

# Supreme Court of Florida

WHEREAS, it officially has been made known to me that it is necessary to appoint a referee for the Court pursuant to rule 3-7.6(a), Rules Regulating the Florida Bar, to preside in a disciplinary action brought by The Florida Bar pursuant to Chapter 3 of the Rules Regulating the Florida Bar in the matter of:

The Florida Bar vs. Philip Maurice Gerson,  
Supreme Court Case No. SC16-1009;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jorge Labarga, under authority vested in me as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Florida, do hereby designate the Honorable Bertila Soto, Chief Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court of Florida, to appoint a referee for the Court in the above matter and, within fourteen days of this order, to notify the Clerk of the Florida Supreme Court and the parties as to the judge appointed as referee. The referee shall conduct a case management conference, to be held no later than sixty days from the date of appointment, at which the schedule for the proceedings, including the final hearing date, shall be set. The referee shall have the option of holding the required case management conference either in person or telephonically. The referee shall thereafter hear, conduct, try, and determine the matters presented at the final hearing, and submit

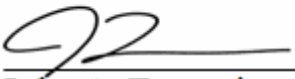
findings of fact and recommendations to the Supreme Court of Florida as provided in rule 3-7.6(m). Pursuant to rule 3-7.6(n)(3), bar counsel shall assist the referee in the preparation of the index and record in this cause. Pursuant to rule 3-7.6(m)(1), any order by the referee regarding disposition of the case shall be merely a recommendation to this Court. Such an order shall not dispose of the proceedings. This Court shall review and, if appropriate, approve the referee's recommended disposition order.

Except in cases where the ninety (90) day time limit provided by rule 3-5.2(l) applies, the referee's report shall be filed within 180 days of his or her appointment, unless there are substantial reasons requiring delay.

DONE AND ORDERED at Tallahassee, Florida, on June 14, 2016.

  
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CHIEF JUSTICE  
SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John A. Tomasino  
Clerk, Supreme Court



Enclosed:

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Complaint, Exhibits to Complaint, Notice of Related Case, Motion to Consolidate, Requests for Admission, Exhibit to Requests for Admission, and Possible Venue. Related to: SC16-1006, The Florida Bar v. Steven Kent Hunter, which will need to be assigned to the same referee as in this case.