

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2023-78  
CASE NO. 23-MC-22968

IN RE: JOSEPH ANTHONY SORCE  
FLORIDA BAR # 38288

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**ORDER OF SUSPENSION**

On August 7, 2023, the Supreme Court of Florida entered an Order of Suspension, suspending Joseph Anthony Sorce from the practice of law. *See The Florida Bar v. Sorce*, No. SC2023-1100, 2023 WL 5016474 (Fla. Aug. 7, 2023) [ECF No. 1]. The suspension was predicated on a Notice of Determination or Judgment of Guilt [ECF No. 2], which disclosed that Mr. Sorce entered a plea of nolo contendere to Reckless Driving with Serious Bodily Injury and Possession of Cocaine, both third degree felonies, along with two counts of misdemeanor DUI with Property Damage/Personal Injury, before the Circuit Court of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit in and for Broward County, Florida. *See State v. Sorce*, Case No. 21007694CF10A (Fla. 17th Cir. Ct. June 30, 2023). The court withheld adjudication on the felony charges. (*See id.*).

Under Rule 7(a)(1) 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, “[w]here a criminal proceeding results in an adjudication being withheld, the Court shall issue an Order to Show Cause for the attorney to respond within thirty (30) days before the issuance of any discipline[.]” *Id.* (alterations added). In accordance with Rule 7(a)(1), the Clerk served Mr. Sorce by certified mail with an Order to Show Cause why the Court should not impose

the same discipline, accompanied by the Supreme Court of Florida's Order of Suspension. (*See* [ECF No. 3]). Mr. Sorce, through his attorney, filed a Response to Order to Show Cause, indicating “[h]e has no pending matters in the Southern District[,]” and he “interpose[s] no objection if this Court determines to impose the same interim suspension as ordered by the Florida Supreme Court and interposes no objection to this Court imposing the same sanction that is ultimately to be determined by the Florida Supreme Court in this matter.” ([ECF No. 5] at 1-2 (alterations added)).

Rule 7(a) provides that “[u]pon the filing with this Court of a certified copy of a judgment of conviction demonstrating that any attorney admitted to practice before the Court has been convicted in any court of the United States . . . of any serious crime . . . the Court shall enter an order immediately suspending that attorney[.]” *Id.* (alterations added). A “serious crime” includes any felony. *See* Rule 7(b).

Given this background, pursuant to Rule 7(a) 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. Sorce is suspended from practice in this Court, effective immediately. Mr. Sorce 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. Sorce at his court record and Florida Bar

addresses.

**DONE AND ORDERED** in Miami, Florida, this 16th day of October, 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  
Kevin P. Tynan, counsel for Joseph Anthony Sorce  
Joseph Anthony Sorce