

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

THE FLORIDA BAR,

The Florida Bar File

No. 2016-50,896(17A)

Complainant,

v.

PETER G. STAMAS,

Respondent.

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

On February 1, 2017, pursuant to Rule 3-7.11(f), Rules Regulating The Florida Bar, the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit Grievance Committee "A" 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 October 26, 2016, The Florida Bar sent Respondent a letter by regular U.S. Mail to Respondent's record Bar address and by E-mail to Respondent's record Bar E-mail address, advising of a complaint in this case and was requested to respond by November 14, 2016. 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 October 26, 2016.

The Florida Bar's Exhibit A

RECEIVED, 02/08/2017 03:18:35 PM, Clerk, Supreme Court

3. On November 22, 2016, Respondent was sent another letter, by regular U.S. Mail to Respondent's record Bar address and by E-mail to Respondent's record Bar E-mail address, advising of a complaint in this case and was requested to respond by December 2, 2016. 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 November 22, 2016.

5. Respondent was given notice that on February 1, 2017, the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit Grievance Committee "A" would hold a hearing on the Request for Issuance of Notice of Non-Compliance and Finding of Contempt. Copies of the Notice of Hearing and the Request for Issuance of Notice of Non-Compliance and Finding of Contempt are attached hereto as "**Composite Exhibit 1**".

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

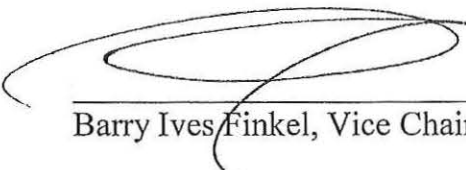
7. As of the date of this Request for Issuance of Notice of Non-Compliance and Finding of Contempt, Respondent has failed to respond to the official Bar inquiries dated October 28, 2016 and November 22, 2016.

8. 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.

9. 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 3 day of February, 2017.

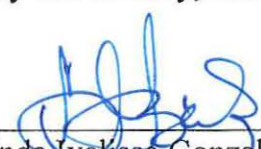
Seventeenth Judicial Circuit Grievance
Committee "A"



Barry Ives Finkel, Vice Chair

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that the original of the foregoing Grievance Committee Finding Of Non-Compliance And Failure To Respond To Official Bar Inquiry And Contempt has been furnished by regular U.S. Mail to Peter G. Stamas, Respondent, at his record Bar address of 315 SE 7th St., Suite 301, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301-3158 and via e-mail to pete@stamaslaw.com; by regular US Mail to Jay Kim, Designated Reviewer, at Kim Vaughan Lerner LLP, 1 Financial Plz., Suite 2001, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33394-0008; and to Staff Counsel, The Florida Bar, via e-mail at aquintel@flabar.org, on this 3 day of February, 2017.



Linda Ivelisse Gonzalez, 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

January 6, 2017

Mr. Peter G. Stamas
Peter G. Stamas, P.A.
315 SE 7th St., Suite 301
Ft Lauderdale, FL 33301-3158

Re: Complaint by Crystal Burrows against Peter G Stamas
The Florida Bar File No. 2016-50,896(17A)

Dear Mr. Stamas:

This letter is to advise you that the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit Grievance Committee "A" will consider the above-referenced case on **February 1, 2017**, 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.

Sincerely,

Roberto Mendez
Bar Counsel

RM/dm

Enclosure: Grievance Committee Roster

cc: Ms. Crystal Burrows
Teresa Elizabeth Williams, Chair
Jay Kim, Designated Reviewer
Courtesy copy to: Kevin P. Tynan, Esq.

Composite Exhibit 1

SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE "A"

Teresa Elizabeth Williams, Esq., Chair
Williams & Trese

Barry Ives Finkel, Esq., Vice Chair
Barry I. Finkel, PA

Daniel Francis Tordella, Esq.
Law Office of Daniel F. Tordella

Joshua David Rydell, Esq.
The Law offices of Joshua D. Rydell

Eric Scott Rosen, Esq.
Kelley Uustal, PLC

Dr. Andrew Wasserman (NL)

Scott M. Vengel, CPA (NL)

Dr. Daniel S. Brandwein (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.

Effective 11/1/2016

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

THE FLORIDA BAR,

Complainant,

The Florida Bar File
No. 2016-50,896(17A)

v.

PETER G. STAMAS,

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 **February 1, 2017**, the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit Grievance Committee A, 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 October 28, 2016, Respondent was sent a letter, by regular U.S. Mail to Respondent's record Bar address and by E-mail to Respondent's record Bar E-mail address, advising of a complaint in this case and was requested to respond by November 14, 2016. 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 October 28, 2016.

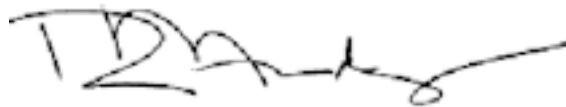
3. On November 22, 2016, Respondent was sent another letter, by regular U.S. Mail to Respondent's record Bar address and by E-mail to Respondent's record Bar E-mail address, advising of a complaint in this case and was requested to respond by December 2, 2016. A copy of the letter is attached hereto as "**Exhibit B**".

4. Respondent failed to respond to The Florida Bar as requested in the letter of November 22, 2016.

5. As of the date of this Request for Issuance of Notice of Non-Compliance and Finding of Contempt, the 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,

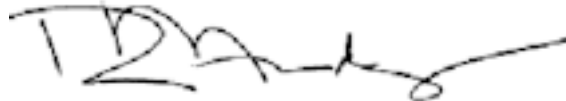
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roberto Mendez', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Roberto Mendez, 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. 814660
rmendez@flabar.org

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that the original of the foregoing Request For Issuance Of Notice Of Non-Compliance And Finding Of Contempt has been furnished by regular U.S. Mail to Teresa Elizabeth Williams, Chair of Grievance Committee 17A, at Williams & Trese, 12 SE 7th St., Suite 703, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301-3469; with copies via Certified Mail #7003 2260 0005 9099 5724, Return Receipt Requested, to Respondent, Peter G. Stamas, at his record Bar address of Peter G. Stamas, P.A, 315 SE 7th St., Suite 301, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301-3158 and via E-mail to pete@stamaslaw.com; courtesy copy via E-mail to Kevin P. Tynan, Esq. at ktynan@rtlawoffice.com and cbrooks@rtlawoffice.com; a copy via regular US Mail to Jay Kim, Designated Reviewer, at Kim Vaughan Lerner LLP, 1 Financial Plz., Suite 2001, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33394-0008, and via E-mail to Staff Counsel, The Florida Bar, at aquintel@flabar.org, on this 6th day of January, 2017.



Roberto Mendez, 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

October 28, 2016

VIA E-Mail to pete@stamaslaw.com and by regular US Mail

Mr. Peter G. Stamas
Peter G. Stamas P.A.
315 SE 7th St., Suite 301
Ft Lauderdale, FL 33301-3158

Re: Complaint of Crystal Burrows against Peter G Stamas
The Florida Bar File No. 2016-50,896 (17A)

Dear Mr. Stamas:

The attached inquiry/complaint and supporting documents, if any, submitted by the above-referenced complainant(s) require your response pursuant to Rule 4-8.4(g) of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar. Your response is due in our office by **November 14, 2016**. Also, please furnish the complainant with a complete copy of your written response and any documents submitted. Please review the enclosed Notice of Grievance Procedures regarding submitting your response.

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

Please note that the filing of this complaint does not preclude communication between the attorney and the complainant(s).

Sincerely,

Roberto Mendez
Bar Counsel

RM/dm

Enclosures (Certificate of Disclosure, Notice of Grievance Procedures, Copy of Complaint)

cc: Ms. Crystal Burrows, Complainant
Courtesy copy to: Kevin P. Tynan, Esq. w/attachment

Exhibit A

Pursuant to Rule 3-7.1(f) of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar, you must execute the applicable section of this form and return it to my attention. The rule provides that the nature of the charges be described in the notice to your firm or you may attach a copy of the complaint.

CERTIFICATE OF DISCLOSURE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this _____ day of _____, 2016, a true copy of the foregoing disclosure was furnished to _____, a member of my present law firm of _____, and/or 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. 2016-50,896 (17A).

Peter G Stamas

CERTIFICATE OF DISCLOSURE
(Corporate/Government Employment)

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this _____ day of _____, 2016, 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. 2016-50,896 (17A).

Peter G Stamas

CERTIFICATE OF NON-LAW FIRM AFFILIATION
(Sole Practitioner)

I HEREBY CERTIFY to The Florida Bar on this _____ day of _____, 2016, 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. 2016-50,896 (17A).

Peter G Stamas

NOTICE OF GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

1. The enclosed letter is an official inquiry by bar counsel. Your response is required under Rule 4-8.4(g) of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar. Rule 4-8.4(g)(1) and (2) require that a lawyer submit a written response within 15 days to an initial inquiry and within 10 days to any follow-up inquiry made by bar counsel, the grievance committee or the board of governors during the course of an investigation of the lawyer's conduct. If you do not respond, the matter will be forwarded to the grievance committee for disposition in accordance with Rule 3-7.3. Failure to respond may also be a matter of contempt and processed in accordance with Rule 3-7.11(f).

2. Many inquiries 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, any reports, correspondence, papers, recordings and/or transcripts of hearings submitted by you in this matter shall become accessible to the public upon dismissal or a decision by the grievance committee. Please advise Bar Counsel of any material provided to The Florida Bar believed to be confidential under applicable law so that measures can be taken to seal that portion of the file. Please note that The Florida Bar is required to acknowledge the status of proceedings during the pendency of an investigation, if a specific inquiry is made and the matter is deemed to be in the public domain.

4. The grievance committee is the Bar's "grand jury." Proceedings before the grievance committee are non-adversarial in nature. The grievance committee's function and procedures are set forth in Rule 3-7.4.

5. If the grievance committee finds probable cause, formal adversarial proceedings before the Supreme Court of Florida will be initiated pursuant to Rule 3-7.6. A referee will make a recommendation as to guilt and discipline to The Supreme Court of Florida, unless a plea is submitted pursuant to Rule 3-7.9.



The Florida Bar

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November 22, 2016

VIA E-Mail to pete@stamaslaw.com and by regular US Mail

Mr. Peter G. Stamas
Peter G. Stamas P.A.
315 SE 7th St., Suite 301
Ft Lauderdale, FL 33301-3158

Re: Complaint of Crystal Burrows against Peter G Stamas
The Florida Bar File No. 2016-50,896 (17A)

Dear Mr. Stamas:

Enclosed you will find a copy of my letter dated October 28, 2016, requiring your response. As of the date of this letter, I have not received your response to the above referenced matter. 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 **December 2, 2016**, this matter will be forwarded to the grievance committee for further investigation.

Sincerely,

Roberto Mendez
Bar Counsel

RM/dm

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Crystal Burrows, Complainant
Courtesy copy to: Kevin P. Tynan, Esq.

Exhibit B