

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA  
(Before a Referee)

THE FLORIDA BAR,

Supreme Court Case

Complainant,

No. SC-

v.

The Florida Bar File  
No. 2021-10,403 (13E)

MICHAEL ALAN STEINBERG,

Respondent.

\_\_\_\_\_ /

**FORMAL COMPLAINT FOR RECIPROCAL DISCIPLINE**

The Florida Bar, complainant, files this Complaint against Michael Alan Steinberg, respondent, pursuant to the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar and alleges:

1. Respondent is, and at all times mentioned in the complaint was, a member of The Florida Bar, admitted on May 14, 1982, and is subject to the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of Florida.

2. In addition to membership in The Florida Bar, Respondent was a member of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC) bar, admitted on July 20, 1999, subject to the jurisdiction of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

3. This is a reciprocal discipline action, based on United States Court of Appeals For Veterans Claims Order dated October 21, 2020,

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which imposed a 90-day suspension, and completion of 6 hours of ethics-focused continuing legal education prior to seeking reinstatement. A copy is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

4. The suspension was based on the following conduct:
  - A. Respondent repeatedly failed to respond to Court orders from docket Nos. 18-6557 and 19-0617 and failed to comply with the Court's Rules of Practice and Procedure.
  - B. The United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims found that "[i]n docket No. 18-6557, the Court issued four orders from December 2018 to January 2020 concerning failures by the respondent to timely respond to Court orders and failures to comply with the Court's Rules of Practice and Procedure."
  - C. The United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims found that in docket No. 19-0617, "the Court issued five orders from February 2019 to April 2020, including multiple orders to show cause, regarding respondent's failures to respond to Court orders and failures to comply with the Court's Rules of Practice and Procedure."
  - D. During the 15-month time period from December 2018

until April 2020, respondent failed to respond to orders of the court, including multiple orders to show cause. On April 13, 2020, the court ordered respondent to “show [] cause why the Court should not hold him in contempt of court” for his behavior in docket number 19-0617.

Respondent failed to respond to the court’s order to show cause and was found in civil contempt on April 21, 2020.

- E. As a result of respondent’s failures, respondent became the subject of a United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims grievance. The Chief Judge, after making a finding of prima facie validity pursuant to Rule 6(a) of the Court’s Rules of Admission and Practice, referred the matter to the Court’s Standing Panel of Admission and Discipline.
- F. On April 28, 2020, the Court issued an order to show cause directing responding to show cause why the grievance should not be referred to the Court’s Committee on Admission and Practice for action pursuant to Rule 2 of the Court’s Rules of Admission and Practice.
- G. Respondent failed to file a response.

- H. On July 16, 2020, the Court issued an order to show cause directing respondent to show cause why he should not be suspended for 90 days and required to complete at least 6 hours of ethics-focused continuing legal education within 6 months before applying for readmission to the Court's bar.
- I. Respondent responded on August 14, 2020 and admitted the violations while offering mitigation.
- J. Respondent explained that he did not respond when ordered to show cause why he should not be referred to the Court's Committee on Admission and Practice because he "was not able to provide such a statement, because in fact, he could not show good cause."
- K. The United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims found that respondent violated the following Model Rules of Professional Conduct adopted by the American Bar Association: Model Rule 1.1 (Competence) and Model Rule 1.3 (Diligence) and further committed professional misconduct as defined by Rule 4(b) of the Court's Rules of Admission and Practice.

5. On February 17, 2021, The Florida Bar received notification of the October 21, 2020 United States Court of Appeals For Veterans Claims Order imposing discipline on respondent from the Clerk of Court.

6. The Florida Bar has no record of respondent reporting his suspension to the bar prior to the bar receiving the October 21, 2020 Order from the Clerk of the Court on or about February 17, 2021.

7. Respondent did not report the order of suspension until April 5, 2021.

8. By operation of Rule 3-4.6, Rules Regulating The Florida Bar, the October 21, 2020 United States Court of Appeals For Veterans Claims Order from the CAVC shall be considered as conclusive proof of such misconduct in this disciplinary proceeding.

9. By virtue of the foregoing, respondent has violated the following Rules Regulating The Florida Bar: 4-1.1 (Competence); 4-1.3 (Diligence); 4-3.4(c) (Fairness to Opposing Party and Counsel); 4-8.4(a) (Misconduct – A lawyer shall not violate or attempt to violate the Rules of Professional Conduct) and 4-8.4(d) (Misconduct – A lawyer shall not engage in conduct in connection with the practice of law that is prejudicial to the administration of justice).

WHEREFORE, The Florida Bar prays respondent will be

appropriately disciplined in accordance with the provisions of the Rules  
Regulating The Florida Bar as amended.



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## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that this document has been efiled with The Honorable John A. Tomasino, Clerk of the Supreme Court of Florida, with a copy provided via email to Michael Alan Steinberg, at [frosty28@aol.com](mailto:frosty28@aol.com); and that a copy has been furnished by United States Mail via certified mail No. 7017 1450 0000 7821 0858, return receipt requested to Michael Alan Steinberg, whose record bar address is 4925 Independence Pkwy Ste 195, Tampa, FL 33634-7550 and via email to Jennifer Robyn Dillon, Bar Counsel, [rdillon@floridabar.org](mailto:rdillon@floridabar.org), on this 29th day of June, 2021.



Patricia Ann Toro Savitz  
Staff Counsel

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

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the trial counsel in this matter is Jennifer Robyn Dillon, Bar Counsel, whose address, telephone number and primary email address are The Florida Bar, Tampa Branch Office, 2002 N. Lois Ave., Suite 300, Tampa, Florida 33607-2386, (813) 875-9821 and [rdillon@floridabar.org](mailto:rdillon@floridabar.org). Respondent need not address pleadings, correspondence, etc. in this matter to anyone other than trial counsel and to Staff Counsel, The Florida Bar, 651 E Jefferson Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2300, [psavitz@floridabar.org](mailto:psavitz@floridabar.org).



**MANDATORY ANSWER NOTICE**

RULE 3-7.6(h)(2), RULES REGULATING THE FLORIDA BAR,  
PROVIDES THAT A RESPONDENT SHALL ANSWER A COMPLAINT.