

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA

THE FLORIDA BAR,

Petitioner,

v.

MADELINE PALENZUELA,

Respondent.

Supreme Court Case No.
SC-

The Florida Bar File No.
2018-70,492(11K-OSC)

PETITION FOR CONTEMPT AND ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE

COMES NOW, The Florida Bar, Complainant, in the above-referenced matter, pursuant to Rule 3-7.11(f), Rules Regulating The Florida Bar, and files this Petition for Contempt and Order to Show Cause, and states the following:

1. A copy of the Grievance Committee Finding of Non-Compliance and Failure to Respond to Official Bar Inquiry and Contempt is attached to this Petition as "**Exhibit 1**".

2. As of the date of the service of this Petition, Respondent has failed to respond to an official Bar inquiry.

3. The other members of The Florida Bar should not have to pay for Respondent's failure to respond to an official Bar inquiry and the initiation of the instant proceeding. Therefore, the Bar is requesting administrative costs of \$1,250.00 against Respondent.

RECEIVED, 04/11/2018 11:38:26 AM, Clerk, Supreme Court

WHEREFORE, The Florida Bar requests that this Honorable Court suspend the Respondent pursuant to Rule 3-7.11(f), until such time as she fully responds in writing to the official Bar inquiry contained in “**Exhibit 1**” and until further order of this Court.

Respectfully submitted,



Patrick Russell
Bar Counsel
The Florida Bar
444 Brickell Avenue, Suite M-100
Miami, Florida 33131-2404
(305) 377-4445
Florida Bar No.: 995568
prussell@flabar.org

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that this Petition for Contempt and Order To Show Cause has been E-Filed with The Honorable John A. Tomasino, Clerk of the Supreme Court of Florida, using the E-Filing Portal and that a copy has been furnished by U.S. Mail, via Certified Mail No 7014 2120 0003 5156 6285, Return Receipt Requested to Madelina Palenzuela, Respondent, whose record bar address is: 1825 Ponce De Leon Boulevard, Suite 343, Coral Gables, Florida 33134, and to home address 6785 S.W. 52nd Street, Miami, FL 33155-5709 by U.S. Mail, via Certified Mail No 7014 2120 0003 5156 6360, and via e-mail to mp@palenzuelalegal.com; with a copy to Adria E. Quintela, Staff Counsel, via e-mail to aquintel@flabar.org, on this 11th day of April, 2018.



Patrick Russell
Bar Counsel
The Florida Bar
444 Brickell Avenue, Suite M-100
Miami, Florida 33131-2404
(305) 377-4445
Florida Bar No.: 995568
prussell@flabar.org

**NOTICE OF TRIAL COUNSEL AND DESIGNATION OF PRIMARY
EMAIL ADDRESS**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the trial counsel in this matter is Patrick Russell, Bar Counsel, whose address, telephone number and primary email address are The Florida Bar, 444 Brickell Avenue, Suite M-100, Miami, FL 33131, (305) 377-4445 and prussell@flabar.org; and to dguerrero@flabar.org . Respondent need not address pleadings, correspondence, etc. in this matter to anyone other than trial counsel and to Adria E. Quintela, Staff Counsel, The Florida Bar, Lakeshore Plaza II, Suite 130, 1300 Concord Terrace, Sunrise, Florida 33323, aquintel@flabar.org.

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

THE FLORIDA BAR,
Complainant,

The Florida Bar File No.
2018-70,243(11K)

v.

MADELINE PALENZUELA,
Respondent.

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

On February 21, 2018, pursuant to Rule 3-7.11(f), Rules Regulating The Florida Bar, the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Grievance Committee K 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 November 16, 2017, The Florida Bar sent Respondent a letter via e-mail to mp@palenzuelalegal.com advising of a complaint in this case and was requested to respond by December 1, 2017. 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 November 16, 2017.
3. On December 6, 2017, Respondent was sent another letter, via e-mail to mp@palenzuelalegal.com and by certified U.S. Mail tracking number 7014

Exhibit 1

2120 0003 5156 4953 to Respondent's record Bar address, advising of a complaint in this case and was requested to respond by December 18, 2017. 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 December 6, 2018.

5. Respondent was given notice that on February 21, 2018, the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Grievance Committee K would hold a hearing on the Request for Issuance of Notice of Non-Compliance and Finding of Contempt. A copy of the Notice of Hearing and the Request for Issuance of Notice of Non-Compliance and Finding of Contempt are attached hereto as "Exhibit C".

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

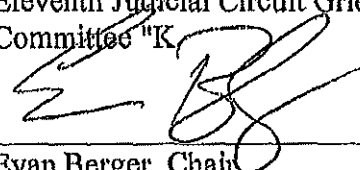
7. As of the date of this Request for Issuance of Notice of Non-Compliance and Finding of Contempt, Respondent has failed to respond to the official Bar inquiries dated November 16, 2017 and December 6, 2017.

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 28th day of February, 2018.

Eleventh Judicial Circuit Grievance
Committee "K"


Evan Berger, Chair

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that this Grievance Committee Finding of Non-Compliance and Failure To Respond to Official Bar Inquiry and Contempt hereof has been furnished by regular U.S. Mail to, Madeline Palenzuela, Respondent, 1825 Ponce de Leon Boulevard, Suite 343, Coral Gables, FL 33134-4418 and via e-mail to mp@palenzuelalegal.com; Dori Foster-Morales, Designated Reviewer, via e-mail to dori@fostermorales.com; and to Adria E. Quintela, Staff Counsel, via e-mail at aquintel@flabar.org, this 29th day of March, 2018.


Patrick Russell, Bar Counsel



The Florida Bar

Miami Branch Office
444 Brickell Avenue
Rivergate Plaza, Suite M-100
Miami, Florida 33131-2404
(305) 377-4445
www.floridabnr.org

John F. Hartness, Jr.
Executive Director

Joshua E. Doyle
Executive Director Designate

November 16, 2017

Sent via e-mail to mp@palenzuelalegal.com

Madeline Palenzuela, Esq.
1825 Ponce de Leon Boulevard, Suite 343
Coral Gables, Florida 33134

*Re: Complaint of The Florida Bar against Madeline Palenzuela
The Florida Bar File No. 2018-70,243(11K)*

Dear Ms. Palenzuela:

Enclosed you will find a copy of correspondence dated October 31, 2017 from the Honorable Scott M. Bernstein, Chair, Florida Conference of Circuit Judges and Administrative Judge, received by The Florida Bar.

Your response to this inquiry is required under the provisions of Rule 4-8.4(g) of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar, and is due in our office by December 1, 2017. 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.

Sincerely,

Patrick Russell
Bar Counsel

Enclosure

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 _____, 2017, a true copy of the foregoing disclosure was furnished to _____, a member of my present law firm of _____, and, if different, 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. 2018-70,243(11K).

Madeline Palenzuela

CERTIFICATE OF DISCLOSURE
(Corporate/Government Employment)

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this ____ day of _____, 2017, 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. 2018-70,243 (11K).

Madeline Palenzuela

CERTIFICATE OF NON-LAW FIRM AFFILIATION
(Sole Practitioner)

I HEREBY CERTIFY to The Florida Bar on this ____ day of _____, 2017, 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. 2018-70,243(11K).

Madeline Palenzuela

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.

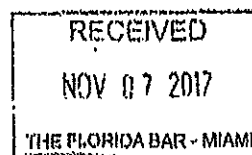


CIRCUIT COURT
ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

SCOTT M. BERNSTEIN
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE
October 31, 2017

COURTHOUSE CENTER
175 N.W. FIRST AVENUE
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33128

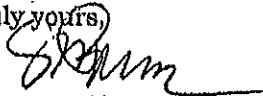
Arlene Sankel, Esq.
The Florida Bar
444 Brickell Ave. #M100
Miami, Fl. 33131



Dear Arlene:

This letter will confirm what we discussed on the telephone yesterday. I conducted a hearing in September, 2017 in Case No. 2015-4599 FC 04. The Mother (Respondent) appeared and said she had not heard from her attorney, Madeline Palenzuela, Esq., in several months. Opposing counsel also stated he had tried to contact Ms. Palenzuela, without success. I asked my Judicial Assistant to prepare an Order To Appear, re-set the case, and send it directly to Ms. Palenzuela. The re-set date was yesterday, October 31, 2017. The Mother appeared but Ms. Palenzuela did not. The Mother told me she drove to the attorney's home last week and discovered Ms. Palenzuela was in a serious automobile accident and has been "in and out of a coma." I asked the Mother if she wanted to discharge the attorney and proceed *pro se*, and she said yes, so I entered an order to that effect, a copy of which is attached. I also re-set the case again to insure this client has not suffered prejudiced due to the lack of contact with her attorney. I feel terrible for someone who has been injured in an automobile accident. But I am concerned that Ms. Palenzuela may have other clients who do not know what is going on or who may suffer prejudice due to the lawyer's unavailability. I am not trying to get Ms. Palenzuela in trouble, but I felt I had to bring this situation to your attention. Please let me know if you need anything further from me. Thanks.

Very truly yours,


Judge Scott M. Bernstein
Chair, Florida Conference of Circuit Judges
and Administrative Judge, Family Division
LET Courthouse Center
175 N.W. 1st Avenue, Suite 2815 Miami, FL 33128



The Florida Bar

Miami Branch Office
444 Brickell Avenue
Rivergate Plaza, Suite M-100
Miami, Florida 33131-2404
(305) 377-4445
www.floridabar.org

John P. Harlness, Jr.
Executive Director

Joshua E. Doyle
Executive Director Designate

December 6, 2017

Sent via to mp@palenzuelalegal.com and
Certified U.S. Mail No. 7014 2120 0003 5156 4953 w-R.R.R.

Madeline Palenzuela, Esq.
1825 Ponce de Leon Boulevard, Suite 343
Coral Gables, FL 33134-4418

Re: Complaint of The Florida Bar against Madeline Palenzuela
The Florida Bar File No. 2018-70,243(11K)

Dear Ms. Palenzuela:

Enclosed you will find correspondence dated November 16, 2017, requiring a response. Please be advised that a written response is required pursuant to Rule 4-8.4(g) of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar, and a response has not been received.

If a response is not received by December 18, 2017, this matter will be forwarded to the grievance committee for further investigation.

Sincerely,

Patrick Russell
Bar Counsel

Enclosure

Exhibit B



The Florida Bar

Miami Branch Office
444 Brickell Avenue
Rivergate Plaza, Suite M-100
Miami, Florida 33131-2404
(305) 377-4445
www.floridabar.org

John F. Harkness, Jr.
Executive Director

Joshua E. Doyle
Executive Director Designate

November 16, 2017

Sent via e-mail to mp@palenzuelalegal.com

Madeline Palenzuela, Esq.
1825 Ponce de Leon Boulevard, Suite 343
Coral Gables, Florida 33134

Re: *Complaint of The Florida Bar against Madeline Palenzuela*
The Florida Bar File No. 2018-70,243(11K)

Dear Ms. Palenzuela:

Enclosed you will find a copy of correspondence dated October 31, 2017 from the Honorable Scott M. Bernstein, Chair, Florida Conference of Circuit Judges and Administrative Judge, received by The Florida Bar.

Your response to this inquiry is required under the provisions of Rule 4-8.4(g) of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar, and is due in our office by **December 1, 2017**. 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.

Sincerely,

Patrick Russell
Bar Counsel

Enclosure

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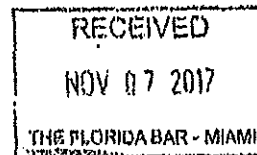


CIRCUIT COURT
ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

SCOTT M. BERNSTEIN
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE
October 31, 2017

COURTHOUSE CENTER
175 N.W. FIRST AVENUE
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33128

Arlene Sankel, Esq.
The Florida Bar
444 Brickell Ave. #M100
Miami, Fl. 33131



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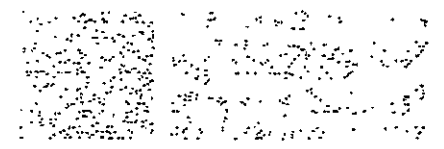
Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "S. Bernstein", written over a horizontal line.

Judge Scott M. Bernstein
Chair, Florida Conference of Circuit Judges
and Administrative Judge, Family Division
LET Courthouse Center
175 N.W. 1st Avenue, Suite 2815 Miami, FL 33128

SCOTT M. BERNSTEIN
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE
LAWSON E. THOMAS COURTHOUSE CENTER
175 N.W. FIRST AVENUE
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33128

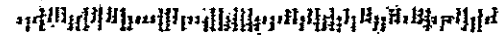
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144 BRICKELL AVE - MIAMI

Arlene Sankel, Esq.
The Florida Bar
444 Brickell Ave. #M100
Miami, FL 33131

33131-245599





The Florida Bar

Rivergate Plaza, Suite M-100
444 Brickell Avenue
Miami, FL 33131-2404

Joshua E. Doyle
Executive Director

305/377-4445
www.FLORIDABAR.org

January 24, 2018

Sent via regular U.S. Mail, Certified Mail No.
7014 2120 0003 5156 6117 & e-mail to mp@palenzuelateam.com

Madeline Palenzuela, Esq.
1825 Ponce de Leon Boulevard, # 343
Coral Gables, FL 33134-4418

**Re: *Complaint by The Florida Bar against Madeline Palenzuela
The Florida Bar File No. 2018-70,243(11K)***

Dear Ms. Palenzuela:

This letter is to advise you that the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Grievance Committee "K" will consider the above-referenced case on February 21, 2018, pursuant to Rule 3-7.4, Rules Regulating The Florida Bar.

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 February 12, 2018. Please provide copies of your statement to bar counsel and the committee chair as well.

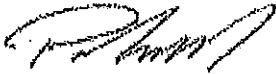
The Committee has discretion to schedule a live hearing prior to making a decision about this proceeding. In this case, the Committee has determined that a live hearing would not be of assistance in its consideration of the matter. **No live hearing has been scheduled nor is expected.** If you believe that a live hearing would be useful to the Committee's deliberations, you may request that the Committee revisit its decision. You may do so by sending a written request for a live hearing to the Chair of the Committee, with copies to the Bar Counsel. Your request should include an explanation of why a live hearing is needed to supplement the written record, including a description of the evidence and issues you would expect to be presented at such a hearing. Your request should be received by the Chair at least five (5) business days prior to the scheduled summary proceeding.

Exhibit C

Ms. Madelina Palenzuela
January 24, 2018
Page Two

If the Committee decides to schedule a live hearing, you will be notified of that fact. The decision whether to hold a live hearing is left to the absolute discretion of the Committee; there is no right to appeal or review this decision.

Sincerely,



Patrick Russell
Bar Counsel

cc:

William Robert Seitz, Chair
Dori Foster-Morales, Designated Reviewer

List Of The Members Of The Grievance Committee (11K)

(Pursuant to the requirement of Rule 3-7.4(a), the following is a list of the members of the Grievance Committee considering this matter)

William Seitz, Esq., Chair
Evan Berger, Esq., Vice Chair
David L. Deehl, Esq.
Diane Bobile, Esq.
Ana M. Melmer, Esq.
Alex J. Saiz, Esq.
David M. Kubilius, Esq.
Elizabeth Newman
Salomon Susi
Scott Bader
Lourdes Federici

Index of Materials to be Reviewed

1. 15 Day Letter to Respondent dated November 16, 2017.
2. No Response Letter to Respondent dated December 6, 2017.



The Florida Bar

Miami Branch Office
444 Brickell Avenue
Rivergate Plaza, Suite M-100
Miami, Florida 33131-2404
(305) 377-4445
www.floridabar.org

John F. Harkness, Jr.
Executive Director

Joshua E. Doyle
Executive Director Designate

November 16, 2017

Sent via e-mail to mp@palenzuelalegal.com

Madeline Palenzuela, Esq.
1825 Ponce de Leon Boulevard, Suite 343
Coral Gables, Florida 33134

*Re: Complaint of The Florida Bar against Madeline Palenzuela
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Patrick Russell
Bar Counsel

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CERTIFICATE OF DISCLOSURE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this ____ day of _____, 2017, a true copy of the foregoing disclosure was furnished to _____, a member of my present law firm of _____, and, if different, 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. 2018-70,243(11K).

Madeline Palenzuela

CERTIFICATE OF DISCLOSURE
(Corporate/Government Employment)

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this ____ day of _____, 2017, 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. 2018-70,243 (11K).

Madeline Palenzuela

CERTIFICATE OF NON-LAW FIRM AFFILIATION
(Sole Practitioner)

I HEREBY CERTIFY to The Florida Bar on this ____ day of _____, 2017, 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. 2018-70,243(11K).

Madeline Palenzuela

NOTICE OF GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

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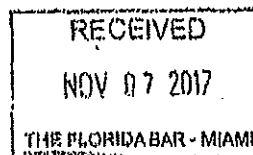
CIRCUIT COURT
ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

SCOTT M. BERNSTEIN
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

October 31, 2017

Arlene Sankel, Esq.
The Florida Bar
444 Brickell Ave. #M100
Miami, Fl. 33131

COURTHOUSE CENTER
175 N.W. FIRST AVENUE
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33128



Dear Arlene:

This letter will confirm what we discussed on the telephone yesterday. I conducted a hearing in September, 2017 in Case No. 2015-4599 FC 04. The Mother (Respondent) appeared and said she had not heard from her attorney, Madeline Palenzuela, Esq., in several months. Opposing counsel also stated he had tried to contact Ms. Palenzuela, without success. I asked my Judicial Assistant to prepare an Order To Appear, re-set the case, and send it directly to Ms. Palenzuela. The re-set date was yesterday, October 31, 2017. The Mother appeared but Ms. Palenzuela did not. The Mother told me she drove to the attorney's home last week and discovered Ms. Palenzuela was in a serious automobile accident and has been "in and out of a coma." I asked the Mother if she wanted to discharge the attorney and proceed pro se, and she said yes, so I entered an order to that effect, a copy of which is attached. I also re-set the case again to insure this client has not suffered prejudice due to the lack of contact with her attorney. I feel terrible for someone who has been injured in an automobile accident. But I am concerned that Ms. Palenzuela may have other clients who do not know what is going on or who may suffer prejudice due to the lawyer's unavailability. I am not trying to get Ms. Palenzuela in trouble, but I felt I had to bring this situation to your attention. Please let me know if you need anything further from me. Thanks.

Very truly yours,

Judge Scott M. Bernstein
Chair, Florida Conference of Circuit Judges
and Administrative Judge, Family Division
LET Courthouse Center
175 N.W. 1st Avenue, Suite 2815 Miami, FL 33128

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 _____, 2017, a true copy of the foregoing disclosure was furnished to _____, a member of my present law firm of _____, and, if different, 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. 2018-70,243(11K).

Madeline Palenzuela

CERTIFICATE OF DISCLOSURE
(Corporate/Government Employment)

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this ____ day of _____, 2017, 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. 2018-70,243 (11K).

Madeline Palenzuela

CERTIFICATE OF NON-LAW FIRM AFFILIATION
(Sole Practitioner)

I HEREBY CERTIFY to The Florida Bar on this ____ day of _____, 2017, 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. 2018-70,243(11K).

Madeline Palenzuela

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.

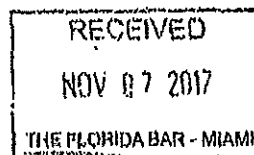


CIRCUIT COURT
ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

SCOTT M. BERNSTEIN
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE
October 31, 2017

COURTHOUSE CENTER
175 N.W. FIRST AVENUE
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33128

Arlene Sankel, Esq.
The Florida Bar
444 Brickell Ave. #M100
Miami, Fl. 33131



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SCOTT M. BERNSTEIN
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE
LAWSON E. THOMAS COURTHOUSE CENTER
175 N.W. FIRST AVENUE
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33128

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Arlene Sankel, Esq.
The Florida Bar
444 Erickell Ave. #M100
Miami, FL 33131

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444 ERICKELL AVE #M100 MIAMI FL 33131