

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA

Supreme Court Case

THE FLORIDA BAR,

Complainant,

vs.

NATALIE R. JONES,

Respondent.

NO. SC2024-30,615(7B)
(CES)

MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME TO COMPLY WITH COURT'S ORDER

COMES NOW Natalie Renee Jones, Respondent, and respectfully submits this Motion for Extension of Time to Comply with the Court's Order dated September 16, 2024. In support of this motion, the Respondent states the following:

1. On September 16, 2024, this Honorable Court issued an order imposing several directives upon the Respondent in light of an emergency suspension from the practice of law. The directives were intended to safeguard the interests of clients and ensure an orderly transition of the Respondent's practice.
2. Since the issuance of the Court's order, the Respondent has faced significant challenges due to the devastating impact of Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton. Both hurricanes have resulted in widespread destruction and displacement across the region, directly affecting the Respondent and her ability to fulfill the Court's directives in a timely manner.

3. The hurricanes caused the Respondent to be displaced from her residence and her law office. This disruption has made it exceedingly difficult to engage in necessary communications and interactions with clients, collaborators, co-counsels, and vendors. Many of the Respondent's clients have also been adversely impacted by these natural disasters, complicating the ability to resolve outstanding matters and fulfill the obligations set forth by the Court.
4. Natalie Renee Jones has practiced law for 30 years. She takes her responsibilities seriously and is committed to complying with the Court's directives. However, the extraordinary circumstances resulting from the hurricanes have created unforeseen barriers to completing the required actions within the originally specified timeframe. It would be an undue hardship to address all required matters within the time-frame allotted.
5. In the aftermath of the hurricanes, the Respondent has encountered numerous logistical challenges, including:
 - a. Limited access to essential documents and records due to the physical limitations and immobility.
 - b. Difficulty in establishing reliable communication with clients and co-counsels, many of whom are also dealing with the repercussions of the hurricanes.
 - c. Interruptions in regular business operations, including the inability to access financial institutions and other resources necessary for compliance with the Court's order.
 - d. Emotional and psychological stress resulting from the disruption of daily life and the impact on the community, which has further complicated the Respondent's ability to focus on professional obligations.
6. Given the significant challenges the Respondent is currently facing, she respectfully requests an extension of time until November 1, 2024, to complete all actions required by the Court's order. This additional time will allow the

Respondent to adequately address the outstanding matters in a responsible and thorough manner, ensuring compliance with the Court's directives while also accommodating the realities of the current situation.

7. The Respondent understands the importance of the directives issued by the Court and is committed to fulfilling them. However, the unprecedented circumstances caused by the hurricanes have necessitated this request for an extension. Granting this extension will not only serve the interests of justice but will also allow the Respondent to effectively manage her practice and the needs of her clients during this challenging time.

WHEREFORE the Respondent respectfully requests that this Honorable Court grant an extension of time until November 1, 2024, to comply with the directives ordered on September 16, 2024.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on Oct. 15, 2024, a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been filed via the Florida Courts E-Filing Portal with The Honorable John A. Tomasino, Clerk of the Supreme Court of Florida, with a copy provided to LISA J. RAMSEY, lramsey@floridabar.org, Bar Counsel, The Florida Bar, 1000 Legion Place, Suite 1625, Orlando, FL 32801; PATRICIA ANN TORO SAVITZ, psavitz@floridabar.org Staff Counsel, The Florida Bar, 651 East Jefferson Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2300.

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