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. Christopher Michael Reynolds, Supreme Court Case No. SC22-1659;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Carlos G. Muñiz, under authority vested in me as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Florida, do hereby designate the Honorable Ronald N. Ficarrotta, 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

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management conference either in person or by communication The referee shall thereafter hear, conduct, try, and technology. 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).

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DONE AND ORDERED at Tallahassee, Florida, on December 15, 2022.

CHIEF JUSTICE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA

ATTEST:

John A. Tomasino Clerk, Supreme Court



Enclosed: Petition for Emergency Suspension, The Florida Bar's Composite Exhibits 1 & 2, Possible Venue, and Order of Emergency Suspension dated December 15, 2022.