

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
IN AND FOR PASCO AND PINELLAS COUNTIES, FLORIDA**

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2021-028 PA/PI-CIR

**RE: APPOINTMENT OF REFEREE**

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Florida has designated the Chief Judge of the Sixth Judicial Circuit of Florida to appoint a referee for the Court to preside in a disciplinary action brought by The Florida Bar pursuant to the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar,

**IT IS ORDERED** that the Honorable James R. Stearns, Circuit Judge, in and for the Sixth Judicial Circuit, State of Florida, having certified to the Chief Judge that he has reviewed the referee training materials approved by the Supreme Court of Florida, is hereby designated and appointed as referee for the Florida Supreme Court, in the matter of:

The Florida Bar vs. Michael Alan Steinberg,  
Supreme Court Case No. SC21-976.

The Honorable James R. Stearns, as referee, is hereby vested with all and singular the powers and prerogatives conferred by the Constitution, laws of the State of Florida, and the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar, concerning a referee for the Supreme Court of Florida in this matter.

The Honorable James R. Stearns, as referee shall hear, conduct, try, and determine matters presented and shall submit findings of fact and recommendations to the Supreme Court of the State of Florida as provided in Rule 3-7.6(m) and in accordance with the June 29, 2021 order of Chief Justice Canady. The referee's report shall be filed in accordance with said order.

Online resources are available for judges serving as referees in proceedings involving disciplinary action against attorneys, and the unlicensed practice of law. The resources offered at <http://www.flcourts.org/resources-and-services/judiciary-education/bar-referees.stml> provide detailed information on the role of a Bar Referee in each of these proceedings and should be reviewed prior to handling this case.

**DONE AND ORDERED** in Chambers at St. Petersburg, Pinellas County, Florida, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of July 2021.

ORIGINAL SIGNED ON JULY 12, 2021  
BY ANTHONY RONDOLINO, CHIEF JUDGE

cc: The Honorable James R. Stearns  
The Honorable John A. Tomasino, Clerk, Supreme Court of Florida  
Jennifer Robyn Dillon, Esq., Bar Counsel, The Florida Bar  
Patricia Ann Toro Savitz, Esq., Staff Counsel, The Florida Bar  
Michael Alan Steinberg, Esq., Respondent  
Gay Inskeep, Trial Courts Administrator  
Pasco and Pinellas County Law Libraries

Please note: Judge Stearns's address is 7530 Little Road, Room 316, New Port Richey, FL 34654