IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA

THE FLORIDA BAR,

Complainant,

v.

KENDRICK JAMES BLACKWELL,

Respondent.

_____/

Supreme Court Case No.

The Florida Bar File No. 2023-10,588(6E)

CONDITIONAL GUILTY PLEA FOR CONSENT JUDGMENT

The undersigned respondent, Kendrick James Blackwell, files this Conditional Guilty Plea for Consent Judgment under R. Regulating Fla. Bar 3-7.9.

1. 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 and the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar.

2. Respondent is acting freely and voluntarily in this matter, and tenders this plea without fear or threat of coercion. Respondent is not represented in this matter.

3. As to Florida Bar File No. 2023-10,588(6E), there has been a finding of probable cause by the Sixth Judicial Circuit Grievance Committee.

Composite Exhibit A

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

a. Suspension from the practice of law for thirty days, effective 30 days from the date of the Supreme Court of Florida's order approving the consent judgment so that respondent can close out respondent's practice and protect the interests of existing clients.

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

1. accept no new clients from the date of the order;

2. initiate no litigation on behalf of clients from the date of the order; and

3. 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);

B. Within 30 days from the date of the Court's order, respondent must:

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. wind down all pending matters;

4. 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;

5. 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

6. 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.

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

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

b. Respondent must attend the Ethics School, in person, where scheduled by the bar within 6 months of the order approving this consent judgment and pay associated fees totaling $750.00 before attendance.

c. Payment of the bar's discipline costs.

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

a. This matter is a judicial referral based on respondent's representation of the former husband in a divorce proceeding. On July 11, 2022, respondent attended a hearing on the former wife's motion seeking an injunction against the dissipation of martial assets. The court entered an order granting a temporary injunction on July 13, 2022, nunc pro tunc to the date of the hearing, which prohibited respondent's client from "selling, dissipating, depleting,

encumbering, concealing, transferring or in any other fashion affecting the present status of the marital assets in the marital estate." The court's order identified several specific martial assets but also stated the order applied "to assets that may come to be known as discovery continues."

b. During the pendency of the divorce proceedings, respondent's client fled to his homeland of Egypt and transferred certain marital assets to Egypt. There is no evidence to suggest respondent was involved in his client fleeing the country. In or around August 2022, respondent became aware his client intended to sell several properties owned by one of his client's businesses in violation of the court's July 13, 2022, order. These properties were not specifically included in the court's order, but respondent knew they could be considered marital assets and thus were subject to the injunction.

c. On August 25, 2022, respondent contacted The Florida Bar's Ethics Hotline regarding this case, and he was advised the best approach would be to withdraw from the representation. On September 6, 2022, respondent filed a motion to withdraw but did not set it for hearing. On or about October 6, 2022, respondent

virtually met with his client and his client's business partner regarding the subject properties and advised them the properties could not be sold in violation of the court's July 13, 2022, order. The same day, respondent signed several quitclaim deeds as his client's limited power of attorney transferring the properties to the business partner, and respondent contended the business partner agreed to pay the former wife half of the proceeds of any future sale of the properties.

d. On March 30, 2023, counsel for the former wife filed a motion to amend her petition for dissolution of marriage to include respondent's client's business partners and the properties transferred in October 2022.

e. At a hearing on May 1, 2023, respondent explained to the court that at the time of the October 2022 transfers, his intention was not to hide or otherwise dissipate marital assets but to prevent them from being improperly sold by his client. Respondent explained he sincerely believed his actions were the best way to maintain the properties for the benefit of the marital estate while also uphold his duty to preserve his own client's confidences and interests. The

evidence demonstrates that while respondent's actions were misguided, his intentions were sincere.

f. Respondent admitted that by signing the October 2022 quitclaim deeds, he violated the court's July 13, 2022, order. Further, respondent acknowledged he should have notified opposing counsel of the existence of the subject properties prior to executing the deeds so they could have jointly decided how to best address the issue and sought court approval. Respondent exhibited sincere remorse for his actions to the court, the opposing party, and to the bar throughout the disciplinary proceedings.

g. Respondent admits that as a result of his conduct described above, he is guilty of violating the following Rules Regulating The Florida Bar: Rule 4-1.1 (Competence); Rule 4-1.2 (Objectives and Scope of Representation): Rule 4-3.4(c) (Fairness to Opposing Party and Counsel – Knowingly Disobey an Obligation Under the Rules of a Tribunal); Rule 4-4.1 (Truthfulness in Statements to Others); and Rule 4-8.4(d) (Misconduct – Conduct Prejudicial to the Administration of Justice).

6. In mitigation, respondent has been practicing law since 1995 and has no prior disciplinary history. [3.3(b)(1)]. Respondent did not have a

dishonest or selfish motive [3.3(b)(2)]; provided full and free disclosure to the bar [3.3(b)(5)]; accepted full responsibility for his actions, and was remorseful [3.3(b)(12)]. Further, despite that respondent's misconduct herein constituted violations of multiple rules, this appeared to be an isolated error in a case with complex issues and did not extend to the remainder of respondent's practice.

7. In aggravation, respondent has substantial experience in the practice of law. [3.2(b)(9)].

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

9. 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.

10. If this plea is approved, respondent agrees to pay all reasonable costs associated with this case under Rule 3-7.6(q) in the amount of **$1,250.00**. These costs 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.

11. 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.

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

Dated this 7th day of July, 2025.

Kendrick James Blackwell
PO Box 7196
St Petersburg, FL 33734-7196
(727) 945-2898
Florida Bar No. 46019
kblackwell.esquire@gmail.com

Dated this 29th day of July, 2025.

Catherine Bonhomme Toledo, Bar Counsel

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Filed with the Supreme Court of Florida via the Florida Courts E-Filing Portal with copies served via the Portal to:

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Patricia Ann Toro Savitz, Staff Counsel, psavitz@floridabar.org

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA

THE FLORIDA BAR, Complainant, v. KENDRICK JAMES BLACKWELL, Respondent. _____/	Supreme Court Case No. The Florida Bar File No. 2023-10,588(6E)

STIPULATION FOR ENTRY OF CONSENT JUDGMENT

The Florida Bar and Kendrick James Blackwell, 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 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.

Kendrick James Blackwell
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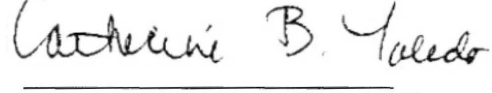
Approved by:



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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that this document has been filed via the Florida Courts E-Filing Portal with The Honorable John A. Tomasino, Clerk of the Supreme Court of Florida with copies provided via the portal to Kendrick Blackwell, kblackwell.esquire@gmail.com; and Patricia Ann Toro Savitz, Staff Counsel, The Florida Bar, 651 East Jefferson Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-2300 at psavitz@floridabar.org, on this 29th day of July, 2025.

Catherine B. Toledo

Catherine Bonhomme Toledo, Bar Counsel