

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA

THE FLORIDA BAR,

Complainant,

v.

LEROY G. LEE,

Respondent.

Supreme Court Case
No.

The Florida Bar File
No. 2022-70,042 (11N)

CONDITIONAL GUILTY PLEA FOR CONSENT JUDGMENT

The undersigned respondent, Leroy G. Lee, and files this Conditional Guilty Plea under R. Regulating Fla. Bar 3-7.9.

1. The respondent is, and at all times relevant to this matter was, a member of The Florida Bar, subject to the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of Florida.

2. The respondent is acting freely and voluntarily in this matter, and tenders this plea without fear or threat of coercion. Respondent is represented in this matter.

3. As to Florida Bar case number 2022-70,042 (11N), there has been a finding of probable cause by the Grievance Committee.

4. The disciplinary measures to be imposed on the respondent are:

Composite Exhibit A

Suspension from the practice of law for 90 days, immediately on entry of the Supreme Court of Florida order approving this consent judgment.

If the Supreme Court consents, since respondent is currently suspended, the suspension shall begin upon execution of this consent judgment.

Respondent must fully comply with Rule Regulating The Florida Bar 3-5.1(h).

Respondent must also fully comply with Rule Regulating The Florida Bar 3-6.1, if applicable.

On entry of the Court's order, respondent must immediately:

1. cease all practice of law in Florida;
2. cease holding respondent out as a Florida Bar member or lawyer and eliminate all indicia of respondent's status as a Florida Bar member or lawyer on websites, social media, telephone listings, stationery, checks, business cards, office signs, email address, and any other indicia of respondent's status as a Florida Bar member or lawyer;
3. cease withdrawing or disbursing any money from any trust account or other financial institution account holding funds of clients or third parties in respondent's possession in connection with legal representation;
4. not transfer any ownership of any real or personal property purchased in whole or in part with funds of clients or third parties in connection with legal representation; and
5. provide a copy of the suspension order to all courts, tribunals, or adjudicative agencies before which respondent is counsel of record; all state, federal, or administrative bars of which respondent is a member; all clients; all co-counsel; and all opposing counsel, as required by Rule 3-5.1(h).

Within 30 days from the date of the Court's order, respondent must provide the bar's headquarters office in Tallahassee with an affidavit listing all of the following that respondent notified of the suspension order: all courts, tribunals, or adjudicative agencies of which respondent is a member; all

state, federal, or administrative bars of which respondent is a member; all clients; all co-counsel; and all opposing counsel.

6. The following allegations and rules provide the basis for respondent's guilty plea and for the discipline to be imposed in this matter.

a. Sameer Muhammed is an incarcerated man who sought respondent's legal services in June 2020.

b. Mr. Muhammed sought a consultation with respondent from the prison, and his wife paid \$500.00 on June 4, 2020, via Zelle. Mr. Muhammed represented that he and respondent spoke on the phone.

c. Complainant believes he hired respondent to represent him on his criminal appeal.

d. By contrast, respondent believes he only agreed to review Mr. Muhammed's criminal matter and determine a path forward for Mr. Muhammed.

e. Although Mrs. Muhammed spoke to respondent on behalf of her husband a few times, respondent's communication eventually dropped off.

f. Despite several attempts to contact respondent, respondent's client contact was infrequent after he promised to set up phone calls with either Mrs. Muhammed or her husband.

g. Respondent stated that he was asked to review the docket from Mr. Muhammed's criminal matter and case for potential appeal issues.

h. There is insufficient information to determine whether restitution is owed based on the bar's independent investigation.

5. By reason of the foregoing, respondent admits to violating the following Rules Regulating The Florida Bar: 4-1.3 (Diligence); 4-1.4 (Communication); and 4-1.5 (Fees and Costs for Legal Services).

6. In mitigation respondent offers the following:

a. Absence of dishonest or selfish motive; Respondent's actions were not driven by personal gain but rather by challenging circumstances.

b. Personal problems. Much of the conduct occurred at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. During this period, Respondent suffered a COVID-related death in his family, which significantly impacted his mental and emotional well-being, limiting his ability to perform his duties effectively.

c. Full and free disclosure to the bar and a cooperative attitude toward the proceedings. Respondent consistently made himself

available to bar counsel, promptly responding to inquiries and cooperating fully throughout the investigation.

d. Imposition of other sanctions or penalties. Respondent was suspended from the practice of law, pursuant to a March 4, 2021, Supreme Court in Case No. SC20-1197. The conduct in the instant matter overlapped with this suspension period. The grievance was filed while the prior matter was being resolved, suggesting this could have been addressed in a single proceeding if not for the timing.

e. Remorse. Respondent deeply regrets his lack of communication with his former client. He acknowledges that he could have taken additional steps to maintain better communication and is committed to improving in this area.

7. The Florida Bar has approved this proposed plea as required by R. Regulating Fla. Bar 3-7.9.

8. If this plea is not finally approved by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar and the Supreme Court of Florida, then it has no effect and may not be used by the parties in any way.

9. If this plea is approved, then respondent agrees to pay all reasonable costs associated with this case pursuant to Rule 3-7.6(q) in the amount of \$1,250.00 are due within 30 days of the court order.

Respondent agrees that if the costs are not paid within 30 days of this court's order becoming final, respondent will pay interest on any unpaid costs at the statutory rate. Respondent further agrees these disciplinary costs are not dischargeable in any future proceedings, including, but not limited to, a petition for bankruptcy. Respondent will be delinquent and ineligible to practice law if respondent does not satisfy the cost judgment within 30 days of this order, unless The Florida Bar Board of Governors defers payment under R. Regulating Fla. Bar 1-3.6.

10. Respondent acknowledges the 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 evidence of good faith and fiscal responsibility.

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

Dated this 18th day of July, 2024.

LeRoy G. Lee
Leroy G. Lee
Respondent
PO Box 370420
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(305) 244-5116
Florida Bar ID No.: 107468
lee_associatesllc@yahoo.com

Dated this 27th day of July, 2024.

/s/ *Scott K. Tozian*

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Dated this 29th day of July, 2024.



Rita Florez, Bar Counsel
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Signature: 
Leroy G. Lee (Jul 18, 2024 20:46 EDT)

Email: leroy.lee16@gmail.com

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA
(Before a Referee)

THE FLORIDA BAR,

Complainant,

v.

LEROY G. LEE,

Respondent.

Supreme Court Case
No. SC-

The Florida Bar File
No. 2022-70,042 (11N)

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STIPULATION TO ENTRY OF AGREED ORDER

The Florida Bar and Leroy G. Lee, Respondent, stipulate to the entry of the attached order in this case, subject to the approval of the Supreme Court of Florida and states:

Respondent is suspended and, at all times relevant to this matter was, a member of The Florida Bar, subject to the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of Florida.

Respondent is simultaneously tendering a conditional guilty plea under an agreement with The Florida Bar for a consent judgment.

If the conditional guilty plea is approved, Respondent agrees to the terms and conditions in the agreed consent judgment and attached order.

It is therefore stipulated by The Florida Bar and Respondent that the attached order should be entered on approval of the Supreme Court of Florida.

Dated this 6th day of August, 2024.

LeRoy G. Lee, Sr.

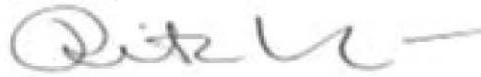
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Approved by:

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Signature: LeRoy G. Lee, Sr., J.D.
LeRoy G. Lee, Sr., J.D. (Aug 6, 2024 16:00 EDT)

Email: leroy.lee16@gmail.com