

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA

THE FLORIDA BAR,

Supreme Court Case No.

IN RE: THE PETITION FOR  
DISCIPLINARY REVOCATION OF  
RUGH J. CLINE,

The Florida Bar File No.  
2026-10,070 (13F)

Petitioner.

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**PETITION FOR DISCIPLINARY REVOCATION WITHOUT LEAVE TO  
APPLY FOR READMISSION**

Petitioner, Rugh J. Cline, submits this Petition for Disciplinary Revocation under Rule Regulating Fla. Bar 3-7.12 and states:

1. Petitioner knowingly and voluntarily submits this Petition for Disciplinary Revocation Without Leave to Apply for Readmission with full knowledge of its effect.
2. Petitioner is 44 years old and has been a member of The Florida Bar since November 9, 2010, and is subject to the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of Florida and the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar.
3. Petitioner has the following discipline history: None
4. The following disciplinary charges are currently pending against the petitioner:

A. The Florida Bar File No. 2019-10,751(13E) is pending at staff level and involves the monitoring of federal criminal charges against petitioner.

B. Petitioner is the subject of federal criminal charges in *United States of America v. Rugh Cline*, Case No. 8:21-cr-81-CEH-JSS, in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida. On July 31, 2024, petitioner tendered a written plea of guilty to one count of a superseding indictment charging him with engaging in illegal sexual conduct in a foreign place, in violation of 18 USC 2423(c). Petitioner's plea agreement reflects his admission to having travelled to Cambodia and while there having engaged in illicit sexual contact with minors. Petitioner's plea agreement was accepted by the court on September 27, 2024, at which time he was adjudicated guilty. On March 6, 2025, he was sentenced to 108 months, to be followed up 180 months of supervised release, plus restitution.

5. Petitioner contends that granting this petition will not adversely affect the public interest, the integrity of the courts, or the confidence of the public in the legal profession. Further petitioner contends that granting this petition will not hinder the administration of justice.

6. Petitioner agrees to reimburse the Client Security Fund (CSF) for any and all funds CSF has paid or may pay out for claims resulting from petitioner's misconduct.

7. Petitioner agrees to reimburse The Florida Bar for the costs incurred in his disciplinary cases.

8. Petitioner agrees to submit to a complete audit of any trust account(s) and any other account(s) in which petitioner has placed client funds, if requested to do so by The Florida Bar.

9. Petitioner further agrees to submit a sworn financial affidavit to The Florida Bar attesting to petitioner's current personal and professional financial circumstances on a form to be provided by The Florida Bar within (30) days, if requested.

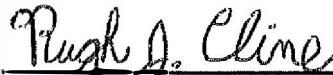
10. Petitioner further agrees to maintain a current mailing address with The Florida Bar for a period of five (5) years after the disciplinary revocation becomes final. Further, petitioner shall keep the bar advised as to the physical address of petitioner's home and/or business in the event petitioner should utilize a post office box or other type of mail drop service during the five (5) year period after the disciplinary revocation becomes final.

11. Petitioner agrees to eliminate all indicia of petitioner's status as an attorney on email, social media, telephone listings, stationery, checks, business cards, office signs, or any other indicia of petitioner's status as an attorney, whatsoever.

12. Petitioner understands that the granting of this petition by the Supreme Court of Florida shall serve to dismiss all pending disciplinary cases.

Petitioner respectfully requests that this Court grant this petition and order that petitioner's membership in The Florida Bar be revoked without leave to seek readmission.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated this 11<sup>th</sup> day of August,  
2025.

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that this document has been e-filed with The Honorable John A. Tomasino, Clerk of the Supreme Court of Florida, with a copy provided to Joshua E. Doyle, Executive Director, The Florida Bar, 651 E. Jefferson Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2300 via email at [jdoyle@floridabar.org](mailto:jdoyle@floridabar.org); to Rugh J. Cline, Petitioner, at [rughjcline@gmail.com](mailto:rughjcline@gmail.com), and via mail to his alternate address at FCI Coleman Low, 846 NE 54<sup>th</sup> Terrace, Sumterville, FL 33521; and to Patricia Ann Toro Savitz, Staff Counsel, The Florida Bar, 651 E. Jefferson Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-2300, via email at [psavitz@floridabar.org](mailto:psavitz@floridabar.org), on this 18<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2025.



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