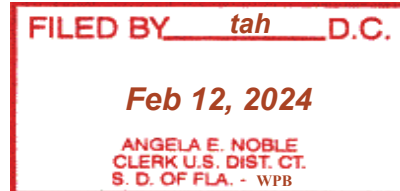


UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2024-18
CASE NO. 23-MC-24541

IN RE: JAMES EDWARD LEANO
FLORIDA BAR # 153524



ORDER OF SUSPENSION

On November 30, 2023, the Supreme Court of Florida entered an Order of Suspension, suspending James Edward Leano from the practice of law. *See The Florida Bar v. Leano*, No. SC2023-1590, 2023 WL 8274707 (Fla. Nov. 30, 2023) [ECF No. 1]. The suspension was predicated on The Florida Bar's Petition for Emergency Suspension.

The Clerk attempted to serve Mr. Leano 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]). No return receipts were received. A second attempt was made to both addresses on January 10, 2024. Service at Mr. Leano's court record address was returned with the notation, "Return to Sender—Not Deliverable As Addressed—Unable to Forward." Service at Mr. Leano's Florida Bar address was returned with the notation, "Return to Sender—No Mail Receptacle—Unable to Forward—Return to Sender."

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 an attorney admitted to practice before this Court, upon being subjected to reprimand, discipline, suspension, or disbarment by any other court of the United States, promptly inform the Clerk of the Court. *See id.* After expiration of the time for submitting a response to an order to show cause, the Court may impose the identical discipline or any other sanction it deems appropriate. *See* Rule


8(d). Even if service is contested, members of this Bar have an obligation to provide updated contact information to the Clerk within seven days of any change; “[t]he failure to comply shall not constitute grounds for relief from deadlines imposed by Rule or by the Court.” Local Rule 11.1(g) (alteration added). 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, under 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; citation omitted)),

IT IS ORDERED that Mr. Leano is suspended from practice in this Court, effective immediately. Mr. Leano 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. Leano 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 Mr. Leano shall advise the Clerk of Court of all pending cases before this Court in which he is counsel or co-counsel of record. The Clerk of Court shall attempt to serve by certified mail a copy of this Order of Suspension upon Mr. Leano at his court record and Florida Bar addresses.

DONE AND ORDERED at Miami, Florida, this 12th day of February, 2024.



CECILIA M. ALTONAGA
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Copies furnished as follows: See attached

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
James Edward Leano