

Supreme Court of Florida

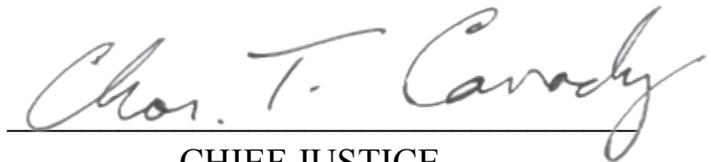
WHEREAS, it officially has been made known to me that it is necessary to appoint a referee for the Court pursuant to rule 3-7.6(a), Rules Regulating the Florida Bar, to preside in a disciplinary action brought by The Florida Bar pursuant to Chapter 3 of the Rules Regulating the Florida Bar in the matter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

The Florida Bar vs. Mark P. Stopa,
Supreme Court Case No. SC18-1197;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Charles T. Canady, under authority vested in me as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Florida, do hereby designate the Honorable Ronald N. Ficarrota, Chief Judge of the Thirteenth 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) (Referee's Report). In addition, the referee

shall determine entitlement to funds in the lawyer's frozen trust account as provided in rule 3-5.2(c). 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 3-5.2(1), the referee's report shall be filed within **90 days** of his or her appointment. If the time limit specified in 3-5.2(1) is not met, "that portion of an emergency order imposing a suspension or interim probation shall be automatically dissolved, except upon order of the Supreme Court of Florida, provided that any other appropriate disciplinary action on the underlying conduct still may be taken." R. Regulating Fla. Bar 3-5.2(1).

DONE AND ORDERED at Tallahassee, Florida, on July 27, 2018.



CHIEF JUSTICE
SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA

ATTEST:



John A. Tomasino
Clerk, Supreme Court



Enclosed: Petition for Emergency Suspension, Exhibits A-N, Possible Venue, Orders dated July 25, 2018 and Order of Emergency Suspension dated July 27, 2018.

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Two previous cases involving this respondent were assigned to the Honorable Linda R. Allan, Sixth Judicial Circuit.