IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA
(Before a Referee)

THE FLORIDA BAR,

Complainant,

v.

DAVID ANDREW TAYLOR III,

Respondent.

Supreme Court Case No.
SC21-291

The Florida Bar File Nos.
2019-00,462(4A), 2020-00,090(4A), 2020-00,186(4A), 2020-00,272(4A), 2020-00,291(4A), 2020-00,322(4A), 2020-00,339(4A), 2021-00,158(4A), 2021-00, 363(4A).

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Received, Clerk, Supreme Court
NOV 28 2022

REPORT OF REFEREE ACCEPTING CONSENT JUDGMENT

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Pursuant to the undersigned being duly appointed as Referee to conduct disciplinary proceedings herein according to R. Regulating Fla. Bar 3-7.6, the following proceedings occurred:

On February 23, 2021, The Florida Bar filed an 8-count Complaint against Respondent in these proceedings. Pursuant to the Supreme Court's Order dated February 24, 2021, the Chief Judge of the Seventh Judicial Circuit appointed a Referee on February 26, 2021. Respondent, who was representing himself *pro se,* filed his Answer to the Complaint on March 15, 2021. A Case Management Conference was held on April 21, 2021, at which the Florida Bar's counsel advised the Referee that there was another Bar complaint that he wanted to consolidate with the present

complaint. The Referee advised that he wanted all cases filed before he issued a discovery schedule and set a Case Management Conference for June 7, 2021, to hear the motion to consolidate.

On May 30, 2021, The Florida Bar filed a Motion to Consolidate cases SC21-291 and SC21-724. On June 2, 2021, respondent filed two motions to sever the cases. On June 17, 2021, after a hearing, the Referee granted The Florida Bar's Motion to Consolidate and denied respondent's Motion to Sever. In that same Order, the parties also stipulated to submitting a Preliminary Witness List, and the Referee included deadlines for discovery, a Pretrial Conference date and scheduled a Final Hearing on December 6, 2021. On June 21, 2021, the Florida Bar submitted a Preliminary Witness List of 29 witnesses and respondent submitted a Witness Disclosure to Complainant of 62 witnesses. On June 22, 2021, the Supreme Court consolidated the cases and granted an extension until February 4, 2022, to file the Report of Referee.

Respondent retained counsel who filed a Notice of Appearance on July 2, 2021. A Case Management Conference was held on July 7, 2021, at which the case management conference was rescheduled for August 30, 2021. At this meeting, the Referee moved the Final Hearing date to March 14, 2022, and requested an extension of the due date for the Referee's

Report. The Florida Bar filed a Motion for Extension of Time to File Report of Referee until May 20, 2022, that was granted by the Supreme Court on December 12, 2021. The Referee scheduled a Status Conference on December 1, 2021.

In January 2022, the prior Bar Counsel assigned to the matter retired from The Florida Bar and the current Bar Counsel filed a Notice of Substitution of Counsel on January 27, 2022. The Florida Bar filed an Unopposed Motion for Continuance on January 31, 2022, and set it for February 7, 2022, when the Referee had scheduled a Case Management Conference. Subsequent to that Status Conference, on February 21, 2022, The Florida Bar filed a Notice of Electronic Status Conference for March 28, 2022, a Notice of Final Disciplinary Hearing, a Notice of Final Sanction Hearing and an Agreed Motion to Extend the Report of Referee dated February 25, 2022. The Supreme Court issued an Order Granting the Motion to Extend the Referee's Report until November 21, 2022. The Referee entered an Order on the Status Conference and granted the Unopposed Motion for Continuance of the Final Hearing until August 15, 2022, through August 26, 2022. With the agreement of the parties, the Referee entered an Agreed Pretrial Order dated March 23, 2022.

After the entry of the Agreed Pretrial Order, the parties engaged in extensive discovery including numerous depositions with attached exhibits, propounding Interrogatories and serving Requests for Production of Documents. Through discovery, both parties learned of numerous facts and issues that were not apparent at the outset of the litigation. Pursuant to the Pretrial Order, The Florida Bar submitted an Amended List of 52 witnesses and a List of 120 Documents to the Referee, and respondent submitted an Amended Witness List of 17 witnesses, and an Initial Exhibit List of 169 documents on March 25, 2022. Included in the exhibits provided by respondent to the Florida Bar were documents and witness affidavits/statements which were not considered by the Grievance Committee when probable cause was found on the various complaints filed against respondent.

On April 26, 2022, Respondent filed a Notice of Deposition for The Florida Bar's main witness, Chris White, in reference to Count IV. The parties learned, however, that Mr. White had relocated to Virginia and had pending felony charges against him in that state. Mr. White could not be subpoenaed and declined to appear for the deposition on May 11, 2022.

On April 28, 2022, respondent filed a Notice of Deposition for Elizabeth Wallace, an Assistant Public Defender, who was listed on the Bar

complaint as the contact person for Shawn Morrow, the complainant, in Count III, and whom The Florida Bar believed had assisted Mr. Morrow in filing his Bar complaint against respondent. During the course of her deposition on May 20, 2022, however, the parties learned that, although Ms. Wallace provided some assistance with the preparation of Mr. Morrow's Bar complaint, the complainant was, in fact, primarily prepared by, and actually filed by, the Public Defender for Duval County, Charlie Cofer. Based on this new information, on May 23, 2022, respondent filed a Notice of Deposition for Mr. Cofer and, at his deposition on June 14, 2022, the parties learned that Mr. Cofer personally went to visit Mr. Morrow for the sole purpose of interviewing him in order to file a Bar complaint against respondent.

On June 9, 2022, respondent issued a Notice of Deposition to Scott Leland in reference to his complaint in Count V of the complaint and served a subpoena on June 14, 2022, for him to appear remotely via Zoom on July 7, 2022. Pursuant to subpoena, Mr. Leland, the Florida Bar's main witness in the case, did appear but after being questioned regarding his substantial prior criminal history by respondent's counsel, Mr. Leland refused to answer any further questions and abruptly terminated the deposition by leaving the Zoom link.

On June 15, 2022, Carlos Rivera was noticed for deposition and subpoenaed to appear remotely on July 13, 2022, to give testimony to support his Bar complaint in Count II. Mr. Rivera appeared by Zoom at the prison where he was incarcerated because his multiple felony charges were still pending. He began answering questions for respondent's counsel concerning his prior criminal activities and his Bar complaint. His testimony directly contradicted material assertions contained in his Florida Bar complaint. After approximately half an hour, however, he objected to being deposed, and said he was not answering any more questions. At that point, Mr. Rivera terminated the deposition by leaving the Zoom link.

On June 15, 2022, respondent served a First Request for Production of Documents and a Notice of Service of Interrogatories. On June 23, 2022, the Referee entered an Amended Agreed Pretrial Order. On June 24, 2022, respondent filed an Amended List of Exhibits and the Florida Bar filed an Amended List of Witnesses and Documents pursuant to the Pretrial Order. On June 27, 2022, respondent filed a Notice of Service of Expert Interrogatories and a Request for Production of Records of The Florida Bar's Expert Witness, Ethan Andrew Way, Esq.

The Florida Bar served respondent with Interrogatories and a First Request for Production of Documents on June 30, 2022. The Referee

entered an Agreed Order on The Florida Bar's Motion to Extend Due Dates in Pretrial Order, and an Amended Agreed Pretrial Order on July 14, 2022. The Florida Bar served Answers to respondent's Interrogatories and Request for Production of Documents on July 15, 2022. In addition, the Florida Bar served Answers to respondent's Expert Interrogatories and Request for Expert Records, as well as a 2nd Amended List of Witnesses and Documents on July 27, 2022, pursuant to the Pretrial Order.

After the parties engaged in an extended period of discovery, reviewed the voluminous documents produced by both parties, including newly-discovered evidence, assessed the credibility and lack of co-operation of necessary witnesses, the parties engaged in numerous, often lengthy, discussions in an effort to resolve the cases prior to trial. On August 2, 2022, the parties entered into a Consent Judgment, whereby respondent agreed to the entry of a conditional guilty plea on Count III to a violation of Rule 4-1.8(a)(2), and on Count VIII to a violation of Rule 4-5.1. On the same date, the Florida Bar also filed a Notice of Cancellation of Hearing. On November 9, 2022, The Florida Bar filed a Notice of Voluntary Dismissal on all remaining Rule violations alleged in Count III and Count VIII, and all remaining Counts in its Complaint. All items properly filed

including pleadings, exhibits in evidence and the report of referee constitute the record in this case and are forwarded to the Supreme Court of Florida.

II. FINDINGS OF FACT

Jurisdictional Statement. Respondent is, and at all times mentioned during this investigation was, a member of The Florida Bar, subject to the jurisdiction and Rules Regulating the Florida Bar.

Narrative Summary Of Case. Based on the Consent Judgment, I hereby make the following findings of fact:

COUNT III- TFB 2020-00,186(4A)—SHAWN MORROW

1. Shawn Morrow was arrested on January 1, 2019, on two counts of felony aggravated assault, one count of criminal mischief, and one count of resisting an officer without violence. The Office of the Public Defender was appointed to represent Mr. Morrow on January 2, 2019.

2. Mr. Morrow contacted respondent, who had previously represented him on a prior criminal matter, to discuss a fee for respondent to represent him on his current felony criminal case.

3. Respondent quoted him a flat fee of $10,000.00 to handle his felony criminal case up through trial.

4. Mr. Morrow informed respondent's office that he did not have immediate access to funds to pay the retainer, but had a trust fund set up for his benefit that he believed held at least $40,000.00.

5. Respondent advised Mr. Morrow that he would not enter a notice of appearance in his case until the fee was paid.

6. Respondent asked about other resources, and Mr. Morrow advised respondent that he owned a house that respondent could hold while funds from the trust were being sought.

7. When respondent researched the property, he discovered that the house was unfit for habitation, was subject to numerous encumbrances, liens and court judgments totaling more than $400,000.00, and, in respondent's opinion, was not worth more than $10,000.00 in its present condition.

8. In order to feel comfortable entering an appearance on Mr. Morrow's behalf and having his office begin working on his criminal case, respondent proposed a 10-day period for Mr. Morrow to obtain the trust funds and that Mr. Morrow would be required to deed the property to respondent's firm and, in the event the fees were not paid on time, Mr. Morrow would forfeit the property. Mr. Morrow agreed to the terms of the proposal.

9. A written Retainer Agreement was drafted setting forth the terms discussed with and agreed to by Mr. Morrow, including agreeing to deed his house to respondent's firm and agreeing that, if Mr. Morrow did not pay the $10,000 fee within 10 days, he forfeited any and all rights to the property.

10. However, the Retainer Agreement did not advise Mr. Morrow in writing that he should consult with independent counsel.

11. On January 11, 2019, after reading and reviewing the written retainer agreement, Mr. Morrow signed the retainer agreement agreeing to the proposed terms, and also signed a General Deed conveying the house to respondent's law firm.

12. On that same date, respondent entered a notice of appearance in Mr. Morrow's felony criminal case.

13. Although respondent and his staff reached out to the trustee to request payment of Mr. Morrow's legal fees, Mr. Morrow was not able to obtain funds from the trust or otherwise pay the fee.

14. On January 23, 2019, respondent sent a letter to Mr. Morrow informing him that the 10-day deadline had passed and the firm would be keeping the property in lieu of payment of $10,000.00 in legal fees.

15. Respondent engaged in substantial efforts to repair and clean up the property, and on February 5, 2019, the property was sold "as is" via a quitclaim deed for $29,500.00.

16. According to an appraisal conducted after the Bar complaint was filed, the value of the property at the time it was acquired by Mr. Taylor's firm on January 11, 2019, was only $8,700.00, due to the poor condition of the property and the substantial encumbrances.

17. Mr. Taylor incurred expenses of $11,695.99, not including labor, to get the property ready for sale. Any profit realized from the sale was due to the substantial repairs made to the property and the labor expended. Given the circumstances relating to the property, the fee received by respondent was not excessive.

18. Respondent's firm began working on Mr. Morrow's case as soon as the Retainer Agreement was signed. After a Demand for Speedy Trial was filed, respondent and his staff immediately began preparing for trial, including preparing questions for jury selection.

19. On February 10, 2019, Mr. Morrow filed a request for "pro se status" advising the Court that he had fired respondent as his counsel.

20. Respondent then filed a Motion to Withdraw on February 26, 2019, and the Public Defender's Office was appointed to Mr. Morrow's case.

21. In their depositions, both the Public Defender for the 4th Judicial Circuit and the Assistant Public Defender assigned to Mr. Morrow's matter testified that they visited Mr. Morrow on March 22, 2019, and he appeared competent at that time.

22. On April 25, 2019, after a violent incident at the jail, Mr. Morrow was ordered to undergo a competency evaluation by the Court.

23. On May 19, 2019, a competency evaluation was performed by a psychologist, Dr. William Meadows, who declared Mr. Morrow incompetent.

24. In his report to the Court, Dr. Meadows informed the court that Mr. Morrow had fixated on respondent and had threatened to kill him, as well as other individuals in the community, if he was released from incarceration. Dr. Meadows also notified respondent about Mr. Morrow's credible threats.

25. On June 20, 2019, the Court entered an Order adjudicating Mr. Morrow incompetent and committing him to the state hospital for treatment.

26. When Mr. Morrow was re-evaluated, several weeks later, he was declared competent but was not returned to the jail until September 2019.

27. On October 16, 2019, Mr. Morrow, represented by the Public Defender's Office, pled guilty and was sentenced on his felony criminal case. After completing his sentence, Mr. Morrow was released from prison in January 2020.

28. Almost immediately upon being released, Mr. Morrow began calling respondent's office, as well as his cell phone, making specific, violent threats against respondent, his family and his office staff. Mr. Morrow left recorded voice messages, including ones mentioning Mr. Taylor's minor daughter's name and the school she attended and provided detailed specific accounts of his plan to abduct, sexually assault and kill her.

29. Respondent reported the threats to the police. The ongoing threats went on for several weeks until February 14, 2020, when Mr. Morrow was arrested after causing serious damage to the property he had deeded to respondent, and threatening to kill the person who purchased it from respondent.

30. On March 2, 2022, Mr. Morrow pled guilty to aggravated stalking, relating to the threats to respondent and his family, and criminal mischief and assault, and was sentenced to 747 days (time served) and 1 year of probation, and was released from custody. Less than 2 weeks later, on March 14, 2022, Mr. Morrow was arrested on misdemeanor trespass, disorderly conduct and resisting arrest charges, which remain pending. He has also been charged with violating probation and remains in custody awaiting trial and a probation violation hearing.

31. The Retainer Agreement drafted by respondent and signed by Mr. Morrow was not in compliance with the ethical rules because it did not advise Mr. Morrow in writing to seek the advice of independent counsel on the transaction.

COUNT VIII - TFB # 2021-00,158(4A) - THE FLORIDA BAR

32. Robert Pelletier, an associate counsel working for respondent, advertised as "Pitbull Lawyer at Taylor Law", using the logo of a pit bull with a spiked collar, on multiple platforms, including an online blog/website, and a boat.

33. Mr. Pelletier also used the name "Pitbull" on his business cards and the door of respondent's office.

34. Respondent was aware that Mr. Pelletier was advertising as "Pitbull Lawyer" listing respondent's firm address and telephone number on the website, business cards, a blog and on Mr. Pelletier's boat.

35. Respondent reimbursed Mr. Pelletier for the cost of the boat wrap advertisement.

36. The Supreme Court has previously stated that the use of an image of a pit bull and the phrase "Pit Bull" in the firm's advertisement does not assist the public in ensuring that an informed decision is made prior to the selection of the attorney. "... These devices, which invoke the breed of dog known as the pit bull, demean all lawyers and thereby, harm both the legal profession and the public's trust and confidence in our system of justice." See, The Florida Bar v. Pape, 918 So.2d 240 at 242 (Fla. 2005).

37. At the time, respondent was not aware of the Supreme Court's decision in The Florida Bar v Pape, disapproving of such advertisements.

38. On October 20, 2020, when respondent was notified by The Florida Bar that the advertisements were in violation of the Rules, respondent promptly made all good faith efforts to correct the problem.

39. Those items over which respondent had control, i.e., business cards and law firm door, were immediately corrected.

40. An IT person was hired by Mr. Pelletier to make corrections to the website and to Mr. Pelletier's blog. However, it took some time for the IT person to be able to fully correct all the internet issues. The delay in correcting the internet issues were not caused by respondent.

41. Mr. Pelletier's boat was stored out of public view while he made arrangements to correct the boat wrap, and, as soon as possible, panels were installed to cover the Pitbull image and words.

42. Mr. Pelletier accepted responsibility for the advertisements and entered into a consent judgment for a public reprimand with The Florida Bar which was approved by the Court on July 29, 2021.

43. Mr. Pelletier corrected all indicia of his "Pit Bull" advertisements and had his new advertisement and logo approved by The Florida Bar.

44. In permitting Mr. Pelletier to use "pit bull" advertising in association with his law firm, respondent admits that he violated Rule 4-5.1 (Law firms and Associations; Responsibilities of Partners, Managers, and Supervisory Lawyers).

45. After further investigation of the facts, scheduling of depositions, and lack of cooperation of necessary witnesses in Counts II, IV, and V, The Florida Bar agrees to dismiss the following counts in its complaint:

Count I-2019-00,462(4A)-Reginald Johnson

Count II-2020-00,090(4A)-Carlos Rivera

Count IV-2020,272(4A)-The Florida Bar

Count V-2020-00,291(4A)-Scott Leland

Count VI-2020-00,322(4A)-Ronald Lane

Count VII-2020-00,339(4A)-Karen Swain

Count IX-2021-00,363(4A)-The Florida Bar

III. RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO GUILT.

Based on the Consent Judgment, I recommend that Respondent be found guilty of violating the following Rules Regulating The Florida Bar:

As to Count III – Shawn Morrow – I find respondent has violated Rule 4-1.8(a)(2) (Conflict of Interest: Prohibited and Other Transactions).

As to Count VIII – The Florida Bar – I find respondent violated Rule 4-5.1 (Law firms and Associations; Responsibilities of Partners, Managers, and Supervisory Lawyers).

Respondent acknowledges that, unless waived or modified by the Court on motion of respondent, the Court order will contain a provision that prohibits respondent from accepting new business from the date of the order or opinion and shall provide that the suspension is effective 30 days

from the date of the order or opinion so that respondent may close out the practice of law and protect the interest of existing clients.

IV. STANDARDS FOR IMPOSING LAWYER SANCTIONS

I considered the following Standards prior to recommending discipline. Although the Standards stated herein provide that a public reprimand would be appropriate, the application of the aggravating factors, particularly respondent's prior discipline, as well as the multiple and significant mitigating factors, warrant the acceptance of the sanction of a 60-day suspension in the consent judgment with which I agree.

4.3 Failure To Avoid Conflicts Of Interest

Absent aggravating or mitigating circumstances ...

> (c) Public Reprimand. Public reprimand is appropriate when a lawyer is negligent in determining whether the representation of a client may be materially affected by the lawyer's own interests or whether the representation will adversely affect another client and causes injury or potential injury to a client

9.2 Communications About A Lawyer's Services

Absent aggravating or mitigating circumstances ...

> (c) Public Reprimand. Public Reprimand is appropriate when a lawyer: ... (2) negligently fails to file an advertisement for review, the advertisement does not comply with applicable rules, but the noncompliance does not result in actual injury.

V. CASE LAW

I considered the following case law prior to recommending discipline:

The Florida Bar v. Robertson, Case No. SC20-1050, 2020 Fla. LEXIS 1345 (Aug. 6, 2020) – Approving conditional guilty plea and consent judgment, Court imposed 90-day suspension with the requirement to attend Ethics School and Professionalism Workshop. Robertson, an attorney and general contractor who owns a construction company, referred clients of his law firm to his construction company without advising them to seek independent counsel and without putting the terms of the business transaction in writing with the clients' informed consent. Robertson also represented a married couple against the seller of a home for failing to disclose mold and water damage. The husband fired Robertson after discovering an impermissible personal relationship had developed between Robertson and his wife. Despite the conflict of interest, and having been fired by the husband, Robertson filed documents with the court on behalf of both clients.

The Florida Bar v. Alba Varela, Case No. SC20-179 (Feb. 25, 2021) –The Court imposed a 15-day suspension in matters relating to advertising and conflict of interest violations. Varela failed to supervise an assistant in the writing and sending of a letter that violated several advertising rules and were received by parties represented by counsel in a foreclosure action, without counsel's permission. Varela also failed to obtain a written waiver of a potential conflict of interest from a dual representation.

The Florida Bar v. Raymer Francis Maguire, SC20-205 (Fla. March 25, 2020) [TFB # 2018-30,678 (9D)] – The Court approved a Conditional Guilty Plea for Consent Judgment for a 60-day suspension, completion of Ethics School within six months and a DDCS review. Respondent engaged in a business transaction with a client where there was a conflict of interest, acquired an interest in the subject matter of the representation and took a position that was adverse to the client.

The Florida Bar v. David Richard Damore, SC16-196 (Fla. Feb. 18, 2016) [TFB #s 2015-30,629 (19A), 2015-30,765 (19A)] – The Court imposed A 60-day suspension and dismissed TFB #2015-30,765 (19A). Respondent represented a criminal defendant where the client agreed to execute a quit claim deed in favor of respondent as payment for his legal fees. Respondent had represented the client previously on numerous criminal cases. The client had no money but wanted to hire respondent. The client voluntarily signed the fee agreement that included this stipulation. The client was in jail at the time respondent met with him and had him execute

the quit claim deed without the notary and witnesses being present. Afterwards, respondent had the quit claim deed witnessed and notarized by his nonlawyer employees in violation of Florida law and recorded it in the public records. Respondent cut corners in order to get the quit claim deed executed and filed. Respondent lost money on the home because it had little value and needed extensive renovations in order to be sold. The client did not complain about this transaction until after his case was concluded and he was sentenced to prison.

The Florida Bar v. David Michael Garten, SC15-1516 (Fla. May 12, 2016) [TFB #2014-50,656 (5G)] – The Court imposed a 15-day suspension for a conflict of interest case. Respondent represented a personal representative in an estate litigation matter. After the client executed the initial retainer agreement, an additional agreement was made to sell assets to pay his legal fees. Respondent did not advise the client in writing of the desirability to seek independent legal counsel before executing the agreement. The client fired respondent after executing agreement and the assets were never sold. Respondent thereafter filed a motion to remove his former client as personal representative and install himself as curator, creating a clear conflict of interest.

The Florida Bar v. Mark Jerome Albrechta, SC15-1163 - By Court order dated August 18, 2016, respondent received a public reprimand. Respondent engaged in conflicts of interest involving his personal interest in real estate transactions. Respondent also failed to make written disclosure of the potential conflicts involved in his representation.

VI. RECOMMENDATION AS TO DISCIPLINARY MEASURES TO BEAPPLIED

Based on the Consent Judgment, I recommend that Respondent be found guilty of misconduct justifying disciplinary measures, and that he be disciplined by:

A. A 60-day suspension;

B. Attendance at Ethics School within 6 months of the issuance of the final order in this case and respondent shall pay the $750.00 workshop fee prior to attendance; and

C. Payment of The Florida Bar's costs in these proceedings.

VII. PERSONAL HISTORY, PAST DISCIPLINARY RECORD

Prior to recommending discipline pursuant to Rule 3-7.6(m)(1)(D), I considered the following:

Personal History of Respondent:

Age: 50

Date admitted to the Bar: October 13, 1997

Aggravating Factors: Standard 3.2(b)

The following factors were considered in recommending an increase from the applicable presumptive public reprimand standards listed in Section IV:

(1) prior disciplinary offenses:

SC11-306- per Court Order dated November 18, 2011, respondent received a 30-day suspension.
SC16-10- per Court Order dated March 24, 2016, respondent received a public reprimand.

(9) substantial experience in the practice of law.

Mitigating Factors: Standard 3.3(b)

The following factors were considered in determining the length of the suspension to recommend imposing in this case:

(3) personal and emotional problems - During the course of the Bar proceedings, complainant, Shawn Morrow made ongoing, serious, credible threats to kill respondent, his family, and his staff, including detailed and graphic accounts about abducting, assaulting and murdering respondent's minor daughter. Respondent, his family and his staff were repeatedly harassed and stalked by complainant, requiring multiple police reports and the filing of a criminal complaint against the complainant for which he was convicted and incarcerated, but released on probation. Even though Mr. Morrow has since been rearrested and is presently in custody, the risk to respondent and his family will remain if and when Mr. Morrow is eventually released. All that respondent and his family has endured as a result of Mr. Morrow's very serious threats should be considered in mitigation.

(4) timely good faith effort to rectify the consequences of the misconduct – Upon being notified that Mr. Pelletier's advertisements were in violation of the Rules, Respondent made immediate and substantial efforts to ensure the advertisements were corrected.

(5) full and free disclosure to the bar and cooperative attitude towards proceedings - Throughout the staff, grievance and referee proceedings, respondent has responded to all of the Bar's requests, providing a multiplicity of documents and information to address issues raised in the complaints filed against him and refute many of the allegations asserted therein. Respondent has made substantial efforts to resolve fee disputes and continued representing one of the involved clients, obtaining a very favorable result for that client. As a result of these proceedings, respondent has made changes to his office procedures. He has substantially reduced his personal

caseload, freeing up his time to manage and supervise his associate attorneys and staff.

10) interim rehabilitation - It was not Mr. Taylor's intent to treat Mr. Morrow unfairly. As a former client, Mr. Taylor was trying to find a way to provide representation to Mr. Morrow on his new case while being paid a reasonable fee. He was trying to be flexible. However, under the circumstances, Mr. Taylor now understands that more was required from him under Rule 4-1.8(a)(2). Given all that he and his family have endured due to Mr. Morrow's threatening behavior, respondent has learned a hard lesson. Respondent agrees that, in the future, he will refrain from engaging in real estate transactions with clients of the firm.

(12) remorse - Respondent accepts responsibility and is genuinely sorry for his misconduct and for dishonoring his ethical obligations.

(13) remoteness of prior offenses: Respondent's prior suspension was more than ten years ago.

VIII. STATEMENT OF COSTS AND MANNER IN WHICH COSTS SHOULD BE TAXED

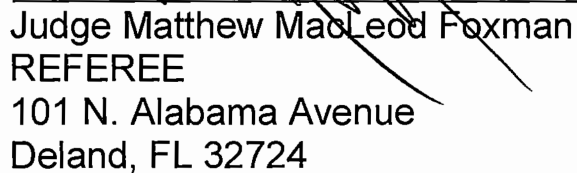
I find the following costs were reasonably incurred by The Florida Bar:

Administrative Fee- Rule 3-7.6(q)	$1,250.00
Investigative Costs	3,893.78
Court Reporters' Fees	147.50
Expert Witness Expenses	5,700.00
Audit Costs-Rule 5-1.2	15.00
TOTAL	$11,006.28

It is recommended that such costs be charged to respondent and that interest at the statutory rate shall accrue and be deemed delinquent 30

days after the judgment in this case becomes final unless paid in full or otherwise deferred by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar.

Dated this 21st day of November, 2022.



Judge Matthew MacLeod Foxman
REFEREE
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