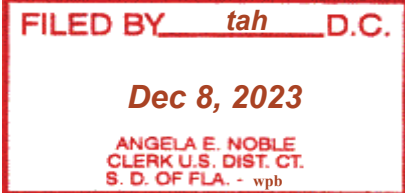


UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2023-86
CASE NO. 23-MC-24152

IN RE: JOSE PETE FONT
FLORIDA BAR # 738719



ORDER OF SUSPENSION

On October 30, 2023, the Supreme Court of Florida entered an Order of Suspension, suspending Jose Pete Font from the practice of law. *See The Florida Bar v. Font*, No. SC2020-0693, 2023 WL 7126430 (Fla. Oct. 30, 2023) [ECF No. 1]. The suspension was predicated on a report of referee, the briefs filed in the case, and Mr. Font’s response to the Supreme Court of Florida’s Order to Show Cause.

The Clerk served Mr. Font 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]). On November 30, 2023, Mr. Font filed a Response [ECF No. 3], requesting that the Court defer “ruling until such time as the Florida Supreme Court’s becomes final, or alternatively, makes a finding that the Respondent’s constitutional right to free speech, due process and equal protection under the law were violated and thereby the recommended sanction and predicate findings of misconduct cannot stand.” (*Id.* 20).

Under Rule 8(c) 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, reciprocal discipline may be delayed where state proceedings are stayed.¹ That is not the case here. Regardless of the process yet to be afforded Mr. Font, he was and is currently

¹ “In the event that the discipline imposed in the other jurisdiction has been stayed there, any reciprocal disciplinary proceedings instituted or discipline imposed in this Court shall be deferred until such stay expires.” Rule 8(c).

suspended by Order of the Supreme Court of Florida pending further proceedings. Without evidence that the Florida Order of Suspension has been stayed, this Court may proceed with reciprocal discipline.

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, pursuant to 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; citation omitted)),

IT IS ORDERED that Mr. Font is suspended from practice in this Court, effective immediately. Mr. Font 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. Font 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. Font at his court record and Florida Bar address. Mr. Font 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 at Miami, Florida, this 8th day of December, 2023.



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
Jose P. Font