

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA

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

**VERIFIED RESPONSE TO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE  
AND REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME**

The Respondent, PETER G. STAMAS, by and through his undersigned attorney, files this Verified Response to this Court's June 9, 2016 Order to Show Cause, and states:

1. The Respondent, Peter G. Stamas, was admitted to The Florida Bar on July 2, 2007, and other than the matters referenced herein has never been disciplined by The Florida Bar.

2. 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 case Florida Bar file number 2015-50,784(17A), which required the Respondent to cease the practice of law by September 18, 2015. The Respondent is not currently practicing law and understands that he would need to file a petition for reinstatement

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and provide the missing response to the referenced grievance.

3. 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.

4. Unfortunately, the Respondent was not immediately aware that he had been suspended by the Court or that the Bar sought to suspend him for failing to respond to a grievance 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. 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.

5. The Florida Bar notes three criminal matters (Burrows, Lewis and Toussaint) wherein the Respondent filed initial pleadings on behalf of clients, post the effective date of his suspension.

6. The Bar's Petition also discusses the Respondent's representation in

one other matter wherein the Bar correctly notes that the retention occurred well prior to the suspension order (Hicks). As undersigned counsel was just retained this morning and as his client is currently residing on the West Coast of Florida, we are unable to compile a listing of hearings and the coverage counsel by today's deadline and would respectfully request a short extension of time to secure and present this information to the Court (or to a referee appointed to consider this matter).

7. The failure of a lawyer to carefully follow (or open) mail that is sent to them by The Florida Bar or this Court is an indication of depression or some other issue. The Respondent and the undersigned discussed a consultation with Florida Lawyer's Assistance, Inc., and the Respondent is taking that action.

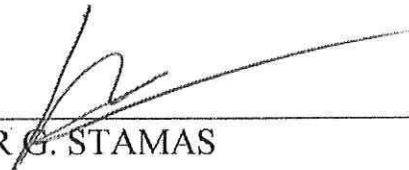
8. There appear to be other mitigating factors that are available to be plead but due to the undersigned counsel's recent retention and the impending deadline, we are unable to set them forth fully at this time and would seek a short extension of time to document these other mitigating factors.

9. The undersigned counsel did attempt to speak to Bar counsel on this matter but he is currently on vacation, his secretary was likewise out of the office and a call to Alan Pascal, the attorney in charge of the Bar's Fort Lauderdale's office, has not yet been returned so undersigned counsel could secure an agreement on an extension of time.

WHEREFORE, the Respondent, PETER G. STAMAS, respectfully requests that he not be held in contempt; that the Respondent be allowed an additional fifteen (15) days to supplement this Response; that a Referee be appointed to make any necessary recommendations as to sanction regarding the issues set forth in the Petition for Contempt and Order to Show Cause; and for such other relief as the Court finds reasonable and just.

**Verification**

The undersigned, under penalty of perjury, verifies that the above referenced information is true, correct and complete.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
PETER G. STAMAS

Respectfully submitted,

RICHARDSON & TYNAN, P.L.C.  
Attorneys for Respondent  
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By: 

\_\_\_\_\_  
KEVIN P. TYNAN, ESQ.  
TFB No. 710822

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

WE HEREBY CERTIFY that a true copy of the foregoing has been furnished by electronic mail only to: Roberto Mendez, Bar Counsel, The Florida Bar, 1300 Concord Terrace, Suite 130, Sunrise, FL 33323 (rmendez@flabar.org; dmacha@flabar.org), and to Adria E. Quintela, Staff Counsel, The Florida Bar, 1300 Concord Terrace, Suite 130, Sunrise, FL 33323 (aquintel@flabar.org) on this 24<sup>th</sup> day of June 2016.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
KEVIN P. TYNAN, ESQ.