in accordance with Rule 3-7.3 of the Rules of Discipline.
2. Many complaints considered first by staff counsel are not forwarded to a grievance committee, as they do not involve violations of the Rules of Professional Conduct justifying disciplinary action.
3. "Pursuant to Rule 3-7.1(a), Rules of Discipline, any response by you in these proceedings shall become part of the public record of this matter and thereby become accessible to the public upon the closure of the case by Bar counsel or upon a finding of no probable cause, probable cause, minor misconduct, or recommendation of diversion. Disclosure during the pendency of an investigation may be made only as to status if a specific inquiry concerning this case is made and if this matter is generally known to be in the public domain."
4. The grievance committee is the Bar's "grand jury." Its function and procedure are set forth in Rule 3-7.4. Proceedings before the grievance committee, for the most part, are non-adversarial in nature. However, you should carefully review Chapter 3 of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar.
5. If the grievance committee finds probable cause, formal adversarial proceedings, which ordinarily lead to disposition by the Supreme Court of Florida, will be commenced under 3-7.6, unless a plea is submitted under Rule 3-7.9.



# THE FLORIDA BAR

651 EAST JEFFERSON STREET  
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32399-2300

JOHN F. HARKNESS, JR.  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

850/561-5600  
WWW.FLORIDABAR.ORG

September 4, 2015

Mr. Jared G. Dokovna  
Law Office of Jared G. Dokovna, p.a.  
6231 PGA Blvd Ste 104-242  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 334184033

Re: Complaint by Darren Palmer against Jared G. Dokovna  
The Florida Bar File No. 2016-50,052 (15G)

Dear Mr. Dokovna:

As of this date, I have not received a copy of your response to the above complaint. Please be advised that you are obligated to provide a written response pursuant to Rule 4-8.4(g).

If you do not respond by September 15, 2015, the matter may be forwarded to the grievance committee for further investigation.

Sincerely,

William W. Wilhelm, Bar Counsel  
Attorney Consumer Assistance Program  
ACAP Hotline 866-352-0707

cc: Mr. Darren Palmer



## The Florida Bar

Ft. Lauderdale Branch Office  
Lake Shore Plaza II  
1300 Concord Terrace, Suite 130  
Sunrise, Florida 33323

John F. Harkness, Jr.  
Executive Director

(954) 835-0233  
www.FLORIDABAR.org

September 30, 2015

VIA E-Mail to [jared@dokovna.com](mailto:jared@dokovna.com) and via regular U.S. mail

Jared G. Dokovna, Esq.  
Law Office of Jared G. Dokovna, P.A.  
6231 PGA Blvd., Ste. 104-242  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418-4033

Re: Complaint of Darren Palmer against Jared G. Dokovna  
The Florida Bar File No. 2016-50,052(15G)

Dear Mr. Dokovna:

The undersigned counsel has been assigned this matter for further investigation

Enclosed you will find a copy of letters dated July 15, 2015 and September 4, 2015, requiring your response. As of the date of this letter, your response to the above referenced matter has not been received. Please be advised that you are obligated to provide a written response pursuant to Rule 4-8.4(g).

If we do not receive your response by October 12, 2015, this matter will be forwarded to the grievance committee for contempt action.

Sincerely,

Navin Ramnath  
Bar Counsel

NAR/aak

Enclosure

cc: Darren Palmer, Complainant





Re: The Florida Bar File No. 2016-50,052(15G)   
Allyson Kline to: Jared Dokovna

09/30/2015 12:41 PM

Yes. Please remember to provide a copy to the complainant.

Thank you.

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Allyson A. Kline  
Lawyer Regulation  
Secretary to Navin A. Ramnath, Bar Counsel  
The Florida Bar  
Lake Shore Plaza II, Suite 130  
1300 Concord Terrace  
Sunrise, FL 33323  
(954) 835-0233, Ext. 4150  
(954) 835-0133 - fax  
akline@flabar.org

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Jared Dokovna

My god. I'm sorry I did not see these. I'm in trial r...

09/30/2015 12:38:35 PM

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From: Jared Dokovna <jared@dokovna.com>  
To: Allyson Kline <akline@flabar.org>  
Date: 09/30/2015 12:38 PM  
Subject: Re: The Florida Bar File No. 2016-50,052(15G)

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My god. I'm sorry I did not see these. I'm in trial right now. Can I send a response tonight?

Sent from Outlook

On Wed, Sep 30, 2015 at 8:57 AM -0700, "Allyson Kline" <[akline@flabar.org](mailto:akline@flabar.org)> wrote:

Good afternoon,

Below please find correspondence from The Florida Bar which requires your response .

Thank you.

Initial Complaint 07/13/2015

Respondent Ltr - 15 Day Letter 07/14/2015

Respondent Ltr - No Response to 15 Day Ltr Received 09/03/2015

10 Day Letter to Respondent - No Response to Complaint Received 09/30/2015

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Allyson A. Kline  
Lawyer Regulation  
Secretary to Navin A. Ramnath, Bar Counsel  
The Florida Bar  
Lake Shore Plaza II, Suite 130  
1300 Concord Terrace  
Sunrise, FL 33323  
(954) 835-0233, Ext. 4150  
(954) 835-0133 - fax  
akline@flabar.org

Please note: Florida has very broad public records laws. Many written communications to or from The Florida Bar regarding Bar business may be considered public records, which must be made available to anyone upon request. Your e-mail communications may therefore be subject to public disclosure.