

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2012-61

IN RE: **PETIA DIMITROVA KNOWLES**  
**Florida Bar # 10494**

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FILED by KS D.C.

JUL 23 2012

STEVEN M. LARIMORE  
CLERK U. S. DIST. CT.  
S. D. of FLA. - MIAMI

**ORDER ON MOTION FOR  
PERMISSION TO WITHDRAW BAR MEMBERSHIP**

The Supreme Court of Florida has entered an Order of Suspension dated January 17, 2012, suspending Petia Dimitrova Knowles from the practice of law. *See The Florida Bar v. Knowles*, No. SC10-1019, 2012 WL 149335 (Fla. Jan. 17, 2012). The suspension was predicated on the report of the referee. The Clerk attempted to serve attorney Knowles by certified mail with an Order to Show Cause why this Court should not impose the same discipline, accompanied by the Supreme Court of Florida's Order of Suspension.

On July 3, 2012, this Court received a Response to Order to Show Cause and a Motion for Permission to Withdraw Bar Membership. The Response raises several arguments as to why this Court should not impose reciprocal discipline based on the Florida Supreme Court Order of Suspension. One of these arguments states that this Court may not impose discipline because the Order of Suspension is not final due to the filing of a motion for rehearing, which has not been ruled upon. This Court notes that reciprocal discipline may be delayed where state proceedings are stayed, *see* Attorney Discipline Rule 5(c), but that is not the case here. It is specifically stated in the Order that "[t]he filing of a motion for rehearing shall not alter the effective date of this suspension." Nevertheless, Knowles raises additional arguments under Rule 5(e) of the Rules Governing Attorney Discipline, Local Rules of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida, that merit consideration but have become moot as the result of Knowles' motion to withdraw her bar membership with this Court.

Given this background, reciprocal discipline will not be initiated at this time and the Court will grant Knowles' Motion for Permission to Withdraw Bar Membership. If Knowles applies for re-

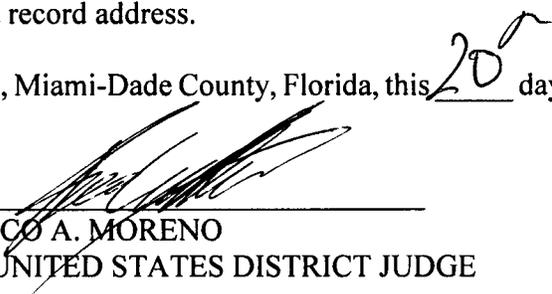
admission in the future, the Court will review the basis of the current suspension at that time as a factor in determining whether to re-admit Knowles to our Bar. Pursuant to this Court's inherent power to regulate membership in its bar for the protection of the public interest, *see Chambers v. NASCO, Inc.*, 501 U.S. 32, 43 (1991) (“[A] federal court has the power to control admission to its bar and to discipline attorneys who appear before it.”),

IT IS ORDERED that the Motion for Permission to Withdraw Bar Membership is GRANTED. The Clerk of Court shall strike this attorney from the roll of attorneys eligible to practice in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida, and shall also immediately revoke the attorney's CM/ECF password.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED by this Court that said attorney advise the Clerk of Court of all pending cases before this Court in which she is counsel or co-counsel of record.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED by this Court that the Clerk of Court attempt to serve by certified mail a copy of this Order upon the attorney at her court record address.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at Miami, Miami-Dade County, Florida, this 20 day of July, 2012.

  
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FEDERICO A. MORENO  
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

- c: Honorable Joel F. Dubina, Chief Judge, Eleventh Circuit  
All Miami Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals Judges  
All Southern District Judges  
All Southern District Magistrate Judges  
United States Attorney  
Circuit Executive  
Federal Public Defender  
Clerk of Court  
Clerk of Court, 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
Southern District Bankruptcy Court  
National Lawyer Regulatory Data Bank  
Florida Bar  
Attorney Admissions Clerk  
Library  
Petia Dimitrova Knowles