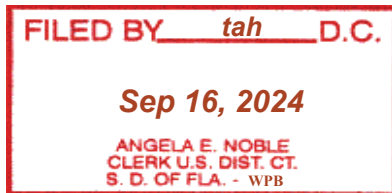


UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2024-70
CASE NO. 24-MC-22491

IN RE: MICHAEL CHRISTOPHER GRIECO
FLORIDA BAR # 255490



ORDER OF SUSPENSION

On June 27, 2024, the Supreme Court of Florida entered an Order of Suspension, suspending Michael Christopher Grieco from the practice of law. *See The Florida Bar v. Grieco*, No. SC2020-1118, 389 So. 3d 1257 (Fla. June 27, 2024). The suspension was predicated on The Florida Bar’s Complaint and a Referee’s Report.

On July 1, 2024, the Clerk attempted to serve Mr. Grieco 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* Order to Show Cause [ECF No. 2]). Attached to the Order to Show Cause is a Clerk’s Notice Re Electronic Filing in Attorney Discipline Matters [ECF No. 2-2], informing Mr. Grieco that responses are to be filed electronically in CM/ECF. (*See id.*). Service was returned without signature.

On July 21, 2024, the Court received an email notice from Mr. Grieco informing the Court of his suspension with a copy of the Supreme Court of Florida’s Order. (*See* Composite [ECF No. 4]). In the email, Mr. Grieco asked to “[p]lease confirm receipt of this email and/or advise me if this notice needs to be sent elsewhere or in a different format.” (*Id.* 2 (alteration added)). On July 30, 2024, the Clerk’s Office acknowledged receipt of the notice of suspension. (*See id.* 1).

Mr. Grieco’s response is substantively incorrect and fails to show cause why this Court should not impose the same discipline. In his July 21 email, Mr. Grieco asserted:

Because the suspension arose from my role as a public official and political candidate[]

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but did not arise from any client or judicial complaint, the suspension should not be deemed applicable to my license to practice law in the Southern District of Florida. Furthermore, I still maintain my active New York State license to practice law (4256012), which is in good standing[,] and we have notified the NY Bar similarly to [sic] this Rule 8(a) notification.

(*Id.* 1 (alterations added)). Mr. Grieco is mistaken. Under Rule 3 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 (“Attorney Rules”):

To remain an attorney in good standing of the bar of this Court, each member must remain an active attorney in good standing of The Florida Bar, specifically including compliance with all requirements of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar, as promulgated by the Supreme Court of Florida. Attorneys who are not in good standing of the bar of this Court may not practice before the Court.

S.D. Fla. Att’y R. 3.

The Florida Supreme Court already rejected Mr. Grieco’s argument that his charged offense did not involve the practice of law. *See generally Grieco*, 389 So. 3d 1257. Mr. Grieco made the same argument to the Florida Supreme Court: that since his offense of “[k]nowingly accepting campaign donations from one individual, through or in the name of another[,]” did not involve the practice of law, his conduct does not “reflect[] adversely on his fitness as a lawyer.” *Id.* (alterations added). The Florida Supreme Court disagreed, holding that conduct can violate the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar even if it is unrelated to an attorney’s practice of law. *See id.* Because Mr. Grieco is not an attorney in good standing with The Florida Bar, he cannot be “an attorney in good standing of the bar of this Court” either. S.D. Fla. Att’y R. 3.

Additionally, Mr. Grieco never filed his response to the Order to Show Cause on CM/ECF. Attorney Rule 8(a) 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,

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promptly inform the Clerk of 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 the Court deems appropriate. *See* S.D. Fla. Att’y R. 8(d). The Court does so here.

Mr. Grieco may not argue he was not properly served. On August 7, 2024, the Clerk again attempted to serve the Order to Show Cause, and the Order was again returned without signature. Perhaps Mr. Grieco no longer lives at his court record address, but 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.” S.D. Fla. L.R. 11.1(g) (alteration added). The obligation to maintain current contact information is reiterated in section 3D of the Court’s CM/ECF Administrative Procedures Manual, compliance with which is mandated by Local Rule 5.1.

Given this background, under Attorney 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 AND ADJUDGED as follows:

1. Mr. Grieco is suspended from practice in this Court, effective immediately. Mr. Grieco may not resume the practice of law before this Court until reinstated by order of the Court. *See* S.D. Fla. Att’y R. 12(a).
2. Mr. Grieco shall advise the Clerk of Court of all pending cases before this Court in which he is counsel or co-counsel of record.

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3. The Clerk of Court shall **STRIKE** Mr. Grieco 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.
4. The Clerk of Court shall attempt to serve by certified mail a copy of this Order of Suspension on Mr. Grieco at his court record and Florida Bar addresses.

DONE AND ORDERED at Miami, Florida, this 16th day of September, 2024.



CECILIA M. ALTONAGA
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

cc: 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 Eleventh Circuit
Florida Bar and National Lawyer Regulatory Data Bank
Library
Michael Christopher Grieco