

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2023-41  
CASE NO. 23-MC-21733

IN RE: STEPHEN BRUCE RAKUSIN  
FLORIDA BAR # 183408

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FILED BY CW D.C.

**Jun 13, 2023**

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

**ORDER OF DISBARMENT**

On May 8, 2023, the Supreme Court of Florida entered an Order of Disbarment, disbarring Stephen Bruce Rakusin from the practice of law. *See The Florida Bar v. Rakusin*, No. SC2021-1182, 2023 WL 3300043 (Fla. May 8, 2023) [ECF No. 1]. The disbarment was predicated on a Report of Referee, Motion to Assess Costs, briefs filed, and oral argument. On June 5, 2021, this Court received an email notice from Mr. Rakusin informing the Court of his disbarment with a copy of the Supreme Court of Florida's Order. [ECF No. 3].

The Clerk attempted to serve Mr. Rakusin 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 Disbarment. (*See* [ECF No. 2]). Service at Mr. Rakusin's court record address was returned with the notation, "Return to Sender—Unclaimed—Unable to Forward." Service at Mr. Rakusin's Florida Bar address was signed with an illegible signature and without the designation of "agent" or "addressee."

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, states that "[a]n attorney admitted to practice before this Court shall, upon being subjected to reprimand, discipline, suspension, or disbarment . . . by any other court of the United States . . . promptly inform the Clerk of the Court of such action." *Id.* (alterations added). 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.* 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; “the failure to comply shall not constitute grounds for relief from deadlines imposed by Rule or by the Court.” *Id.* 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 Rules 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.” (alteration added)),

**IT IS ORDERED** that Mr. Rakusin is disbarred from practice in this Court, effective immediately. Mr. Rakusin 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 Mr. Rakusin 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 Disbarment upon Mr. Rakusin at his court record and Florida Bar addresses. Mr. Rakusin 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 13th day of June, 2023.

  
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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 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
Florida Bar and National Lawyer Regulatory Data Bank  
Library  
Stephen Bruce Rakusin