

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA
(Before a Referee)

THE FLORIDA BAR,

Complainant,

v.

PETER G. STAMAS,

Respondent.

Supreme Court Case
No. SC16-1022

The Florida Bar File
No. 2016-50,719(17A)OSC

CONDITIONAL GUILTY PLEA FOR CONSENT JUDGMENT

COMES NOW, the undersigned Respondent, PETER G. STAMAS, and files this Conditional Guilty Plea pursuant to Rule 3-7.9 of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar.

1. Respondent is, and at all times mentioned herein was, a member of The Florida Bar albeit suspended by Court order dated August 18, 2015, subject to the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of Florida.

2. Respondent is acting freely and voluntarily in this matter, and tenders this Plea without fear or threat of coercion. Respondent is satisfied with counsel whose signature appears on this plea.

3. The disciplinary measures to be imposed upon Respondent are as follows:

A. Respondent shall be suspended for a period of two (2) years.

B. The Respondent, within, thirty (30) days of the signing of this Conditional Guilty Plea For Consent Judgment, will make the following refund of the legal fees paid to him:

- (i) Crystal Burrows in the amount of \$1,500.00;
- (ii) Frank Paul Westwood in the amount of \$5,500.00

C. Respondent shall pay The Florida Bar's costs in this matter.

4. The following allegations and rule violations provide the basis for Respondent's guilty plea and for the discipline to be imposed in this matter:

Supreme Court Case No. 16-1022

A. The Respondent, Peter G. Stamas, was admitted to The Florida Bar on July 2, 2007.

B. On August 18, 2015, this Court entered an Order suspending the Respondent from the practice of law for failing to respond to a Bar inquiry in Florida Bar file number 2015-50,784(17A), which required the Respondent to cease the practice of law by September 17, 2015. Also see Supreme Court Case No. SC15-1110.

C. Pursuant to R. Regulating Fla. Bar 3-5.1(h), a suspended lawyer is obligated to notify their clients of said suspension, along with the courts and opposing counsel and then provide an affidavit documenting compliance with this requirement.

D. Unfortunately, the Respondent was not immediately aware that he had been suspended by the Court due to his own failure to review communications from the Bar and ultimately this Court. Upon being informed by a colleague that he had been suspended, he ceased accepting new business and took steps to inform the few active clients that he was representing at that time and to secure new counsel for his clients.

E. He admittedly did appear in Court, post his knowledge of the suspension, to personally advise opposing counsel, the trial judge and his client of his suspension. On these limited occasions where he did appear in Court, he did not take any action relative to the client's matter or practice law in any manner.

F. On February 2, 2017, the Referee in this action granted summary judgment in favor of The Florida Bar as to the above referenced matters and specifically found that these actions were in derivation of the Supreme Court's Order of Suspension and constituted contumacious conduct warranting a disciplinary sanction.

8. In mitigation of his actions, Respondent asserts the following Standard for Imposing Lawyer Sanctions 9.32:

- (b) absence of a dishonest or selfish motive;
- (e) 9.32(c) personal or emotional problems (family medical issues);
- (g) otherwise good reputation and character; and

(l) remorse.

9. The Florida Bar has approved this proposed plea in the manner required by Rule 3-7.9.

10. If this plea is not finally approved by the referee and the Supreme Court of Florida, then it shall be of no effect and may not be used by the parties in any way.

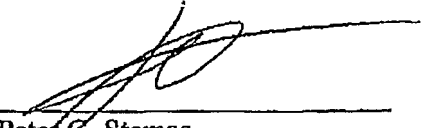
11. If this plea is approved, then Respondent agrees to pay all reasonable costs associated with this case pursuant to Rule 3-7.6(q) in the amount of \$1,654.10. These costs are due within 30 days of the court order. Respondent agrees that if the costs are not paid within 30 days of this court's order becoming final, Respondent shall pay interest on any unpaid costs at the statutory rate. Respondent further agrees not to attempt to discharge the obligation for payment of the Bar's costs in any future proceedings, including but not limited to, a petition for bankruptcy. Respondent shall be deemed delinquent and ineligible to practice law pursuant to Rule 1-3.6 if the cost judgment is not satisfied within 30 days of the final court order, unless deferred by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar.

12. Respondent acknowledges the obligation to pay the costs of this proceeding and that payment is evidence of strict compliance with the conditions of any disciplinary order or agreement, and is also evidence of good faith and fiscal responsibility. Respondent understands that failure to pay the costs of this

proceeding may reflect adversely on any reinstatement proceedings or any other bar disciplinary matter in which Respondent is involved.

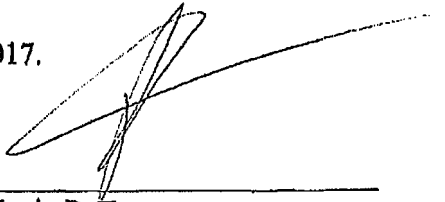
13. This Conditional Guilty Plea for Consent Judgment fully complies with all requirements of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar.

Dated this 2 day of March, 2017.



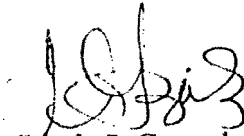
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Dated this 2nd day of March, 2017.



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Dated this 2 day of March, 2017.



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