

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA

THE FLORIDA BAR,

Supreme Court Case
No. SC

IN RE:
THE PETITION FOR
DISCIPLINARY REVOCATION OF
SUSAN JANE BEST

The Florida Bar File
No. 2022-30,715(10B)(CDR)

Petitioner.

_____ /

**PETITION FOR DISCIPLINARY REVOCATION WITH LEAVE TO APPLY
FOR READMISSION**

COMES NOW Petitioner, Susan Jane Best, and submits this Petition for Disciplinary Revocation pursuant to Rule Regulating Fla. Bar 3-7.12 and states:

1. Petitioner knowingly and voluntarily submits this petition with leave to reapply for readmission after 5 years with full knowledge of its effect.
2. Petitioner is 57 years old and has been a member of The Florida Bar since November 28, 1989 and is subject to the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of Florida and the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar.
3. Petitioner has no prior discipline history.
4. The following disciplinary charges are currently pending against the petitioner in The Florida Bar File No. 2022-30,301(10B):

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A. Petitioner had shortages in her trust account ranging from \$48,000.00 to approximately \$50,000.00 resulting from respondent's misappropriation of client funds. Petitioner made numerous online transfers to her law office operating account, where the funds were spent on operating expenses. Petitioner deposited \$48,000.00 of personal funds to cover the shortage in her trust account.

B. Petitioner failed to properly maintain the required trust account records and follow the required trust accounting procedures.

5. The following aggravation is applicable in this matter: dishonest or selfish motive [Standard 3.2(b)(2)]; a pattern of misconduct [Standard 3.2(b)(3)]; and substantial experience in the practice of law [Standard 3.2(b)(9)].

6. The following mitigation is applicable in this matter: absence of a prior disciplinary record [Standard 3.3(b)(1)]; personal or emotional problems [Standard 3.3(b)(3)]; timely good faith effort to make restitution or to rectify the consequences of the misconduct [Standard 3.3(b)(4)]; full and free disclosure to the bar or cooperative attitude toward the proceedings [Standard 3.3(b)(5)]; physical or mental disability or impairment or substance-related disorder [Standard 3.3(b)(8)]; and remorse [Standard 3.3(b)(12)].

7. Petitioner contends that granting this petition will not adversely affect the public interest, the integrity of the courts, or the confidence of the public in the legal profession. Further, petitioner contends that granting this petition will not hinder the administration of justice.

8. Petitioner agrees to reimburse the Client Security Fund (CSF) for any and all funds CSF has paid or may pay out for claims resulting from Petitioner's misconduct.

9. Petitioner agrees to reimburse The Florida Bar for the costs incurred in her disciplinary cases.

10. Petitioner agrees to submit to a complete audit of any trust account(s) and any other account(s) in which petitioner has placed client funds, if requested to do so by The Florida Bar.

11. Petitioner further agrees to submit a sworn financial affidavit to The Florida Bar attesting to petitioner's current personal and professional financial circumstances on a form to be provided by The Florida Bar within 30 days, if requested.

12. Petitioner further agrees to maintain a current mailing address with The Florida Bar for a period of 5 years after the disciplinary revocation becomes final. Further, petitioner shall keep the bar advised as to the physical address of petitioner's home and/or business in the event

petitioner should utilize a post office box or other type of mail drop service during the 5 year period after the disciplinary revocation becomes final.

13. Petitioner agrees to eliminate all indicia of petitioner's status as an attorney on email, social media, telephone listings, stationery, checks, business cards, office signs or any other indicia of petitioner's status as an attorney, whatsoever.

14. Petitioner understands that the granting of this petition by the Supreme Court of Florida shall serve to dismiss all pending disciplinary cases.

WHEREFORE, petitioner respectfully requests that this Court grant this petition and order that petitioner's membership in The Florida Bar be revoked with leave to seek readmission.

Respectfully submitted,



SUSAN JANE BEST, Petitioner
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Dated this 16th day of June 2022.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that this document was e-filed with The Honorable John A. Tomasino, Clerk of the Supreme Court of Florida: with a copy provided to Joshua E. Doyle, Executive Director, The Florida Bar, 651 E. Jefferson Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2300, via email at jdoyle@floridabar.org; and to Staff Counsel, The Florida Bar, 651 E. Jefferson Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2300, via email at psavitz@floridabar.org, on this 17th day of June 2022.



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