

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA  
(Before a Grievance Committee)

THE FLORIDA BAR,  
  
Complainant,

The Florida Bar File  
No. 2024-70,412 (11M)

v.

PEDRO ALEJANDRO GONZALEZ,  
  
Respondent.

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**GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE FINDING OF NON-COMPLIANCE AND  
FAILURE TO RESPOND TO OFFICIAL BAR INQUIRY AND  
CONTEMPT**

On June 21, 2024, pursuant to Rule 3-7.11(f), Rules Regulating The Florida Bar, the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Grievance Committee M considered whether to issue a Finding of Non-Compliance and Failure to Respond to Official Bar Inquiry and Finding of Contempt and made the following findings:

1. On February 19, 2024, The Florida Bar sent Respondent a letter by regular U.S. Mail to Respondent's record Bar address advising of a complaint in this case and was requested to respond by March 5, 2024. A copy of the letter is attached hereto as "Exhibit A".

2. Respondent requested and was granted three extensions to respond to The Florida Bar as requested in the letter of February 19, 2024. A copy of the emails from respondent are attached hereto as "Exhibit B".

**Exhibit 1**

3. Respondent failed to respond to The Florida Bar as requested in his email of March 27, 2024.

4. On April 18, 2024, Respondent was sent an email, advising that this was the bar's final attempt to solicit his response to this grievance and that no further extensions will be granted. Respondent was requested to respond by April 26, 2024. A copy of the email is attached hereto as "Exhibit C".

5. Respondent failed to respond and requested another extension. A copy of the emails from respondent are attached hereto as "Exhibit D".

6. Respondent was given notice on June 7, 2024, the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Grievance Committee M would hold a hearing on the Request for Issuance of Notice of Non-Compliance and Finding of Contempt. A copy of the Notice of Hearing and the Request for Issuance of Notice of Non-Compliance and Finding of Contempt, without enclosures, is attached hereto as "Exhibit E".

7. Respondent sent an email on June 21, 2024, but did not attach response to the Request for Issuance of Notice of Non-Compliance and Finding of Contempt.

8. As of the date of this Request for Issuance of Notice of Non-Compliance and Finding of Contempt, Respondent has failed to respond to the official Bar inquiries dated February 19, 2024 and June 7, 2024.

9. The Grievance Committee found that Respondent failed to show good cause for failing to respond to the official Bar inquiries and that the non-compliance was willful.

10. The Grievance Committee found Respondent to be in contempt and requested The Florida Bar to file a Petition for Contempt and Order to Show Cause with the Supreme Court.


Dated this 24th day of June, 2024.

Eleventh Judicial Circuit Grievance  
Committee "M"

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
James R. DuBray, Chair

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that the original hereof has been furnished by United States Postal Service Certified Mail Tracking No. 7014 2120 0003 5157 1326, Return Receipt Requested to, Pedro Alejandro Gonzalez, 201 Alhambra Circle, Suite 1205, Coral Gables, FL 33134-5150 and via e-mail to [pgonzalez@smgqlaw.com](mailto:pgonzalez@smgqlaw.com); and copies to Jorge Luis Piedra, Designated Reviewer, via e-mail at [jpiedra@kttlaw.com](mailto:jpiedra@kttlaw.com), and to Patricia Ann Toro Savitz, Staff Counsel, The Florida Bar, via e-mail at [psavitz@floridabar.org](mailto:psavitz@floridabar.org), this 25th day of June, 2024.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rita Florez, Bar Counsel



# The Florida Bar

651 East Jefferson Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2300

Joshua E. Doyle  
Executive Director

850/561-5600  
[www.FLORIDABAR.org](http://www.FLORIDABAR.org)

February 19, 2024

Mr. Pedro Alejandro Gonzalez  
201 Alhambra Cir Ste 1205  
Coral Gables, FL 33134-5150

Re: Complaint by Manuel Pereira against Pedro Alejandro Gonzalez  
The Florida Bar File No. 2024-70,412 (11M)

Dear Mr. Gonzalez:

Enclosed is a copy of an inquiry/complaint and any supporting documents submitted by the above referenced complainant(s). Your response to this complaint is required under the provisions of Rule 4-8.4(g), Rules of Professional Conduct of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar, and is due in our office by **March 5, 2024**. **Responses should not exceed 25 pages** and may refer to any additional documents or exhibits that are available on request. Failure to provide a written response to this complaint is in itself a violation of Rule 4-8.4(g). **You are further required to furnish the complainant with a complete copy of your written response, including any documents submitted therewith.**

Pursuant to Rule 3-7.1(f), Rules of Discipline, you are further required to complete and return the enclosed Certificate of Disclosure form.

Finally, the filing of this complaint does not preclude communication between the attorney and the complainant(s). Please review the enclosed Notice for information on submitting your response.

Sincerely,

Teresa Goodson, Bar Counsel  
Attorney Consumer Assistance Program  
ACAP Hotline 866-352-0707

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Manuel Pereira

EXHIBIT  
**A**

Pursuant to Rule 3-7.1(f) of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar, you must execute the applicable section of this form and return it to my attention. The rule provides that the nature of the charges be described in the notice to your firm or you may attach a copy of the complaint.

**CERTIFICATE OF DISCLOSURE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, a true copy of the foregoing disclosure was furnished to \_\_\_\_\_, a member of my present law firm of \_\_\_\_\_, and, if different, to \_\_\_\_\_, a member of the law firm of \_\_\_\_\_, with which I was associated at the time of the act(s) giving rise to the complaint in The Florida Bar File No. 2024-70,412 (11M).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pedro Alejandro Gonzalez

**CERTIFICATE OF DISCLOSURE**  
(Corporate/Government Employment)

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, a true copy of the foregoing disclosure was furnished to \_\_\_\_\_, my supervisor at \_\_\_\_\_ (name of agency), with which I was associated at the time of the act(s) giving rise to the complaint in The Florida Bar File No. 2024-70,412 (11M).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pedro Alejandro Gonzalez

**CERTIFICATE OF NON-LAW FIRM AFFILIATION**  
(Sole Practitioner)

I HEREBY CERTIFY to The Florida Bar on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, that I am not presently affiliated with a law firm and was not affiliated with a law firm at the time of the act(s) giving rise to the complaint in The Florida Bar File No. 2024-70,412 (11M).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pedro Alejandro Gonzalez

## NOTICE OF GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

1. The enclosed letter is an official inquiry by bar counsel. Your response is required under Rule 4-8.4(g) of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar. Rule 4-8.4(g)(1) and (2) require that a lawyer submit a written response within 15 days to an initial inquiry and within 10 days to any follow-up inquiry made by bar counsel, the grievance committee or the board of governors during the course of an investigation of the lawyer's conduct. You may respond by US Mail or email to [acapintake@floridabar.org](mailto:acapintake@floridabar.org). Please attach your response to the email and reference the file number in the subject line. If you do not respond, the matter will be forwarded to the grievance committee for disposition in accordance with Rule 3-7.3. Failure to respond may also be a matter of contempt and processed in accordance with Rule 3-7.11(f).
2. Many inquiries considered first by staff counsel are not forwarded to a grievance committee, as they do not involve violations of the Rules of Professional Conduct justifying disciplinary action.
3. Pursuant to Rule 3-7.1, any reports, correspondence, papers, recordings and/or transcripts of hearings submitted by you in this matter shall become accessible to the public upon dismissal or a decision by the grievance committee. Please advise Bar Counsel if you believe any material provided to The Florida Bar is confidential under applicable law and identify the basis of your claim that the material is confidential. Please note that The Florida Bar is required to acknowledge the status of proceedings during the pendency of an investigation, if a specific inquiry is made and the matter is deemed to be in the public domain.
4. The grievance committee is the Bar's "grand jury." Proceedings before the grievance committee are non-adversarial in nature. The grievance committee's function and procedures are set forth in Rule 3-7.4.
5. If the grievance committee finds probable cause, formal adversarial proceedings before the Supreme Court of Florida will be initiated pursuant to Rule 3-7.6. A referee will make a recommendation as to guilt and discipline to The Supreme Court of Florida, unless a plea is submitted pursuant to Rule 3-7.9.



# The Florida Bar

651 East Jefferson Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2300

Joshua E. Doyle  
Executive Director

850/561-5600  
www.FLORIDABAR.org

February 19, 2024

Mr. Manuel Pereira  
4720 N.W. 8th Avenue  
Apartment #501  
Doral, FL 33166

Re: Pedro Alejandro Gonzalez; The Florida Bar File No. 2024-70,412 (11M)

Dear Mr. Pereira:

Enclosed is a copy of our letter to Mr. Gonzalez which requires a response to your complaint.

Once you receive Mr. Gonzalez's response, you have 10 days to file a rebuttal if you so desire. **If you decide to file a rebuttal, you must send a copy to Mr. Gonzalez.** Rebuttals should not exceed 25 pages and may refer to any additional documents or exhibits that are available on request. Please address any and all correspondence to me.

**It is important that you keep The Florida Bar informed of any changes to your contact information.**

Please be advised that as an arm of the Supreme Court of Florida, The Florida Bar can investigate allegations of misconduct against attorneys, and where appropriate, request that the attorney be disciplined. The Florida Bar cannot render legal advice nor can The Florida Bar represent individuals or intervene on their behalf in any civil or criminal matter.

Please review the enclosed Notice on mailing instructions for information on submitting your rebuttal.

Sincerely,

Teresa Goodson, Bar Counsel  
Attorney Consumer Assistance Program  
ACAP Hotline 866-352-0707

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Pedro Alejandro Gonzalez

## NOTICE OF GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

1. The enclosed letter is an informal inquiry. Your response is required under the provisions of The Rules Regulating The Florida Bar 4 8.4(g), Rules of Professional Conduct. Failure to provide a written response to this complaint is in itself a violation of Rule 4 8.4(g). You may respond by US Mail or email to [acapintake@floridabar.org](mailto:acapintake@floridabar.org). Please attach your response to the email and reference the file number in the subject line. If you do not respond, the matter will be forwarded to the grievance committee for disposition in accordance with Rule 3-7.3 of the Rules of Discipline.
2. Many complaints considered first by staff counsel are not forwarded to a grievance committee, as they do not involve violations of the Rules of Professional Conduct justifying disciplinary action.
3. “Pursuant to Rule 3-7.1(a), Rules of Discipline, any response by you in these proceedings shall become part of the public record of this matter and thereby become accessible to the public upon the closure of the case by Bar counsel or upon a finding of no probable cause, probable cause, minor misconduct, or recommendation of diversion. Disclosure during the pendency of an investigation may be made only as to status if a specific inquiry concerning this case is made and if this matter is generally known to be in the public domain.”
4. The grievance committee is the Bar’s “grand jury.” Its function and procedure are set forth in Rule 3-7.4. Proceedings before the grievance committee, for the most part, are non-adversarial in nature. However, you should carefully review Chapter 3 of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar.
5. If the grievance committee finds probable cause, formal adversarial proceedings, which ordinarily lead to disposition by the Supreme Court of Florida, will be commenced under 3-7.6, unless a plea is submitted under Rule 3-7.9.

**Received** Fri 03/15/2024 12:31PM  
**From** Peter A. Gonzalez  
**Subject** Florida Bar File No. 2024-70,412 (11M)  
**To** ACAPIntake  
**cc** Manny Pereira  
**bcc**

Dear Bar representative:

This email will confirm my telephone conversation with Zualma regarding the extended deadline of March 25, 2024, within which to serve my response to the recent Bar complaint made by Manuel Pereira against me.

Thank you.

**PETER A. GONZÁLEZ**



SANCHEZ-MEDINA, GONZALEZ, QUESADA,  
LAGE, GOMEZ & MACHADO LLP

201 Alhambra Circle | Suite 1205 | Coral Gables, Florida 33131  
Office: 305.377.1000 Ext. 105 | Direct Fax: 855.898.2748 | Toll Free: 855.213.4806  
[PGonzalez@SMGQLAW.com](mailto:PGonzalez@SMGQLAW.com) | [SMGQLAW.com](http://SMGQLAW.com) | [Attorney Bio](#)

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Please note: Florida has very broad public records laws. Many written communications to or from The Florida Bar regarding Bar business may be considered public records, which must be made available to anyone upon request. Your e-mail communications may therefore be subject to public disclosure.

EXHIBIT  
**B**

**Received** Wed 03/27/2024 2:06PM

**From** Peter A. Gonzalez

**Subject** Florida Bar File No. 2024-70,412 (11M) - REQUEST FOR A FINAL EXTENSION OF TIME TO RESPOND TO BAR COMPLAINT

**To** ACAPIntake

**cc**

**bcc**

Dear Bar representative:

This email is intended for **Teresa Goodson**, Bar counsel, to request a final extension of time through Friday, April 5, 2024. I spoke previously with Audra of The Florida Bar's office, and she requested that I put my request in writing via email.

The reason for my request for one final extension of time within which to respond to the pending Bar complaint by Manuel Pereira is because Mr. Pereira, and his daughter, have threatened to file a lawsuit for money damages against my firm and me despite having no viable legal basis for doing so since Mr. Pereira has suffered no damages and my firm and I have done nothing that has caused Mr. Pereira any damages whatsoever. Because of Mr. Pereira's (and his daughter's actions), we have put my firm's insurance carrier on notice and I need more time to properly address this issue in my response to Mr. Pereira's Bar complaint. I don't think it's right to use a Bar complaint as leverage to push my client into settling a potential lawsuit that has no merit. One final extension of time through April 5<sup>th</sup> will be sufficient to address this matter in my response.

Thank you.

**PETER A. GONZÁLEZ**



SANCHEZ-MEDINA, GONZALEZ, QUESADA,  
LAGE, GOMEZ & MACHADO LLP

201 Alhambra Circle | Suite 1205 | Coral Gables, Florida 33131

Office: 305.377.1000 Ext. 105 | Direct Fax: 855.898.2748 | Toll Free: 855.213.4806

[PGonzalez@SMGQLAW.com](mailto:PGonzalez@SMGQLAW.com) | [SMGQLAW.com](http://SMGQLAW.com) | [Attorney Bio](#)

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**Received** Mon 04/22/2024 10:23AM  
**From** Fronckowiak, Nancy  
**Subject** TFB File No. 2024-70,412  
**To** Fronckowiak, Nancy  
**cc**  
**bcc**

**From:** Avery, Tonya L  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 18, 2024 6:23 PM  
**To:** Gonzalez, Pedro <[pgonzalez@smgqlaw.com](mailto:pgonzalez@smgqlaw.com)>  
**Subject:** File No. 2024-70,412  
**Importance:** High

Dear Mr. Gonzalez:

To date, you have not responded to the Florida Bar's letter dated February 19, 2024, despite requesting and the bar granting, you multiple extensions to do so. No response has been received by you. Accordingly, this will be our final attempt to solicit your response to this grievance prior to our review of this file. **No further extensions will be granted.** You are reminded that failure to respond to a bar grievance is itself a potential violation of Rule 4-8.4(g) of The Rules Regulating The Florida Bar and may subject you to contempt proceedings.

**Your response is due on or before Friday April 26, 2024.**

Thank you.

Tonya L. Avery, Bar Counsel  
The Florida Bar  
Rivergate Plaza, Suite M100  
444 Brickell Avenue  
Miami, FL 33131  
Phone: (305) 377-4445  
Fax: (305) 377-4519  
Email: [tavery@floridabar.org](mailto:tavery@floridabar.org)

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EXHIBIT  
C

**Received** Tue 04/30/2024 5:00PM

**From** Peter A. Gonzalez

**Subject** RE: Complaint of Manuel Pereira against Pedro Alejandro Gonzalez: The Florida Bar File No. 2024-70,412 (11M)

**To** Zuniga, Pablo

**cc** Florez, Rita; Porta, Cynthia C; Manny Pereira; Avery, Tonya L

**bcc**

Dear Ms. Florez,

I will be submitting my response to Mr. Pereira's Complaint by no later than this Thursday, May 2, 2024.

I called Tonya Avery regarding this matter yesterday and earlier this morning to ask a couple of questions relating to the Complaint and my response. She was kind enough to return my call earlier today and she left a voicemail letting me know that Rita Florez would be taking over this matter. I tried reaching you, Ms. Florez, a short time ago at your office. Please call me back on my cell at 305-431-3913 at your convenience. Thank you.

**PETER A. GONZÁLEZ**



SANCHEZ-MEDINA, GONZALEZ, QUESADA,  
LAGE, GOMEZ & MACHADO LLP

201 Alhambra Circle | Suite 1205 | Coral Gables, Florida 33131

Office: 305.377.1000 Ext. 105 | Direct Fax: 855.898.2748 | Toll Free: 855.213.4806

[PGonzalez@SMGQLAW.com](mailto:PGonzalez@SMGQLAW.com) | [SMGQLAW.com](http://SMGQLAW.com) | [Attorney Bio](#)

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**NO ATTORNEY-CLIENT RELATIONSHIP:** Transmission or receipt of this email, of and by itself, does not constitute legal advice and is not intended to create and does not constitute an attorney-client relationship. Any attorney-client relationship, as well as any legal advice given thereunder, shall only be entered into and/or given, as applicable, pursuant to an express written agreement signed by an authorized member of Sanchez-Medina, Gonzalez, Quesada, Lage, Gomez & Machado LLP.

**From:** Zuniga, Pablo <pzuniga@floridabar.org>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 30, 2024 10:00 AM

**To:** Peter A. Gonzalez <pgonzalez@smgqlaw.com>

**Cc:** Florez, Rita <RFlorez@floridabar.org>; Porta, Cynthia C <CPorta@floridabar.org>; Manny Pereira <mannyper1915@gmail.com>

**Subject:** Complaint of Manuel Pereira against Pedro Alejandro Gonzalez: The Florida Bar File No. 2024-70,412 (11M)

You don't often get email from [pzuniga@floridabar.org](mailto:pzuniga@floridabar.org). [Learn why this is important](#)

**SECURITY NOTE:** \*This email has originated from OUTSIDE of SMGQ Law. Please exercise caution with att

EXHIBIT  
D

Good morning Mr. Gonzalez,

On behalf of Bar counsel, attached please find transfer letter to Bar Counsel Rita Florez.

Thank you,

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Pablo D. Zuniga - Administrative Support 1

The Florida Bar

444 Brickell Avenue, suite M-100

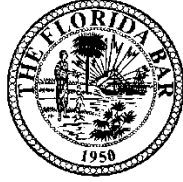
Miami, Florida 33131

(305)377-4445

[pzuniga@floridabar.org](mailto:pzuniga@floridabar.org)

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# The Florida Bar

Miami Branch Office  
444 Brickell Avenue  
Rivergate Plaza, Suite M-100  
Miami, Florida 33131-2404  
(305) 377-4445

Joshua E. Doyle  
Executive Director

850/561-5600  
www.FLORIDABAR.org

June 7, 2024

**VIA USPS Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested (Tracking No. 7014 2120 0003 5157 1319) and E-Mail to [pgonzalez@smgglaw.com](mailto:pgonzalez@smgglaw.com),**

Mr. Pedro Alejandro Gonzalez, Esq.  
201 Alhambra Circle, Suite 1205  
Coral Gables, FL 33134-5150

**Re: *Complaint by Manuel Pereira against Pedro Alejandro Gonzalez  
The Florida Bar File No. 2024-70,412 (11M)***

Dear Mr. Gonzalez:

Please be advised that pursuant to Rules 3-7.4 and 3-7.11 of the Rules of Discipline, Grievance Committee "M" of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit will consider whether good cause exists for your failure to respond to official Bar Inquiry in The Florida Bar File No. 2024-70,412 (11M). In accordance with Rule 3-7.11(f)(2), the Grievance Committee shall hear the issue of non-compliance and issue findings thereon.

Pursuant to the requirements of Rule 3-7.4(a), Rules of Discipline, below is a list of the members of Grievance Committee 11"M". There will be no appearances by either party or by any witnesses in this case.

An index reflecting materials which will be considered by the Grievance Committee, along with copies of said materials, is enclosed herewith. Should you wish to present a written statement to the Grievance Committee pursuant to Rule 3-7.4(h) of the Rules of Discipline, please provide same to me **no later than Thursday, June 20, 2024.**

Sincerely,

Rita Florez, Bar Counsel

EXHIBIT  
E

Enclosure: Grievance Committee Roster

cc: James R. DuBray, Chair  
Jorge Luis Piedra, Designated Reviewer

**List of Members of Grievance Committee (11M)  
(Pursuant to the requirements of Rule 3-7.4(a), the following is a list of the  
members of the Grievance Committee considering this matter).**

James R. DuBray, Chair  
Caycie B. Flitman, Vice-Chair  
Carlos E. Sardi, Esq.  
Stephen B. Fuller, Esq.  
Brian G. Liegel, Esq.  
Akiesha Gilcrist Sainvil, Esq.  
Nan A. Markowitz (NL)  
David Lorenzo (NL)  
Margarita Curiel (NL)

**Index of Materials to be Reviewed**

1. The Florida Bar's letter to Respondent dated February 19, 2024
2. Emailed confirmation of second extension to respondent dated March 15, 2024
3. Email request for third extension from respondent dated March 27, 2024
4. The Florida Bar's Branch Acknowledgement Letter dated April 16, 2024
5. Email to respondent from Bar Counsel, Tonya L. Avery dated April 18, 2024
6. Email to respondent with The Florida Bar's Transfer Letter dated April 30, 2024
7. Email from respondent dated April 30, 2024
8. Email from The Florida Bar to respondent dated April 30, 2024
9. Request for Additional Information dated May 3, 2024
10. Response from respondent to bar counsel dated May 13, 2024
11. Reply from bar counsel to respondent dated May 13, 2024

12. Order suspending respondent for non-compliance
13. PDF of text messages between respondent and his clients
14. Order reinstating respondent