

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2022-78
CASE NO. 22-MC-22175

IN RE: BRADLEY NEPHASE LAURENT
FLORIDA BAR # 10530

ORDER OF SUSPENSION

FILED BY CW D.C.

Sep 30, 2022

ANGELA E. NOBLE
CLERK U.S. DIST. CT.
S. D. OF FLA. - MIA

On July 14, 2022, the Supreme Court of Florida entered an Order of Suspension, suspending Bradley Nephase Laurent from the practice of law. *See The Florida Bar v. Laurent*, No. SC22-851, 2022 WL 2757825 (Fla. July 14, 2022) [ECF No. 1]. The suspension was predicated on The Florida Bar's Petition for Emergency Suspension.

The Clerk attempted to serve Mr. Laurent 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. (*See* [ECF No. 2]). Service to both Mr. Laurent's court record address and Florida Bar address were returned with the notation, "Return to Sender—Not Deliverable as Addressed—Unable to Forward." A second attempt was made to both addresses, with a return receipt being returned only for attempted service at Mr. Laurent's court record address with the same notation as the previous attempt.

On August 12, 2022, Mr. Laurent filed a Response to Order to Show Cause, referring to his answer submitted in response to the Florida Bar's Petition for Emergency Suspension. (*See* [ECF No. 3]). Rule 8(e) 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, establishes the procedures for reciprocal discipline following a final adjudication in another court and the grounds upon which reciprocal discipline may be contested:

(e) A final adjudication in another court that an attorney has been guilty of

misconduct shall establish conclusively the misconduct for purpose of a disciplinary proceeding in this Court, unless the attorney demonstrates that the Court is satisfied that upon the face of the record upon which the discipline in another jurisdiction is predicated it clearly appears that:

- (1) the procedure in that other jurisdiction was so lacking in notice or opportunity to be heard as to constitute a deprivation of due process; or
- (2) there was such an infirmity of proof establishing misconduct as to give rise to the clear conviction that this Court could not, consistent with its duty, accept as final the conclusion on that subject; or
- (3) the imposition of the same discipline by this Court would result in grave injustice; or
- (4) the misconduct established is deemed by this Court to warrant substantially different discipline.

Rule 8(e).

Mr. Laurent makes no reference to the grounds provided in Rule 8(e). The question before the Court is whether it should give reciprocal force to the Florida Supreme Court's Suspension Order, not whether it should engage in analyzing arguments presented before state discipline was imposed. Thus, whether the Court agrees with Mr. Laurent's challenges to the Florida Bar's Petition for Emergency Suspension is irrelevant to the question of reciprocal discipline under Rule 8(e).

Rule 8(d) provides 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." *Id.* Given this background, under Rule 8(d) 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." (alteration added)),

IT IS ORDERED that Mr. Laurent is suspended from practice in this Court, effective immediately. Mr. Laurent may not resume the practice of law before this Court until reinstated by order of the 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 that the Clerk of Court shall attempt to serve by certified mail a copy of this Order of Suspension upon Mr. Laurent at the address listed in his Response to Order to Show Cause. Mr. Laurent shall forthwith advise the Clerk of Court of all pending cases before the Court in which he is counsel or co-counsel of record.

DONE AND ORDERED in Miami, Florida, this 30th day of September, 2022.



CECILIA M. ALTONAGA
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

c: All South Florida Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals Judges
All Southern District of Florida District Judges, Bankruptcy Judges, and 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
Bradley Nephase Laurent