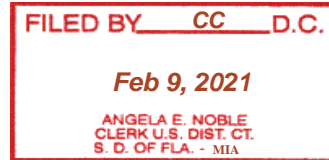


UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2021-8
CASE # 20-MC-24921

IN RE: JAMES M. THOMAS
FLORIDA BAR # 648590



ORDER OF SUSPENSION

On December 1, 2020, the Supreme Court of Florida entered an Order of Suspension, suspending James M. Thomas from the practice of law. *See The Florida Bar v. Thomas*, No. SC18-1391, 2020 WL 7042819 (Fla. Dec. 1, 2020) (ECF No. 1). The suspension was predicated on a report of referee, an amended report of referee, briefs, and the responses to the Supreme Court of Florida’s Order to Show Cause. The Florida Supreme Court disapproved the referee’s recommended discipline and instead imposed a suspension of one (1) year. The Clerk attempted to serve attorney Thomas 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. (ECF No. 2). Service at Thomas’ court record and Florida Bar addresses was attempted but no return receipt was received. A second attempt was made to both addresses on January 7, 2021, with the same result. By letter received January 28, 2021, postmarked from Thomas’ Florida Bar address, a copy of the Florida Supreme Court Order of Suspension was enclosed. (ECF No. 3).

Rule 8(a) of the Rules Governing the Admission, Practice, Peer Review, and Discipline of Attorneys, Local Rules of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida, requires that “[a]n attorney admitted to practice before this Court shall, upon being subjected to reprimand, discipline, suspension, or disbarment by a court of any state . . . promptly inform the Clerk of the Court of such action.” Rule 8(d) provides in pertinent part that after expiration of the time for submitting a response to an Order to Show Cause, “the Court may impose the identical

discipline or may impose any other sanction the Court may deem appropriate.” Even if service is contested, Local Rule 11.1(g) imposes upon the members of this Bar an obligation to provide updated contact information to the Clerk within seven days of any change, and that “the failure to comply shall not constitute grounds for relief from deadlines imposed by Rule or by the Court.” This obligation to maintain current contact information is reiterated in the Court’s CM/ECF Administrative Procedures Manual, section 3D, compliance with which is mandated by Local Rule 5.1. Given this background, pursuant to Rule 8(a) and (d), Local Rule 11.1(g) and the 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 said attorney be suspended from practice in this Court, effective immediately. The attorney may not resume the practice of law before this Court until reinstated by order of this Court. *See* Rule 12(a). 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 he 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 of Suspension upon the attorney at his court record and Florida Bar addresses.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at Miami, Miami-Dade County, Florida, this 9th day of February, 2021.



K. MICHAEL MOORE
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Copies furnished as follows: See attached

c: All South Florida Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals Judges
All Southern District Judges
All Southern District Bankruptcy Judges
All Southern District Magistrate Judges
United States Attorney
Circuit Executive
Federal Public Defender
Clerks of Court – District, Bankruptcy and 11th Circuit
Florida Bar and National Lawyer Regulatory Data Bank
Library
James M. Thomas