



Feb 13, 2018

Board of Disciplinary Appeals

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF DISCIPLINARY APPEALS  
APPOINTED BY  
THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS**

**IN THE MATTER OF  
PATRICIA ANNE HORAL  
STATE BAR CARD NO. 24067667**

§  
§  
§

**CAUSE NO. 60096**

**PETITION FOR RECIPROCAL DISCIPLINE**

**TO THE BOARD OF DISCIPLINARY APPEALS:**

Petitioner, the Commission for Lawyer Discipline (hereinafter called "Petitioner"), brings this action against Respondent, Patricia Anne Horal, (hereinafter called "Respondent"), showing as follows:

1. This action is commenced by Petitioner pursuant to Part IX of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure. Petitioner is also providing Respondent a copy of Section 7 of this Board's Internal Procedural Rules, relating to Reciprocal Discipline Matters.

2. Respondent is a member of the State Bar of Texas and is licensed, but not currently authorized, to practice law in Texas. Respondent may be served with a true and correct copy of this Petition for Reciprocal Discipline at Patricia Anne Horal, 20016 Nob Oak Ave., Tampa, Florida 33647.

3. On or about March 7, 2017, a Complaint was filed in the Supreme Court of Florida, in a matter styled, *The Florida Bar, Complainant v. Patricia Anne Horal, Respondent*, The Florida Bar File No. 2015-10,619 (13F) (Exhibit 1).

4. On or about October 23, 2017, a Conditional Guilty Plea for Consent Judgment was filed in the Supreme Court of Florida, in a matter styled, *The Florida Bar, Complainant v. Patricia Anne Horal, Respondent*, Supreme Court Case No. SC17-399, The Florida Bar File No. 2015-

10,619 (13F) (Exhibit 2).

5. On or about October 23, 2017, the Report of Referee Accepting Consent Judgment was filed in the Supreme Court of Florida, in a matter styled, *The Florida Bar, Complainant v. Patricia Anne Horal, Respondent*, Supreme Court Case No. SC17-399, The Florida Bar File No. 2015-10,619 (13F) (Exhibit 3).

6. On or about November 9, 2017, an Order was entered in the Supreme Court of Florida, in a matter styled, *The Florida Bar, Complainant v. Patricia Anne Horal, Respondent*, Case No. SC17-399, Lower Tribunal No. 2015-10,619 (13F), that states in pertinent part as follows:

...The uncontested report of the referee is approved and respondent is suspended from the practice of law for ninety days...

(Exhibit 4).

7. In the Conditional Guilty Plea for Consent Judgment Respondent admitted the following:

In or about April 2014, while Respondent worked as an independent contractor for another attorney in Hillsborough County, she met Joseph V. Cannistra, a non-lawyer, who was an investigator and paralegal for that attorney. On June 27, 2014, Respondent formed Cadillac Law Group (CLG) with Cannistra with both Respondent and Cannistra listed as officers of CLG. Cannistra's role was to handle investigative and paralegal functions.

Cannistra began to solicit clients for CLG, directly communicated with prosecutors in criminal cases to attempt to negotiate resolutions, and accepted funds from new clients, all without Respondent's knowledge or consent. A few months into the partnership, Respondent discovered Cannistra had engaged in the unlicensed practice of law and warned him to refrain

from engaging in similar conduct in the future.

In August 2014, the professional association between Respondent and Cannistra began to deteriorate. However, in late August 2014, Cannistra brought a new client to Respondent, Lyndon Andrews, who hired Respondent to assist in his transition from hospice into an apartment and to unseal a past felony case for a limited purpose. The Representation and Fee Agreement is between Andrews and Respondent, not CLG. Andrews also signed a notarized letter and rescindment of power of attorney form granting CLG the authority to handle all affairs pertaining to his Pinellas Park home and to act as his sole agent. Through discovery in this matter, the Bar learned that Respondent had, in fact, filed a motion to unseal the past felony case, which was unsealed and subsequently resealed after the stated purpose for unsealing had been handled. Respondent completed the representation of Andrews on or about September 18, 2014.

Throughout September 2014, Respondent uncovered that Cannistra was still engaging in inappropriate conduct and she threatened to leave. Respondent physically left CLG in late September 2014, and was locked out of CLG by Cannistra with no access to the office or email. The formal relationship between Respondent and Cannistra was severed on October 13, 2014. Respondent took no other affirmative steps to end her partnership, or the appearance of a partnership, with Cannistra. On October 27, 2014, Cannistra filed Articles of Amendment with the Florida Department of Corporations to remove Respondent as an officer, added the new attorney and Dawes as officers of CLG. Cannistra removed Respondent as an authorized user on the corporate bank accounts on October 31, 2014.

After Respondent formally left the firm, Cannistra accepted several cashier's checks from Andrews. On October 14, 2014, Cannistra accepted a cashier's check for \$61,000,

purportedly from Andrews, payable to CLG and negotiated the check without Respondent's knowledge; on October 31, 2014, Cannistra accepted a cashier's check for \$599.45, purportedly from Andrews, payable to Cannistra without Respondent's knowledge; and on November 24, 2014, Cannistra accepted a cashier's check for \$1,500, purportedly from Andrews, and negotiated without Respondent's knowledge. All funds were deposited in an account opened solely by Cannistra on October 14, 2014. Respondent had no knowledge of these transactions and is not liable for them. Respondent entered into an improper business partnership with Cannistra, and permitted a situation to exist whereby Cannistra was able to improperly solicit clients and engage in professional activities that constituted the unlicensed practice of law.

Respondent admits that as a result of her conduct described above she is guilty of violation the following Rules Regulating The Florida Bar: Rule 4-5.3 (Responsibilities Regarding Non-Lawyers Assistants); Rule 4-5.4 (Professional Independence of a Lawyer); Rule 4-5.5 (Unlicensed Practice of Law); and, Rule 4-7.18 (Direct Contact with Prospective Clients).

8. Copies of the Complaint, Conditional Guilty Plea for Consent Judgment, Report of Referee Accepting Consent Judgment and Supreme Court Order attached hereto as Petitioner's Exhibits 1 through 4, and made a part hereof for all intents and purposes as if the same were copied verbatim herein. Petitioner expects to introduce certified copies of Exhibits 1 through 4 at the time of hearing of this cause.


9. Petitioner prays that, pursuant to Rule 9.02, Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, that this Board issue notice to Respondent, containing a copy of this Petition with exhibits, and an order directing Respondent to show cause within thirty (30) days from the date of the mailing of the notice, why the imposition of the identical discipline in this state would be unwarranted. Petitioner further prays that upon trial of this matter that this Board enters a judgment imposing

discipline identical with that imposed by the Supreme Court of Florida and that Petitioner have such other and further relief to which it may be entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

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Amanda M. Kates  
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ATTORNEYS FOR PETITIONER

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that upon receipt of the Order to Show Cause from the Board of Disciplinary Appeals, I will serve a copy of this Petition for Reciprocal Discipline and the Order to Show Cause on Patricia Anne Horal by personal service.

Patricia Anne Horal  
20016 Nob Oak Ave.  
Tampa, Florida 33647



Amanda M. Kates

# INTERNAL PROCEDURAL RULES

## Board of Disciplinary Appeals

*Effective February 19, 2015 and amended September 20, 2016*

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## **SECTION 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **Rule 1.01 Definitions**

- (a) “BODA” is the Board of Disciplinary Appeals.
- (b) “Chair” is the member elected by BODA to serve as chair or, in the Chair’s absence, the member elected by BODA to serve as vice-chair.
- (c) “Classification” is the determination by the CDC under TRDP 2.10 or by BODA under TRDP 7.08(C) whether a grievance constitutes a “complaint” or an “inquiry.”
- (d) “BODA Clerk” is the executive director of BODA or other person appointed by BODA to assume all duties normally performed by the clerk of a court.
- (e) “CDC” is the Chief Disciplinary Counsel for the State Bar of Texas and his or her assistants.
- (f) “Commission” is the Commission for Lawyer Discipline, a permanent committee of the State Bar of Texas.
- (g) “Executive Director” is the executive director of BODA.
- (h) “Panel” is any three-member grouping of BODA under TRDP 7.05.
- (i) “Party” is a Complainant, a Respondent, or the Commission.
- (j) “TDRPC” is the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.
- (k) “TRAP” is the Texas Rules of Appellate Procedure.
- (l) “TRCP” is the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure.
- (m) “TRDP” is the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.
- (n) “TRE” is the Texas Rules of Evidence.

### **Rule 1.02 General Powers**

Under TRDP 7.08, BODA has and may exercise all the powers of either a trial court or an appellate court, as the case may be, in hearing and determining

disciplinary proceedings. But TRDP 15.01 applies to the enforcement of a judgment of BODA.

### **Rule 1.03 Additional Rules in Disciplinary Matters**

Except as varied by these rules and to the extent applicable, the TRCP, TRAP, and TRE apply to all disciplinary matters before BODA, except for appeals from classification decisions, which are governed by TRDP 2.10 and by Section 3 of these rules.

### **Rule 1.04 Appointment of Panels**

- (a) BODA may consider any matter or motion by panel, except as specified in (b). The Chair may delegate to the Executive Director the duty to appoint a panel for any BODA action. Decisions are made by a majority vote of the panel; however, any panel member may refer a matter for consideration by BODA sitting en banc. Nothing in these rules gives a party the right to be heard by BODA sitting en banc.
- (b) Any disciplinary matter naming a BODA member as Respondent must be considered by BODA sitting en banc. A disciplinary matter naming a BODA staff member as Respondent need not be heard en banc.

### **Rule 1.05 Filing of Pleadings, Motions, and Other Papers**

- (a) **Electronic Filing.** All documents must be filed electronically. Unrepresented persons or those without the means to file electronically may electronically file documents, but it is not required.
  - (1) **Email Address.** The email address of an attorney or an unrepresented party who electronically files a document must be included on the document.
  - (2) **Timely Filing.** Documents are filed electronically by emailing the document to the BODA Clerk at the email address designated by BODA for that purpose. A document filed by email will be considered filed the day



that the email is sent. The date sent is the date shown for the message in the inbox of the email account designated for receiving filings. If a document is sent after 5:00 p.m. or on a weekend or holiday officially observed by the State of Texas, it is considered filed the next business day.

- (3) It is the responsibility of the party filing a document by email to obtain the correct email address for BODA and to confirm that the document was received by BODA in legible form. Any document that is illegible or that cannot be opened as part of an email attachment will not be considered filed. If a document is untimely due to a technical failure or a system outage, the filing party may seek appropriate relief from BODA.
- (4) **Exceptions.**
  - (i) An appeal to BODA of a decision by the CDC to classify a grievance as an inquiry is not required to be filed electronically.
  - (ii) The following documents must not be filed electronically:
    - a) documents that are filed under seal or subject to a pending motion to seal; and
    - b) documents to which access is otherwise restricted by court order.
  - (iii) For good cause, BODA may permit a party to file other documents in paper form in a particular case.
- (5) **Format.** An electronically filed document must:
  - (i) be in text-searchable portable document format (PDF);
  - (ii) be directly converted to PDF

rather than scanned, if possible;  
and

(iii) not be locked.

- (b) A paper will not be deemed filed if it is sent to an individual BODA member or to another address other than the address designated by BODA under Rule 1.05(a)(2).
- (c) **Signing.** Each brief, motion, or other paper filed must be signed by at least one attorney for the party or by the party pro se and must give the State Bar of Texas card number, mailing address, telephone number, email address, and fax number, if any, of each attorney whose name is signed or of the party (if applicable). A document is considered signed if the document includes:
  - (1) an “/s/” and name typed in the space where the signature would otherwise appear, unless the document is notarized or sworn; or
  - (2) an electronic image or scanned image of the signature.
- (d) **Paper Copies.** Unless required by BODA, a party need not file a paper copy of an electronically filed document.
- (e) **Service.** Copies of all documents filed by any party other than the record filed by the evidentiary panel clerk or the court reporter must, at or before the time of filing, be served on all other parties as required and authorized by the TRAP.

#### **Rule 1.06 Service of Petition**

In any disciplinary proceeding before BODA initiated by service of a petition on the Respondent, the petition must be served by personal service; by certified mail with return receipt requested; or, if permitted by BODA, in any other manner that is authorized by the TRCP and reasonably calculated under all the circumstances to apprise the Respondent of the proceeding and to give him or her reasonable time to appear and answer. To establish

service by certified mail, the return receipt must contain the Respondent's signature.

### **Rule 1.07 Hearing Setting and Notice**

- (a) **Original Petitions.** In any kind of case initiated by the CDC's filing a petition or motion with BODA, the CDC may contact the BODA Clerk for the next regularly available hearing date before filing the original petition. If a hearing is set before the petition is filed, the petition must state the date, time, and place of the hearing. Except in the case of a petition to revoke probation under TRDP 2.23, the hearing date must be at least 30 days from the date that the petition is served on the Respondent.
- (b) **Expedited Settings.** If a party desires a hearing on a matter on a date earlier than the next regularly available BODA hearing date, the party may request an expedited setting in a written motion setting out the reasons for the request. Unless the parties agree otherwise, and except in the case of a petition to revoke probation under TRDP 2.23, the expedited hearing setting must be at least 30 days from the date of service of the petition, motion, or other pleading. BODA has the sole discretion to grant or deny a request for an expedited hearing date.
- (c) **Setting Notices.** BODA must notify the parties of any hearing date that is not noticed in an original petition or motion.
- (d) **Announcement Docket.** Attorneys and parties appearing before BODA must confirm their presence and present any questions regarding procedure to the BODA Clerk in the courtroom immediately prior to the time docket call is scheduled to begin. Each party with a matter on the docket must appear at the docket call to give an announcement of readiness, to give a time estimate for the hearing, and to present any preliminary motions or matters. Immediately following the docket call, the Chair will set and announce the order of cases to be heard.

### **Rule 1.08 Time to Answer**

The Respondent may file an answer at any time, except where expressly provided otherwise by these rules or the TRDP, or when an answer date has been set by prior order of BODA. BODA may, but is not required to, consider an answer filed the day of the hearing.

### **Rule 1.09 Pretrial Procedure**

- (a) **Motions.**
  - (1) **Generally.** To request an order or other relief, a party must file a motion supported by sufficient cause with proof of service on all other parties. The motion must state with particularity the grounds on which it is based and set forth the relief sought. All supporting briefs, affidavits, or other documents must be served and filed with the motion. A party may file a response to a motion at any time before BODA rules on the motion or by any deadline set by BODA. Unless otherwise required by these rules or the TRDP, the form of a motion must comply with the TRCP or the TRAP.
  - (2) **For Extension of Time.** All motions for extension of time in any matter before BODA must be in writing, comply with (a)(1), and specify the following:
    - (i) if applicable, the date of notice of decision of the evidentiary panel, together with the number and style of the case;
    - (ii) if an appeal has been perfected, the date when the appeal was perfected;
    - (iii) the original deadline for filing the item in question;
    - (iv) the length of time requested for the extension;
    - (v) the number of extensions of time that have been granted

- previously regarding the item in question; and
- (vi) the facts relied on to reasonably explain the need for an extension.
- (b) **Pretrial Scheduling Conference.** Any party may request a pretrial scheduling conference, or BODA on its own motion may require a pretrial scheduling conference.
- (c) **Trial Briefs.** In any disciplinary proceeding before BODA, except with leave, all trial briefs and memoranda must be filed with the BODA Clerk no later than ten days before the day of the hearing.
- (d) **Hearing Exhibits, Witness Lists, and Exhibits Tendered for Argument.** A party may file a witness list, exhibit, or any other document to be used at a hearing or oral argument before the hearing or argument. A party must bring to the hearing an original and 12 copies of any document that was not filed at least one business day before the hearing. The original and copies must be:
  - (1) marked;
  - (2) indexed with the title or description of the item offered as an exhibit; and
  - (3) if voluminous, bound to lie flat when open and tabbed in accordance with the index.

All documents must be marked and provided to the opposing party before the hearing or argument begins.

#### **Rule 1.10 Decisions**

- (a) **Notice of Decisions.** The BODA Clerk must give notice of all decisions and opinions to the parties or their attorneys of record.
- (b) **Publication of Decisions.** BODA must report judgments or orders of public discipline:
  - (1) as required by the TRDP; and

- (2) on its website for a period of at least ten years following the date of the disciplinary judgment or order.
- (c) **Abstracts of Classification Appeals.** BODA may, in its discretion, prepare an abstract of a classification appeal for a public reporting service.

#### **Rule 1.11 Board of Disciplinary Appeals Opinions**

- (a) BODA may render judgment in any disciplinary matter with or without written opinion. In accordance with TRDP 6.06, all written opinions of BODA are open to the public and must be made available to the public reporting services, print or electronic, for publishing. A majority of the members who participate in considering the disciplinary matter must determine if an opinion will be written. The names of the participating members must be noted on all written opinions of BODA.
- (b) Only a BODA member who participated in the decision of a disciplinary matter may file or join in a written opinion concurring in or dissenting from the judgment of BODA. For purposes of this rule, in hearings in which evidence is taken, no member may participate in the decision unless that member was present at the hearing. In all other proceedings, no member may participate unless that member has reviewed the record. Any member of BODA may file a written opinion in connection with the denial of a hearing or rehearing en banc.
- (c) A BODA determination in an appeal from a grievance classification decision under TRDP 2.10 is not a judgment for purposes of this rule and may be issued without a written opinion.

### **Rule 1.12 BODA Work Product and Drafts**

A document or record of any nature—regardless of its form, characteristics, or means of transmission—that is created or produced in connection with or related to BODA’s adjudicative decision-making process is not subject to disclosure or discovery. This includes documents prepared by any BODA member, BODA staff, or any other person acting on behalf of or at the direction of BODA.

### **Rule 1.13 Record Retention**

Records of appeals from classification decisions must be retained by the BODA Clerk for a period of at least three years from the date of disposition. Records of other disciplinary matters must be retained for a period of at least five years from the date of final judgment, or for at least one year after the date a suspension or disbarment ends, whichever is later. For purposes of this rule, a record is any document, paper, letter, map, book, tape, photograph, film, recording, or other material filed with BODA, regardless of its form, characteristics, or means of transmission.

### **Rule 1.14 Costs of Reproduction of Records**

The BODA Clerk may charge a reasonable amount for the reproduction of nonconfidential records filed with BODA. The fee must be paid in advance to the BODA Clerk.

### **Rule 1.15 Publication of These Rules**

These rules will be published as part of the TDRPC and TRDP.

## **SECTION 2: ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS**

### **Rule 2.01 Representing or Counseling Parties in Disciplinary Matters and Legal Malpractice Cases**

- (a) A current member of BODA must not represent a party or testify voluntarily in a disciplinary action or proceeding. Any BODA member who is subpoenaed or otherwise compelled to appear at a disciplinary action or proceeding, including at a deposition, must promptly notify the BODA Chair.

- (b) A current BODA member must not serve as an expert witness on the TDRPC.
- (c) A BODA member may represent a party in a legal malpractice case, provided that he or she is later recused in accordance with these rules from any proceeding before BODA arising out of the same facts.

### **Rule 2.02 Confidentiality**

- (a) BODA deliberations are confidential, must not be disclosed by BODA members or staff, and are not subject to disclosure or discovery.
- (b) Classification appeals, appeals from evidentiary judgments of private reprimand, appeals from an evidentiary judgment dismissing a case, interlocutory appeals or any interim proceedings from an ongoing evidentiary case, and disability cases are confidential under the TRDP. BODA must maintain all records associated with these cases as confidential, subject to disclosure only as provided in the TRDP and these rules.
- (c) If a member of BODA is subpoenaed or otherwise compelled by law to testify in any proceeding, the member must not disclose a matter that was discussed in conference in connection with a disciplinary case unless the member is required to do so by a court of competent jurisdiction.

### **Rule 2.03 Disqualification and Recusal of BODA Members**

- (a) BODA members are subject to disqualification and recusal as provided in TRCP 18b.
- (b) BODA members may, in addition to recusals under (a), voluntarily recuse themselves from any discussion and voting for any reason. The reasons that a BODA member is recused from a case are not subject to discovery.
- (c) These rules do not disqualify a lawyer who is a member of, or associated with, the law firm of a BODA member from serving on

a grievance committee or representing a party in a disciplinary proceeding or legal malpractice case. But a BODA member must recuse him- or herself from any matter in which a lawyer who is a member of, or associated with, the BODA member's firm is a party or represents a party.

## **SECTION 3: CLASSIFICATION APPEALS**

### **Rule 3.01 Notice of Right to Appeal**

- (a) If a grievance filed by the Complainant under TRDP 2.10 is classified as an inquiry, the CDC must notify the Complainant of his or her right to appeal as set out in TRDP 2.10 or another applicable rule.
- (b) To facilitate the potential filing of an appeal of a grievance classified as an inquiry, the CDC must send the Complainant an appeal notice form, approved by BODA, with the classification disposition. The form must include the docket number of the matter; the deadline for appealing; and information for mailing, faxing, or emailing the appeal notice form to BODA. The appeal notice form must be available in English and Spanish.

### **Rule 3.02 Record on Appeal**

BODA must only consider documents that were filed with the CDC prior to the classification decision. When a notice of appeal from a classification decision has been filed, the CDC must forward to BODA a copy of the grievance and all supporting documentation. If the appeal challenges the classification of an amended grievance, the CDC must also send BODA a copy of the initial grievance, unless it has been destroyed.

## **SECTION 4: APPEALS FROM EVIDENTIARY PANEL HEARINGS**

### **Rule 4.01 Perfecting Appeal**

- (a) **Appellate Timetable.** The date that the evidentiary judgment is signed starts the appellate timetable under this section. To make TRDP 2.21 consistent with this

requirement, the date that the judgment is signed is the "date of notice" under Rule 2.21.

- (b) **Notification of the Evidentiary Judgment.** The clerk of the evidentiary panel must notify the parties of the judgment as set out in TRDP 2.21.

- (1) The evidentiary panel clerk must notify the Commission and the Respondent in writing of the judgment. The notice must contain a clear statement that any appeal of the judgment must be filed with BODA within 30 days of the date that the judgment was signed. The notice must include a copy of the judgment rendered.

- (2) The evidentiary panel clerk must notify the Complainant that a judgment has been rendered and provide a copy of the judgment, unless the evidentiary panel dismissed the case or imposed a private reprimand. In the case of a dismissal or private reprimand, the evidentiary panel clerk must notify the Complainant of the decision and that the contents of the judgment are confidential. Under TRDP 2.16, no additional information regarding the contents of a judgment of dismissal or private reprimand may be disclosed to the Complainant.

- (c) **Filing Notice of Appeal.** An appeal is perfected when a written notice of appeal is filed with BODA. If a notice of appeal and any other accompanying documents are mistakenly filed with the evidentiary panel clerk, the notice is deemed to have been filed the same day with BODA, and the evidentiary panel clerk must immediately send the BODA Clerk a copy of the notice and any accompanying documents.

- (d) **Time to File.** In accordance with TRDP 2.24, the notice of appeal must be filed within 30 days after the date the judgment

is signed. In the event a motion for new trial or motion to modify the judgment is timely filed with the evidentiary panel, the notice of appeal must be filed with BODA within 90 days from the date the judgment is signed.

- (e) **Extension of Time.** A motion for an extension of time to file the notice of appeal must be filed no later than 15 days after the last day allowed for filing the notice of appeal. The motion must comply with Rule 1.09.

#### **Rule 4.02 Record on Appeal**

- (a) **Contents.** The record on appeal consists of the evidentiary panel clerk's record and, where necessary to the appeal, a reporter's record of the evidentiary panel hearing.
- (b) **Stipulation as to Record.** The parties may designate parts of the clerk's record and the reporter's record to be included in the record on appeal by written stipulation filed with the clerk of the evidentiary panel.
- (c) **Responsibility for Filing Record.**
  - (1) Clerk's Record.
    - (i) After receiving notice that an appeal has been filed, the clerk of the evidentiary panel is responsible for preparing, certifying, and timely filing the clerk's record.
    - (ii) Unless the parties stipulate otherwise, the clerk's record on appeal must contain the items listed in TRAP 34.5(a) and any other paper on file with the evidentiary panel, including the election letter, all pleadings on which the hearing was held, the docket sheet, the evidentiary panel's charge, any findings of fact and conclusions of law, all other pleadings, the judgment or other orders appealed from, the notice of decision sent to each

party, any post submission pleadings and briefs, and the notice of appeal.

- (iii) If the clerk of the evidentiary panel is unable for any reason to prepare and transmit the clerk's record by the due date, he or she must promptly notify BODA and the parties, explain why the clerk's record cannot be timely filed, and give the date by which he or she expects the clerk's record to be filed.

#### **(2) Reporter's Record.**

- (i) The court reporter for the evidentiary panel is responsible for timely filing the reporter's record if:
  - a) a notice of appeal has been filed;
  - b) a party has requested that all or part of the reporter's record be prepared; and
  - c) the party requesting all or part of the reporter's record has paid the reporter's fee or has made satisfactory arrangements with the reporter.
- (ii) If the court reporter is unable for any reason to prepare and transmit the reporter's record by the due date, he or she must promptly notify BODA and the parties, explain the reasons why the reporter's record cannot be timely filed, and give the date by which he or she expects the reporter's record to be filed.

#### **(d) Preparation of Clerk's Record.**

- (1) To prepare the clerk's record, the evidentiary panel clerk must:
  - (i) gather the documents

- designated by the parties' written stipulation or, if no stipulation was filed, the documents required under (c)(1)(ii);
  - (ii) start each document on a new page;
  - (iii) include the date of filing on each document;
  - (iv) arrange the documents in chronological order, either by the date of filing or the date of occurrence;
  - (v) number the pages of the clerk's record in the manner required by (d)(2);
  - (vi) prepare and include, after the front cover of the clerk's record, a detailed table of contents that complies with (d)(3); and
  - (vii) certify the clerk's record.
- (2) The clerk must start the page numbering on the front cover of the first volume of the clerk's record and continue to number all pages consecutively—including the front and back covers, tables of contents, certification page, and separator pages, if any—until the final page of the clerk's record, without regard for the number of volumes in the clerk's record, and place each page number at the bottom of each page.
- (3) The table of contents must:
- (i) identify each document in the entire record (including sealed documents); the date each document was filed; and, except for sealed documents, the page on which each document begins;
  - (ii) be double-spaced;
  - (iii) conform to the order in which documents appear in the clerk's record, rather than in alphabetical order;
  - (iv) contain bookmarks linking each description in the table of contents (except for descriptions of sealed documents) to the page on which the document begins; and
  - (v) if the record consists of multiple volumes, indicate the page on which each volume begins.
- (e) **Electronic Filing of the Clerk's Record.** The evidentiary panel clerk must file the record electronically. When filing a clerk's record in electronic form, the evidentiary panel clerk must:
- (1) file each computer file in text-searchable Portable Document Format (PDF);
  - (2) create electronic bookmarks to mark the first page of each document in the clerk's record;
  - (3) limit the size of each computer file to 100 MB or less, if possible; and
  - (4) directly convert, rather than scan, the record to PDF, if possible.
- (f) **Preparation of the Reporter's Record.**
- (1) The appellant, at or before the time prescribed for perfecting the appeal, must make a written request for the reporter's record to the court reporter for the evidentiary panel. The request must designate the portion of the evidence and other proceedings to be included. A copy of the request must be filed with the evidentiary panel and BODA and must be served on the appellee. The reporter's record must be certified by the court reporter for the evidentiary panel.
  - (2) The court reporter or recorder must prepare and file the reporter's record in accordance with TRAP 34.6 and 35 and the Uniform Format Manual

for Texas Reporters' Records.

- (3) The court reporter or recorder must file the reporter's record in an electronic format by emailing the document to the email address designated by BODA for that purpose.
- (4) The court reporter or recorder must include either a scanned image of any required signature or "/s/" and name typed in the space where the signature would otherwise appear.
- (5) A court reporter or recorder must not lock any document that is part of the record.
- (6) In exhibit volumes, the court reporter or recorder must create bookmarks to mark the first page of each exhibit document.
- (g) **Other Requests.** At any time before the clerk's record is prepared, or within ten days after service of a copy of appellant's request for the reporter's record, any party may file a written designation requesting that additional exhibits and portions of testimony be included in the record. The request must be filed with the evidentiary panel and BODA and must be served on the other party.
- (h) **Inaccuracies or Defects.** If the clerk's record is found to be defective or inaccurate, the BODA Clerk must inform the clerk of the evidentiary panel of the defect or inaccuracy and instruct the clerk to make the correction. Any inaccuracies in the reporter's record may be corrected by agreement of the parties without the court reporter's recertification. Any dispute regarding the reporter's record that the parties are unable to resolve by agreement must be resolved by the evidentiary panel.
- (i) **Appeal from Private Reprimand.** Under TRDP 2.16, in an appeal from a judgment of private reprimand, BODA must mark the record as confidential, remove the

attorney's name from the case style, and take any other steps necessary to preserve the confidentiality of the private reprimand.

#### **Rule 4.03 Time to File Record**

- (a) **Timetable.** The clerk's record and reporter's record must be filed within 60 days after the date the judgment is signed. If a motion for new trial or motion to modify the judgment is filed with the evidentiary panel, the clerk's record and the reporter's record must be filed within 120 days from the date the original judgment is signed, unless a modified judgment is signed, in which case the clerk's record and the reporter's record must be filed within 60 days of the signing of the modified judgment. Failure to file either the clerk's record or the reporter's record on time does not affect BODA's jurisdiction, but may result in BODA's exercising its discretion to dismiss the appeal, affirm the judgment appealed from, disregard materials filed late, or apply presumptions against the appellant.
- (b) **If No Record Filed.**
  - (1) If the clerk's record or reporter's record has not been timely filed, the BODA Clerk must send notice to the party responsible for filing it, stating that the record is late and requesting that the record be filed within 30 days. The BODA Clerk must send a copy of this notice to all the parties and the clerk of the evidentiary panel.
  - (2) If no reporter's record is filed due to appellant's fault, and if the clerk's record has been filed, BODA may, after first giving the appellant notice and a reasonable opportunity to cure, consider and decide those issues or points that do not require a reporter's record for a decision. BODA may do this if no reporter's record has been filed because:
    - (i) the appellant failed to request a



- reporter's record; or
- (ii) the appellant failed to pay or make arrangements to pay the reporter's fee to prepare the reporter's record, and the appellant is not entitled to proceed without payment of costs.
- (c) **Extension of Time to File the Reporter's Record.** When an extension of time is requested for filing the reporter's record, the facts relied on to reasonably explain the need for an extension must be supported by an affidavit of the court reporter. The affidavit must include the court reporter's estimate of the earliest date when the reporter's record will be available for filing.
- (d) **Supplemental Record.** If anything material to either party is omitted from the clerk's record or reporter's record, BODA may, on written motion of a party or on its own motion, direct a supplemental record to be certified and transmitted by the clerk for the evidentiary panel or the court reporter for the evidentiary panel.

#### **Rule 4.04 Copies of the Record**

The record may not be withdrawn from the custody of the BODA Clerk. Any party may obtain a copy of the record or any designated part thereof by making a written request to the BODA Clerk and paying any charges for reproduction in advance.

#### **Rule 4.05 Requisites of Briefs**

- (a) **Appellant's Filing Date.** Appellant's brief must be filed within 30 days after the clerk's record or the reporter's record is filed, whichever is later.
- (b) **Appellee's Filing Date.** Appellee's brief must be filed within 30 days after the appellant's brief is filed.
- (c) **Contents.** Briefs must contain:
  - (1) a complete list of the names and addresses of all parties to the final decision and their counsel;

- (2) a table of contents indicating the subject matter of each issue or point, or group of issues or points, with page references where the discussion of each point relied on may be found;
- (3) an index of authorities arranged alphabetically and indicating the pages where the authorities are cited;
- (4) a statement of the case containing a brief general statement of the nature of the cause or offense and the result;
- (5) a statement, without argument, of the basis of BODA's jurisdiction;
- (6) a statement of the issues presented for review or points of error on which the appeal is predicated;
- (7) a statement of facts that is without argument, is supported by record references, and details the facts relating to the issues or points relied on in the appeal;
- (8) the argument and authorities;
- (9) conclusion and prayer for relief;
- (10) a certificate of service; and
- (11) an appendix of record excerpts pertinent to the issues presented for review.
- (d) **Length of Briefs; Contents Included and Excluded.** In calculating the length of a document, every word and every part of the document, including headings, footnotes, and quotations, must be counted except the following: caption, identity of the parties and counsel, statement regarding oral argument, table of contents, index of authorities, statement of the case, statement of issues presented, statement of the jurisdiction, signature, proof of service, certificate of compliance, and appendix. Briefs must not exceed 15,000 words if computer-generated, and 50 pages if not, except on leave of BODA. A reply brief must not exceed 7,500 words if computer-generated, and 25 pages if not, except on

leave of BODA. A computer-generated document must include a certificate by counsel or the unrepresented party stating the number of words in the document. The person who signs the certification may rely on the word count of the computer program used to prepare the document.

- (e) **Amendment or Supplementation.** BODA has discretion to grant leave to amend or supplement briefs.
- (f) **Failure of the Appellant to File a Brief.** If the appellant fails to timely file a brief, BODA may:
  - (1) dismiss the appeal for want of prosecution, unless the appellant reasonably explains the failure, and the appellee is not significantly injured by the appellant's failure to timely file a brief;
  - (2) decline to dismiss the appeal and make further orders within its discretion as it considers proper; or
  - (3) if an appellee's brief is filed, regard that brief as correctly presenting the case and affirm the evidentiary panel's judgment on that brief without examining the record.

#### **Rule 4.06 Oral Argument**

- (a) **Request.** A party desiring oral argument must note the request on the front cover of the party's brief. A party's failure to timely request oral argument waives the party's right to argue. A party who has requested argument may later withdraw the request. But even if a party has waived oral argument, BODA may direct the party to appear and argue. If oral argument is granted, the clerk will notify the parties of the time and place for submission.
- (b) **Right to Oral Argument.** A party who has filed a brief and who has timely requested oral argument may argue the case to BODA unless BODA, after examining the briefs, decides that oral

argument is unnecessary for any of the following reasons:

- (1) the appeal is frivolous;
  - (2) the dispositive issue or issues have been authoritatively decided;
  - (3) the facts and legal arguments are adequately presented in the briefs and record; or
  - (4) the decisional process would not be significantly aided by oral argument.
- (c) **Time Allowed.** Each party will have 20 minutes to argue. BODA may, on the request of a party or on its own, extend or shorten the time allowed for oral argument. The appellant may reserve a portion of his or her allotted time for rebuttal.

#### **Rule 4.07 Decision and Judgment**

- (a) **Decision.** BODA may do any of the following:
  - (1) affirm in whole or in part the decision of the evidentiary panel;
  - (2) modify the panel's findings and affirm the findings as modified;
  - (3) reverse in whole or in part the panel's findings and render the decision that the panel should have rendered; or
  - (4) reverse the panel's findings and remand the cause for further proceedings to be conducted by:
    - (i) the panel that entered the findings; or
    - (ii) a statewide grievance committee panel appointed by BODA and composed of members selected from the state bar districts other than the district from which the appeal was taken.
- (b) **Mandate.** In every appeal, the BODA Clerk must issue a mandate in accordance with BODA's judgment and send it to the evidentiary panel and to all the parties.

#### **Rule 4.08 Appointment of Statewide Grievance Committee**

If BODA remands a cause for further proceedings before a statewide grievance committee, the BODA Chair will appoint the statewide grievance committee in accordance with TRDP 2.27. The committee must consist of six members: four attorney members and two public members randomly selected from the current pool of grievance committee members. Two alternates, consisting of one attorney and one public member, must also be selected. BODA will appoint the initial chair who will serve until the members of the statewide grievance committee elect a chair of the committee at the first meeting. The BODA Clerk will notify the Respondent and the CDC that a committee has been appointed.

#### **Rule 4.09 Involuntary Dismissal**

Under the following circumstances and on any party's motion or on its own initiative after giving at least ten days' notice to all parties, BODA may dismiss the appeal or affirm the appealed judgment or order. Dismissal or affirmance may occur if the appeal is subject to dismissal:

- (a) for want of jurisdiction;
- (b) for want of prosecution; or
- (c) because the appellant has failed to comply with a requirement of these rules, a court order, or a notice from the clerk requiring a response or other action within a specified time.

### **SECTION 5: PETITIONS TO REVOKE PROBATION**

#### **Rule 5.01 Initiation and Service**

- (a) Before filing a motion to revoke the probation of an attorney who has been sanctioned, the CDC must contact the BODA Clerk to confirm whether the next regularly available hearing date will comply with the 30-day requirement of TRDP. The Chair may designate a three-member panel to hear the motion, if necessary, to meet the 30-day requirement of TRDP 2.23.

- (b) Upon filing the motion, the CDC must serve the Respondent with the motion and any supporting documents in accordance with TRDP 2.23, the TRCP, and these rules. The CDC must notify BODA of the date that service is obtained on the Respondent.

#### **Rule 5.02 Hearing**

Within 30 days of service of the motion on the Respondent, BODA must docket and set the matter for a hearing and notify the parties of the time and place of the hearing. On a showing of good cause by a party or on its own motion, BODA may continue the case to a future hearing date as circumstances require.

### **SECTION 6: COMPULSORY DISCIPLINE**

#### **Rule 6.01 Initiation of Proceeding**

Under TRDP 8.03, the CDC must file a petition for compulsory discipline with BODA and serve the Respondent in accordance with the TRDP and Rule 1.06 of these rules.

#### **Rule 6.02 Interlocutory Suspension**

- (a) **Interlocutory Suspension.** In any compulsory proceeding under TRDP Part VIII in which BODA determines that the Respondent has been convicted of an Intentional Crime and that the criminal conviction is on direct appeal, BODA must suspend the Respondent's license to practice law by interlocutory order. In any compulsory case in which BODA has imposed an interlocutory order of suspension, BODA retains jurisdiction to render final judgment after the direct appeal of the criminal conviction is final. For purposes of rendering final judgment in a compulsory discipline case, the direct appeal of the criminal conviction is final when the appellate court issues its mandate.
- (b) **Criminal Conviction Affirmed.** If the criminal conviction made the basis of a compulsory interlocutory suspension is affirmed and becomes final, the CDC must

file a motion for final judgment that complies with TRDP 8.05.

- (1) If the criminal sentence is fully probated or is an order of deferred adjudication, the motion for final judgment must contain notice of a hearing date. The motion will be set on BODA's next available hearing date.
- (2) If the criminal sentence is not fully probated:
  - (i) BODA may proceed to decide the motion without a hearing if the attorney does not file a verified denial within ten days of service of the motion; or
  - (ii) BODA may set the motion for a hearing on the next available hearing date if the attorney timely files a verified denial.
- (c) Criminal Conviction Reversed. If an appellate court issues a mandate reversing the criminal conviction while a Respondent is subject to an interlocutory suspension, the Respondent may file a motion to terminate the interlocutory suspension. The motion to terminate the interlocutory suspension must have certified copies of the decision and mandate of the reversing court attached. If the CDC does not file an opposition to the termination within ten days of being served with the motion, BODA may proceed to decide the motion without a hearing or set the matter for a hearing on its own motion. If the CDC timely opposes the motion, BODA must set the motion for a hearing on its next available hearing date. An order terminating an interlocutory order of suspension does not automatically reinstate a Respondent's license.

## **SECTION 7: RECIPROCAL DISCIPLINE**

### **Rule 7.01 Initiation of Proceeding**

To initiate an action for reciprocal discipline under TRDP Part IX, the CDC must file a petition with BODA and request an Order to Show Cause. The petition must request that the Respondent be disciplined in Texas and have attached to it any information concerning the disciplinary matter from the other jurisdiction, including a certified copy of the order or judgment rendered against the Respondent.

### **Rule 7.02 Order to Show Cause**

When a petition is filed, the Chair immediately issues a show cause order and a hearing notice and forwards them to the CDC, who must serve the order and notice on the Respondent. The CDC must notify BODA of the date that service is obtained.

### **Rule 7.03 Attorney's Response**

If the Respondent does not file an answer within 30 days of being served with the order and notice but thereafter appears at the hearing, BODA may, at the discretion of the Chair, receive testimony from the Respondent relating to the merits of the petition.

## **SECTION 8: DISTRICT DISABILITY COMMITTEE HEARINGS**

### **Rule 8.01 Appointment of District Disability Committee**

- (a) If the evidentiary panel of the grievance committee finds under TRDP 2.17(P)(2), or the CDC reasonably believes under TRDP 2.14(C), that a Respondent is suffering from a disability, the rules in this section will apply to the de novo proceeding before the District Disability Committee held under TRDP Part XII.
- (b) Upon receiving an evidentiary panel's finding or the CDC's referral that an attorney is believed to be suffering from a disability, the BODA Chair must appoint a District Disability Committee in compliance with TRDP 12.02 and designate a chair. BODA will reimburse District Disability Committee members for

reasonable expenses directly related to service on the District Disability Committee. The BODA Clerk must notify the CDC and the Respondent that a committee has been appointed and notify the Respondent where to locate the procedural rules governing disability proceedings.

- (c) A Respondent who has been notified that a disability referral will be or has been made to BODA may, at any time, waive in writing the appointment of the District Disability Committee or the hearing before the District Disability Committee and enter into an agreed judgment of indefinite disability suspension, provided that the Respondent is competent to waive the hearing. If the Respondent is not represented, the waiver must include a statement affirming that the Respondent has been advised of the right to appointed counsel and waives that right as well.
- (d) All pleadings, motions, briefs, or other matters to be filed with the District Disability Committee must be filed with the BODA Clerk.
- (e) Should any member of the District Disability Committee become unable to serve, the BODA Chair must appoint a substitute member.

#### **Rule 8.02 Petition and Answer**

- (a) **Petition.** Upon being notified that the District Disability Committee has been appointed by BODA, the CDC must, within 20 days, file with the BODA Clerk and serve on the Respondent a copy of a petition for indefinite disability suspension. Service must comply with Rule 1.06
- (b) **Answer.** The Respondent must, within 30 days after service of the petition for indefinite disability suspension, file an answer with the BODA Clerk and serve a copy of the answer on the CDC.
- (c) **Hearing Setting.** The BODA Clerk must set the final hearing as instructed by the

chair of the District Disability Committee and send notice of the hearing to the parties.

#### **Rule 8.03 Discovery**

- (a) **Limited Discovery.** The District Disability Committee may permit limited discovery. The party seeking discovery must file with the BODA Clerk a written request that makes a clear showing of good cause and substantial need and a proposed order. If the District Disability Committee authorizes discovery in a case, it must issue a written order. The order may impose limitations or deadlines on the discovery.
- (b) **Physical or Mental Examinations.** On written motion by the Commission or on its own motion, the District Disability Committee may order the Respondent to submit to a physical or mental examination by a qualified healthcare or mental healthcare professional. Nothing in this rule limits the Respondent's right to an examination by a professional of his or her choice in addition to any exam ordered by the District Disability Committee.
  - (1) **Motion.** The Respondent must be given reasonable notice of the examination by written order specifying the name, address, and telephone number of the person conducting the examination.
  - (2) **Report.** The examining professional must file with the BODA Clerk a detailed, written report that includes the results of all tests performed and the professional's findings, diagnoses, and conclusions. The professional must send a copy of the report to the CDC and the Respondent.
- (c) **Objections.** A party must make any objection to a request for discovery within 15 days of receiving the motion by filing a written objection with the BODA Clerk. BODA may decide any objection or contest to a discovery motion.

#### **Rule 8.04 Ability to Compel Attendance**

The Respondent and the CDC may confront and cross-examine witnesses at the hearing. Compulsory process to compel the attendance of witnesses by subpoena, enforceable by an order of a district court of proper jurisdiction, is available to the Respondent and the CDC as provided in TRCP 176.

#### **Rule 8.05 Respondent's Right to Counsel**

- (a) The notice to the Respondent that a District Disability Committee has been appointed and the petition for indefinite disability suspension must state that the Respondent may request appointment of counsel by BODA to represent him or her at the disability hearing. BODA will reimburse appointed counsel for reasonable expenses directly related to representation of the Respondent.
- (b) To receive appointed counsel under TRDP 12.02, the Respondent must file a written request with the BODA Clerk within 30 days of the date that Respondent is served with the petition for indefinite disability suspension. A late request must demonstrate good cause for the Respondent's failure to file a timely request.

#### **Rule 8.06 Hearing**

The party seeking to establish the disability must prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the Respondent is suffering from a disability as defined in the TRDP. The chair of the District Disability Committee must admit all relevant evidence that is necessary for a fair and complete hearing. The TRE are advisory but not binding on the chair.

#### **Rule 8.07 Notice of Decision**

The District Disability Committee must certify its finding regarding disability to BODA, which will issue the final judgment in the matter.

#### **Rule 8.08 Confidentiality**

All proceedings before the District Disability Committee and BODA, if necessary, are closed to the public. All matters before the District

Disability Committee are confidential and are not subject to disclosure or discovery, except as allowed by the TRDP or as may be required in the event of an appeal to the Supreme Court of Texas.

### **SECTION 9: DISABILITY REINSTATEMENTS**

#### **Rule 9.01 Petition for Reinstatement**

- (a) An attorney under an indefinite disability suspension may, at any time after he or she has been suspended, file a verified petition with BODA to have the suspension terminated and to be reinstated to the practice of law. The petitioner must serve a copy of the petition on the CDC in the manner required by TRDP 12.06. The TRCP apply to a reinstatement proceeding unless they conflict with these rules.
- (b) The petition must include the information required by TRDP 12.06. If the judgment of disability suspension contained terms or conditions relating to misconduct by the petitioner prior to the suspension, the petition must affirmatively demonstrate that those terms have been complied with or explain why they have not been satisfied. The petitioner has a duty to amend and keep current all information in the petition until the final hearing on the merits. Failure to do so may result in dismissal without notice.
- (c) Disability reinstatement proceedings before BODA are not confidential; however, BODA may make all or any part of the record of the proceeding confidential.

#### **Rule 9.02 Discovery**

The discovery period is 60 days from the date that the petition for reinstatement is filed. The BODA Clerk will set the petition for a hearing on the first date available after the close of the discovery period and must notify the parties of the time and place of the hearing. BODA may continue the hearing for good cause shown.

### **Rule 9.03 Physical or Mental Examinations**

- (a) On written motion by the Commission or on its own, BODA may order the petitioner seeking reinstatement to submit to a physical or mental examination by a qualified healthcare or mental healthcare professional. The petitioner must be served with a copy of the motion and given at least seven days to respond. BODA may hold a hearing before ruling on the motion but is not required to do so.
- (b) The petitioner must be given reasonable notice of the examination by written order specifying the name, address, and telephone number of the person conducting the examination.
- (c) The examining professional must file a detailed, written report that includes the results of all tests performed and the professional's findings, diagnoses, and conclusions. The professional must send a copy of the report to the parties.
- (d) If the petitioner fails to submit to an examination as ordered, BODA may dismiss the petition without notice.
- (e) Nothing in this rule limits the petitioner's right to an examination by a professional of his or her choice in addition to any exam ordered by BODA.

### **Rule 9.04 Judgment**

If, after hearing all the evidence, BODA determines that the petitioner is not eligible for reinstatement, BODA may, in its discretion, either enter an order denying the petition or direct that the petition be held in abeyance for a reasonable period of time until the petitioner provides additional proof as directed by BODA. The judgment may include other orders necessary to protect the public and the petitioner's potential clients.

## **SECTION 10: APPEALS FROM BODA TO THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS**

### **Rule 10.01 Appeals to the Supreme Court**

- (a) A final decision by BODA, except a determination that a statement constitutes an inquiry or a complaint under TRDP 2.10, may be appealed to the Supreme Court of Texas. The clerk of the Supreme Court of Texas must docket an appeal from a decision by BODA in the same manner as a petition for review without fee.
- (b) The appealing party must file the notice of appeal directly with the clerk of the Supreme Court of Texas within 14 days of receiving notice of a final determination by BODA. The record must be filed within 60 days after BODA's determination. The appealing party's brief is due 30 days after the record is filed, and the responding party's brief is due 30 days thereafter. The BODA Clerk must send the parties a notice of BODA's final decision that includes the information in this paragraph.
- (c) An appeal to the Supreme Court is governed by TRDP 7.11 and the TRAP.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA

THE FLORIDA BAR,

Complainant,

v.

PATRICIA ANNE HORAL,

Respondent.

Supreme Court Case  
No. SC-

The Florida Bar File  
No. 2015-10,619 (13F)

COMPLAINT

The Florida Bar, Complainant, files this Complaint against Patricia Anne Horal, Respondent, pursuant to the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar and alleges:

1. Respondent is a member of The Florida Bar, admitted on September 24, 2007, and is subject to the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of Florida.

2. The Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Grievance Committee "F" found probable cause to file this Complaint pursuant to Rule 3-7.4, of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar, and this Complaint has been approved by the presiding member of that committee.

3. Around April 2014, while working as an independent contractor for an attorney in Tampa, Respondent met Joseph V. Cannistra, a non-lawyer who worked as an investigator and paralegal for the attorney.

4. In June 2014, Mr. Cannistra suggested to Respondent that they rent an

Exhibit

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office and work on their own cases.

5. On June 27, 2014, Respondent and Mr. Cannistra formed Cadillac Law Group, Inc. ("CLG"), a Florida for-profit corporation, for the purposes of providing legal services to the public.

6. Respondent served as the President, Director, Secretary, and Registered Agent for CLG.

7. Mr. Cannistra served as the Vice President, Director, and Treasurer of CLG.

8. Mr. Cannistra acquired office space for CLG located at 13452 N. Florida Avenue, Suite 115-D, Tampa, Florida 33613.

9. Mr. Cannistra advanced the funds for the security deposit, first month's rent, a majority of the office furniture, and initial office supplies for CLG.

10. On June 30, 2014, Respondent opened corporate checking and savings accounts for CLG at GTE Financial and Fifth Third Bank. Respondent listed Mr. Cannistra as an authorized user on the accounts.

11. After the formation of CLG, Mr. Cannistra solicited clients for Respondent.

12. Subsequently, Mr. Cannistra began to directly communicate with prosecutors in criminal cases and attempt to negotiate resolutions.

13. Mr. Cannistra solicited new clients, and accepted funds from some

clients without Respondent's knowledge.

14. Mr. Cannistra engaged in conduct that gave the impression that he was an attorney.

15. Respondent discovered that Mr. Cannistra was engaging in the unlicensed practice of law.

16. Respondent warned Mr. Cannistra to refrain from engaging in similar conduct in the future, but Mr. Cannistra persisted.

17. In August 2014, the professional relationship between Respondent and Mr. Cannistra began to deteriorate.

18. In late August 2014, Mr. Cannistra told Respondent that a family friend, Lyndon Andrews, was hiring the firm to assist his transition out of hospice living and into his own apartment, and to unseal a past felony case.

19. At the time, Mr. Andrews was elderly and suffering from a terminal illness.

20. Mr. Andrews paid CLG a non-refundable flat fee of \$7,500 for the representation.

21. Thereafter, and with Respondent's knowledge, Mr. Cannistra assisted Mr. Andrews' with moving to the apartment, having the electricity turned on, and obtaining food and other necessities.

22. Respondent failed to pursue unsealing Mr. Andrews' past felony

charge.

23. During September 2014, Respondent threatened to leave the firm due to Mr. Cannistra's continued misconduct.

24. In late September 2014, Respondent left CLG and another attorney filled her position.

25. Respondent failed to report Mr. Cannistra's illegal conduct to The Florida Bar or any other authority.

26. On September 26, 2014, CLG effectuated the sale of Mr. Andrews' home located at 7808 47th Street North, Pinellas Park, Florida, pursuant to a General Warranty Deed signed by Mr. Andrews as the grantor.

27. CLG allegedly sent the sale proceeds to Mr. Andrews' estranged son.

28. CLG did not have authority to act on Mr. Andrews' behalf.

29. On September 29, 2014, three separate cashier's checks in the amounts of \$227.26; \$5,000; and \$6,900 were negotiated by CLG.

30. The cashier's checks were purportedly from Mr. Andrews.

31. These funds did not represent payment for legal fees, and were not deposited into a trust account.

32. On October 13, 2014, Respondent entered into an Agreement and Contract with Mr. Cannistra, for the purpose of severing her relationship with CLG.

33. On October 13, 2014, Mr. Cannistra removed Respondent as the authorized user on the corporate bank accounts for CLG.

34. On October 14, 2014, CLG negotiated a cashier's check purportedly from Mr. Andrews in the amount of \$61,000.

35. On October 27, 2014, Mr. Cannistra filed Articles of Amendment to Articles of Incorporation of Cadillac Law Group, Inc., removing Respondent as the President, Director, and Secretary.

36. On November 24, 2014, a cashier's check in the amount of \$599.45 was remitted directly to Mr. Cannistra. These funds did not represent legal fees and were not deposited into a trust account.

37. On December 11, 2014, a petition to determine incapacity was filed on behalf of Mr. Andrews in *In Re: The Matter of Lyndon Leon "Andy" Andrews*, Case No. 14-009464-IN, in the Sixth Judicial Circuit, in and for Pinellas County, Florida

38. On December 11, 2014, guardianship proceedings were also initiated on behalf of Mr. Andrews in *In Re: The Guardianship of Lyndon Leon "Andy" Andrews*, Case No. 14-009465-GD, in the Sixth Judicial Circuit, in and for Pinellas County Florida.

39. On December 15, 2014, the court appointed an emergency temporary guardian for Mr. Andrews to handle his legal affairs.

40. By email dated December 18, 2014, Thomas Tripp, the court-appointed attorney for Mr. Andrews in the incapacity matter, requested copies of Mr. Andrews' files and an accounting of assets from Respondent.

41. Respondent advised Mr. Tripp that she had a falling out with Mr. Cannistra and could not provide the requested information because he was in possession of the files.

42. On January 12, 2015, Mr. Andrews' temporary guardian was also appointed as the plenary guardian.

43. On January 13, 2015, Mr. Andrews was judicially adjudicated incapacitated.

44. On March 2, 2015, Respondent filed her resignation as the registered agent of CLG.

45. Respondent charged and collected an excessive fee from Mr. Andrews by failing to perform the services for which she was retained, in violation of Rule 4-1.5, Rules Regulating The Florida Bar.

46. As the attorney with supervisory authority, Respondent knew or should have known that Mr. Cannistra was engaging in conduct that was not compatible with Respondent's professional obligations, in violation of Rule 4-5.3, Rules Regulating The Florida Bar.

47. By entering into a partnership with Mr. Cannistra, allowing him to

serve as a corporate director, sharing fees with him, and allowing him to regulate her professional judgement, Respondent violated Rule 4-5.4, Rules Regulating The Florida Bar.

48. Respondent assisted or enabled Mr. Cannistra to engage in activities that constitute the unlicensed practice of law, in violation of Rule 4-5.5, Rules Regulating The Florida Bar.

49. Respondent allowed Mr. Cannistra to improperly solicit clients, in violation of Rule 4-7.18, Rules Regulating The Florida Bar.

50. Respondent engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation by failing to take any action to prevent Mr. Cannistra from exploiting Mr. Andrews, and by enabling Mr. Cannistra to hold himself out as an attorney, in violation of Rule 4-8.4, Rules Regulating The Florida Bar.

51. Respondent failed to safeguard Mr. Andrews' funds by failing to place them in a trust account, in violation of Rule 5-1.1, Rules Regulating The Florida Bar.

52. Wherefore, by reason of the foregoing, Respondent has violated the following Rules Regulating The Florida Bar: **4-1.5** (Fees and Costs for Legal Services); **4-5.3** (Responsibilities Regarding Non-Lawyers Assistants); **4-5.4** (Professional Independence of a Lawyer); **4-5.5** (Unlicensed Practice of Law); **4-7.18** (Direct Contact with Prospective Clients); **4-8.4** (Misconduct); and **5-1.1**

(Trust Accounts).

WHEREFORE, The Florida Bar prays Respondent will be appropriately disciplined in accordance with the provisions of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar as amended.

*Jodi A. Thompson*

Jodi Anderson Thompson, Bar Counsel  
The Florida Bar, Tampa Branch Office  
4200 George J. Bean Parkway, Suite  
2580 Tampa, Florida 33607-1496  
(813) 875-9821  
Florida Bar No. 930180  
Primary E-mail: [jthompso@floridabar.org](mailto:jthompso@floridabar.org)  
Secondary E-mails:  
[ahendricks@floridabar.org](mailto:ahendricks@floridabar.org)  
[tampaoffice@floridabar.org](mailto:tampaoffice@floridabar.org)

*Adria E. Quintela*

Adria E. Quintela, Staff Counsel  
The Florida Bar  
1300 Concord Terrace, Suite 130  
Sunrise, Florida 33323  
(954) 835-0233  
Florida Bar No. 897000  
[aquintel@floridabar.org](mailto:aquintel@floridabar.org)

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that the original of the foregoing Complaint has been electronically filed with The Honorable John A. Tomasino, Clerk of the Supreme Court of Florida, using the E-Filing Portal; and that true and correct copies have been furnished via certified U.S. mail, return receipt no. 7016 0750 0000 3623 7201, to Patricia Anne Horal, c/o David Robert Ristoff, Counsel for Respondent, to his record Bar address of Williams, Ristoff & Proper, PLC, 10820 State Road 54, Suite 202, Trinity, Florida 34655-2291, and via electronic mail to his record Bar email address of [drr@wrplawyers.com](mailto:drr@wrplawyers.com); via electronic mail to Jodi Anderson Thompson, Bar Counsel, The Florida Bar, to her record Bar email address of [jthompso@floridabar.org](mailto:jthompso@floridabar.org), and secondary email addresses of [ahendricks@floridabar.org](mailto:ahendricks@floridabar.org) and [tampaooffice@floridabar.org](mailto:tampaooffice@floridabar.org); and by electronic mail to Michael S. Hooker, Designated Reviewer, to his record Bar email address of [michael.hooker@phelps.com](mailto:michael.hooker@phelps.com), all on this 7th day of March 2017.

*Adria E. Quintela*  
Adria E. Quintela, Staff Counsel



**NOTICE OF TRIAL COUNSEL AND  
DESIGNATION OF PRIMARY EMAIL ADDRESS**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the trial counsel in this matter is Jodi Anderson Thompson, Bar Counsel, whose address, telephone number, and primary and secondary email address are The Florida Bar, Tampa Branch Office, 4200 George J. Bean Parkway, Suite 2580, Tampa, Florida 33607-1496, (813) 875-9821, [jthompso@floridabar.org](mailto:jthompso@floridabar.org) (primary), [ahendricks@floridabar.org](mailto:ahendricks@floridabar.org) (secondary), and [tampaoffice@floridabar.org](mailto:tampaoffice@floridabar.org) (secondary). Respondent need not address pleadings, correspondence, etc. in this matter to anyone other than trial counsel and to Adria E. Quintela, Staff Counsel, The Florida Bar, Lakeshore Plaza II, 1300 Concord Terrace, Suite 130, Sunrise, Florida 33323, [aquintel@floridabar.org](mailto:aquintel@floridabar.org).

**MANDATORY ANSWER NOTICE**

RULE 3-7.6(h)(2), RULES OF DISCIPLINE, EFFECTIVE MAY 20, 2004,  
PROVIDES THAT A RESPONDENT A COMPLAINT.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA  
(Before a Referee)

THE FLORIDA BAR,  
Complainant,

v.

Supreme Court Case  
No. SC17-399

The Florida Bar File  
No. 2015-10,619 (13F)

PATRICIA ANNE HORAL,

Respondent.

FILED  
JOHN A. TOUJASINO  
OCT 23 2017  
CLERK, SUPREME COURT  
BY

CONDITIONAL GUILTY PLEA FOR CONSENT JUDGMENT

Patricia Anne Horal, Respondent, files this Conditional Guilty Plea for  
Consent Judgment. This plea is filed pursuant to Rule 3-7.9(b), Rules Regulating  
The Florida Bar, and tendered in exchange for the disposition contained herein:

1. Respondent is, and at all times hereinafter mentioned, was a member  
of The Florida Bar, and subject to the jurisdiction and disciplinary rules of the  
Supreme Court of Florida.

2. Respondent is acting freely and voluntarily in this matter and is  
represented by counsel.

3. Respondent is not Board Certified by The Florida Bar in any area of  
practice.

4. The Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Grievance Committee "F" found  
probable cause for further disciplinary proceedings against Respondent.

Exhibit

2

5. Respondent admits to the following facts:

In or about April 2014, while Respondent worked as an independent contractor for another attorney in Hillsborough County, she met Joseph V. Cannistra, a non-lawyer, who was an investigator and paralegal for that attorney. On June 27, 2014, Respondent formed Cadillac Law Group (CLG) with Cannistra for the purposes of providing legal services to the public, with both Respondent and Cannistra listed as officers of CLG. Cannistra's role was to handle investigative and paralegal functions.

After the formation of CLG, Cannistra, began to solicit clients for CLG, allegedly unbeknownst to Respondent. Cannistra also directly communicated with prosecutors in criminal cases to attempt to negotiate resolutions, without Respondent's knowledge or consent. Cannistra also accepted funds from new clients without Respondent's knowledge. Cannistra gave the impression that he was an attorney. A few months into the partnership, Respondent discovered Cannistra had engaged in the unlicensed practice of law and warned him to refrain from engaging in similar conduct in the future. Cannistra failed to heed Respondent's warnings.

In August 2014, the professional association between Respondent and Cannistra began to deteriorate, but had not ceased. Throughout September 2014, Respondent uncovered that Cannistra was still engaging in inappropriate conduct and she threatened to leave. Respondent physically left CLG in late September 2014, and was locked out of CLG by Cannistra with no access to the office or email. The formal relationship between Respondent and Cannistra was severed on October 13, 2014. Respondent took no other affirmative steps to end her partnership, or the appearance of a partnership, with Cannistra. On October 27, 2014, Cannistra filed Articles of Amendment with the Florida Department of Corporations to remove Respondent as an officer, added the new attorney and Dawes as officers of CLG. Cannistra removed Respondent as an authorized user on the corporate bank accounts on October 31, 2014.

While Respondent was still part of CLG, in late August 2014, Cannistra brought a new client to Respondent, Lyndon Andrews, who hired Respondent to assist in his transition from hospice into an apartment and to unseal a past felony case for a limited purpose. The Representation and Fee Agreement signed by Andrews is between him and Respondent, not CLG. Andrews also signed a notarized letter and rescindment of power of attorney form granting CLG the authority to handle all affairs pertaining to his Pinellas Park home and to act as his

sole agent. Andrews paid a non-refundable flat fee of \$7,500 for the representation in two payments, \$600 at the onset of the representation and \$6,900 at the conclusion. With Respondent's knowledge, Cannistra assisted Andrews with his move, having the electricity turned on, and obtaining other necessities. Through discovery in this matter, the Bar learned that Respondent had, in fact, filed a motion to unseal the past felony case, which was unsealed and subsequently resealed after the stated purpose for unsealing had been handled. Respondent completed the representation of Andrews on or about September 18, 2014.

After Respondent formally left the firm, Cannistra accepted several cashier's checks from Andrews. On October 14, 2014, Cannistra accepted a cashier's check for \$61,000 purportedly from Andrews payable to CLG and negotiated the check without Respondent's knowledge; on October 31, 2014, Cannistra accepted a cashier's check for \$599.45 purportedly from Andrews payable Cannistra without Respondent's knowledge; and on November 24, 2014, Cannistra accepted a cashier's check for \$1,500 purportedly from Andrews and negotiated without Respondent's knowledge. All funds were deposited in an account opened solely by Cannistra on October 14, 2014. Respondent had no knowledge of these transactions and is not liable for them.

Respondent entered into an improper business partnership with Cannistra. Respondent then permitted a situation to exist whereby Cannistra was able to improperly solicit clients, and engage in professional activities that constituted the unlicensed practice of law. Respondent regrets having started a law firm with a non-lawyer and was cooperative in the Bar's investigation and prosecution of Cannistra and another lawyer who assisted Cannistra in committing UPL.

6. Respondent admits that as a result of her conduct described above she is guilty of violation the following Rules Regulating The Florida Bar: **Rule 4-5.3** (Responsibilities Regarding Non-Lawyers Assistants); **Rule 4-5.4** (Professional Independence of a Lawyer); **Rule 4-5.5** (Unlicensed Practice of Law); and, **Rule 4-7.18** (Direct Contact with Prospective Clients).

7. Respondent consents to the following disciplinary measures to be imposed upon Respondent:

- a. Respondent shall be suspended for 90 days.
- b. Respondent shall pay the Bar's costs in this disciplinary proceeding.

8. Respondent acknowledges that, unless waived or modified by the Court on motion of Respondent, the Court's order will contain a provision that prohibits Respondent from accepting new business from the date of the order or opinion and shall provide that the suspension is effective 30 days from the date of the order or opinion so that Respondent may close out the practice of law and protect the interest of existing clients.

9. Respondent agrees that failure to adhere to the terms contained within this consent judgment shall constitute a violation of the terms of this agreement and may subject Respondent to further discipline.

10. If this plea is accepted, then Respondent agrees to pay all costs associated with these cases pursuant to Rule 3-7.6(q), Rules Regulating The Florida Bar, in the amount of \$1,655.25. These costs are due in full upon within 30 days of the Court's order approving this consent judgment. Respondent agrees that she will not attempt to discharge the obligation for the payment of the Bar's costs in any future proceeding, including without limitation, a petition for bankruptcy.

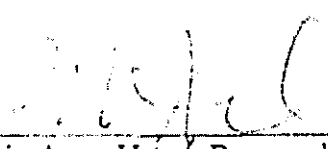
11. Respondent further acknowledges her obligation to pay the costs of

this proceeding and that payment is evidence of strict compliance with the conditions of any disciplinary order or agreement, and is also evidence of good faith and fiscal responsibility. Respondent understands that failure to pay the costs of this proceeding will reflect adversely on any other bar disciplinary matter in which Respondent may later be involved.

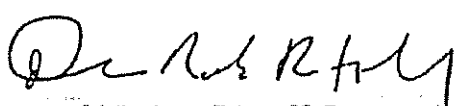
12. Should the Conditional Guilty Plea for Consent Judgment not be approved by The Florida Bar Board of Governors and the Supreme Court of Florida, it and all the statements herein shall be void and of no effect whatsoever.

13. This Conditional Guilty Plea for Consent Judgment fully complies with all requirements of The Rules Regulating The Florida Bar.

Dated: 11/12/2017

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Patricia Anne Horal, Respondent  
20016 Nob Oak Avenue  
Tampa, Florida 33609-2921  
(904) 563-1207  
Florida Bar No. 44197  
Email: phlegalservices@gmail.com

Dated: 10/12/2017

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David Robert Ristoff, Respondent's Counsel  
Williams Ristoff & Proper PLC  
10820 State Road 54, Suite 202  
Trinity, Florida 34655-2291  
(727) 842-9758  
Florida Bar No. 358576  
Email: dr@wrplawyers.com

Dated: 10/13/17

*CM/Sei*

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Chardean Mavis Hill, Bar Counsel  
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4200 George J. Bean Parkway, Suite 2580  
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Florida Bar No. 58997  
chill@floridabar.org – primary  
yserralta@floridabar.org – secondary



IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA  
(Before a Referee)

THE FLORIDA BAR,

Complainant,

v.

PATRICIA ANNE HORAL,

Respondent.

Supreme Court Case  
No. SC17-399

The Florida Bar File  
No. 2015-10,619 (13F)

REPORT OF REFEREE ACCEPTING CONSENT JUDGMENT

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Pursuant to the undersigned being duly appointed as referee to conduct disciplinary proceedings herein according to Rule 3-7.6, Rules of Discipline, the following proceedings occurred:

On March 7, 2017, The Florida Bar filed its Complaint against Respondent in these proceedings. The undersigned was duly appointed as Referee on March 15, 2017. Respondent filed her Answer and Affirmative Defenses on March 17, 2017. A case management conference was held on April 11, 2017. Status conferences were held on May 23, 2017, and July 20, 2017. The parties tendered a Conditional Guilty Plea for Consent Judgment prior to a final hearing being held. Any pleadings, responses thereto, notices, motions, orders, transcripts, exhibits, and this Report constitute the record in this case and are forwarded to the Supreme Court of Florida.

The following attorneys appeared as counsel for the parties:

For The Florida Bar: Chardean Mavis Hill, Esq.

For Respondent: David Robert Ristoff, Esq.

Exhibit

3

FILED  
JOHN A. TOMASINO  
OCT 23 2017

CLERK, SUPREME COURT

## II. FINDINGS OF FACT

A. Jurisdictional Statement. Respondent is, and at all times mentioned during this investigation was, a member of The Florida Bar, subject to the jurisdiction and disciplinary rules of the Supreme Court of Florida.

B. Narrative Summary of Case. The facts as set forth in the Conditional Guilty Plea for Consent Judgment to which Respondent admits guilt are adopted as my finding of fact as stated below:

In or about April 2014, while Respondent worked as an independent contractor for another attorney in Hillsborough County, she met Joseph V. Cannistra, a non-lawyer, who was an investigator and paralegal for that attorney. On June 27, 2014, Respondent formed Cadillac Law Group (CLG) with Cannistra for the purposes of providing legal services to the public, with both Respondent and Cannistra listed as officers of CLG. Cannistra's role was to handle investigative and paralegal functions.

After the formation of CLG, Cannistra, began to solicit clients for CLG, allegedly unbeknownst to Respondent. Cannistra also directly communicated with prosecutors in criminal cases to attempt to negotiate resolutions, without Respondent's knowledge or consent. Cannistra also accepted funds from new clients without Respondent's knowledge. Cannistra gave the impression that he was an attorney. A few months into the partnership, Respondent discovered Cannistra had engaged in the unlicensed practice of law and warned him to refrain from engaging in similar conduct in the future. Cannistra failed to heed Respondent's warnings.

In August 2014, the professional association between Respondent and Cannistra began to deteriorate, but had not ceased. Throughout September 2014, Respondent uncovered that Cannistra was still engaging in the unlicensed practice of law and threatened to leave. Respondent physically left CLG in late September 2014, and was locked out of CLG by Cannistra with no access to the office or email. The formal relationship between Respondent and Cannistra was severed on October 13, 2014. Respondent took no other affirmative steps to end her partnership, or the appearance of a partnership, with Cannistra. On October 27, 2014, Cannistra filed Articles of Amendment with the Florida Department of Corporations to remove Respondent as an officer, added the new attorney and Dawes as officers of CLG. Cannistra removed Respondent as an authorized user on

the corporate bank accounts on October 31, 2014.

While Respondent was still part of CLG, in late August 2014, Cannistra brought a new client to Respondent, Lyndon Andrews, who hired Respondent to assist in his transition from hospice into an apartment and to unseal a past felony case for a limited purpose. The Representation and Fee Agreement signed by Andrews is between him and Respondent, not CLG. Andrews also signed a notarized letter and rescindment of power of attorney form granting CLG the authority to handle all affairs pertaining to his Pinellas Park home and to act as his sole agent. Andrews paid a non-refundable flat fee of \$7,500 for the representation in two payments, \$600 at the onset of the representation and \$6,900 at the conclusion. With Respondent's knowledge, Cannistra assisted Andrews with his move, having the electricity turned on, and obtaining other necessities. Through discovery in this matter, the Bar learned that Respondent had, in fact, filed a motion to unseal the past felony case, which was unsealed and subsequently resealed after the stated purpose for unsealing had been handled. Respondent completed the representation of Andrews on or about September 18, 2014.

After Respondent formally left the firm, Cannistra accepted several cashier's checks from Andrews. On October 14, 2014, Cannistra accepted a cashier's check for \$61,000 purportedly from Andrews payable to CLG and negotiated the check without Respondent's knowledge; on October 31, 2014, Cannistra accepted a cashier's check for \$599.45 purportedly from Andrews payable Cannistra without Respondent's knowledge; and on November 24, 2014, Cannistra accepted a cashier's check for \$1,500 purportedly from Andrews and negotiated without Respondent's knowledge. All funds were deposited in an account opened solely by Cannistra on October 14, 2014. Respondent had no knowledge of these transactions and is not liable for them.

Respondent entered into an improper business partnership with Cannistra. Respondent then permitted a situation to exist whereby Cannistra was able to improperly solicit clients, and engage in professional activities that constituted the unlicensed practice of law. Respondent regrets having started a law firm with a non-lawyer and was cooperative in the Bar's investigation and prosecution of Cannistra and another lawyer who assisted Cannistra in committing UPL.

### III. RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO GUILT

I recommend that the Conditional Guilty Plea be accepted and that

Respondent be found guilty of violating the following Rules Regulating The Florida Bar as admitted in the Conditional Guilty Plea for Consent Judgment and as stated below:

**Rule 4-5.3** (Responsibilities Regarding Non-Lawyers Assistants); **Rule 4-5.4** (Professional Independence of a Lawyer); **Rule 4-5.5** (Unlicensed Practice of Law); and, **Rule 4-7.18** (Direct Contact with Prospective Clients).

#### IV. STANDARDS FOR IMPOSING LAWYER SANCTIONS

I considered the following Standards prior to recommending discipline:

7.0 Violations of Other Duties Owed as a Professional

7.2 Suspension is appropriate when a lawyer knowingly engages in conduct that is a violation of a duty owed as a professional or causes injury or potential injury to a client, the public, or the legal system.

9.22 Aggravating factors:  
(d) multiple offenses

9.32 Mitigating factors:  
(a) absence of prior disciplinary record  
(b) absence of dishonest or selfish motive  
(c) full and free disclosure to disciplinary board or cooperative attitude toward proceedings – Respondent assisted with UPL investigation and testified on behalf of the Bar against another attorney who supported Cannistra engaging in UPL  
(f) inexperience in practice of law – at time of conduct, Respondent has been admitted to practice law for about 6 ½ years  
(l) remorse

#### V. CASE LAW

I considered the following case law prior to recommending discipline:

*Florida Bar v. Beach*, 675 So. 2d 106 (Fla. 1996), an attorney was suspended for 90 days for assisting in unlicensed practice of law and fee sharing with a nonlawyer.

*Florida Bar. v. James*, 478 So. 2d 27 (Fla. 1985), under prior disciplinary rules an attorney was suspended for 4 months, in part, for forming a partnership with a nonlawyer consisting in part of the practice of law, fee sharing, and permitting another to regulate attorney's professional judgment. There was substantial additional misconduct that triggered a rehabilitative suspension to be imposed.

VI. RECOMMENDATION AS TO DISCIPLINARY MEASURES TO BE APPLIED

Pursuant to the Conditional Guilty Plea for Consent Judgment, I make the following recommendations as to the disciplinary measures to be applied:

- a. Respondent shall be suspended for 90 days; and,
- b. Respondent shall pay the Bar's costs in this disciplinary proceeding.

VII. PERSONAL HISTORY AND PAST DISCIPLINARY RECORD

Prior to recommending discipline pursuant to Rule 3-7.6(m), I considered the following personal history and prior disciplinary record of Respondent, to wit:

Age: 35

Date admitted to the Bar: September 24, 2007

Prior Discipline: None.

Respondent is not board certified by The Florida Bar in any practice area.

VIII. STATEMENT OF COSTS AND MANNER IN WHICH COSTS SHOULD BE TAXED

I find the costs set forth in The Florida Bar's Motion to Assess Costs and Statement of Costs filed in this cause were reasonably incurred and were not unnecessary, excessive or improperly authenticated. I further find that Respondent

stipulated to the payment of such costs incurred by The Florida Bar by signing the Conditional Guilty Plea for Consent Judgment.

Administrative Costs	\$1,250.00
Copy Costs	\$ 112.34
Investigative Costs	\$ 71.91
Court Reporter Costs	\$ 221.00

<b>TOTAL COSTS</b>	<b>\$1,655.25</b>
--------------------	-------------------

It is recommended that the costs itemized in The Florida Bar's Statement of Costs in the total sum of **\$1,655.25** be charged to Respondent and that interest at the statutory rate shall accrue and be deemed delinquent 60 days after the judgment in this case becomes final unless paid in full or otherwise deferred by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar. If not paid, Respondent shall be deemed delinquent and ineligible to practice law, pursuant to R. Regulating Fla. Bar 1-3.6, unless otherwise deferred by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar.

Dated this 18<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2017.

  
Honorable Linda Hobe Babb, Referee

Original to:

**Honorable John A. Tomasino**, Clerk of the Supreme Court of Florida, 500 South Duval Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1927; and via electronic mail to [e-file@flcourts.org](mailto:e-file@flcourts.org)

Copies provided to:

**Patricia Anne Horal, Respondent, c/o David Robert Ristoff, Counsel for Respondent**, at Williams Ristoff & Proper PLC, 10820 State Road 54, Suite 202, Trinity, Florida 34655-2291

**Chardean Mavis Hill, Bar Counsel**, The Florida Bar, 4200 George J. Bean Parkway, Suite 2580, Tampa, Florida 33607

**Adria E. Quintela, Staff Counsel**, The Florida Bar, 1300 Concord Terrace, Suite 130, Sunrise, Florida 33323

# Supreme Court of Florida

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2017

**CASE NO.: SC17-399**

Lower Tribunal No(s).:  
2015-10,619 (13F)

THE FLORIDA BAR

vs. PATRICIA ANNE HORAL

---

Complainant(s)

Respondent(s)

The uncontested report of the referee is approved and respondent is suspended from the practice of law for ninety days, effective thirty days from the date of this order so that respondent can close out her practice and protect the interests of existing clients. If respondent notifies this Court in writing that she is no longer practicing and does not need the thirty days to protect existing clients, this Court will enter an order making the suspension effective immediately. Respondent shall fully comply with Rule Regulating the Florida Bar 3-5.1(h). In addition, respondent shall accept no new business from the date this order is filed until she is reinstated. Respondent is further directed to comply with all other terms and conditions of the report and consent judgment.

Judgment is entered for The Florida Bar, 651 East Jefferson Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2300, for recovery of costs from Patricia Anne Horal in the amount of \$1,655.25, for which sum let execution issue.

Not final until time expires to file motion for rehearing, and if filed, determined. The filing of a motion for rehearing shall not alter the effective date

Exhibit

4

CASE NO.: SC17-399

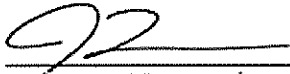
Page Two

of this suspension.

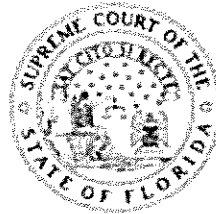
LABARGA, C.J., and PARIENTE, LEWIS, QUINCE, CANADY, POLSTON,  
and LAWSON, JJ., concur.

A True Copy

Test:



John A. Tomasino  
Clerk, Supreme Court



dd

Served:

DAVID ROBERT RISTOFF  
CHARDEAN MAVIS HILL  
ADRIA E. QUINTELA  
HON. LINDA HOBE BABB, JUDGE