

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA

THE FLORIDA BAR,

Complainant,

v.

JAMES DALTON SAUNDERS,

Respondent.

Supreme Court Case
No.

The Florida Bar File
No. 2024-00,075(2A)NFC

_____/

NOTICE OF JUDGMENT OF GUILT

COMES NOW, The Florida Bar, and files this Notice of Judgment of Guilt, pursuant to Rule 3-7.2(f), Rules of Discipline of The Florida Bar and says:

1. Respondent is a member of The Florida Bar, admitted on August 13, 1998 and subject to the jurisdiction of The Supreme Court of Florida.
2. On April 19, 2023, respondent was indicted on two felony counts of election fraud for violation of Ohio Revised Code 3599.12(A)(2), which makes it a crime for any person to "vote or attempt to vote more than once at the same election by any means, including voting or attempting to vote by absent voter's ballots *** and by regular ballot at the polls at the same election, or voting or attempting to vote both by absent voter's ballots

under division (G) of section 3503.16 of the Revised Code and by absent voter's ballots under Chapter 3509[.]” This statute thus requires a finding that an individual 1) voted or attempted to vote more than once; and 2) that those votes were cast “at the same election.”

3. This matter proceeded to a bench trial on July 12, 2023, in Cuyahoga County, Ohio.

4. On August 22, 2023, The Court of Common Pleas in Cuyahoga County, Ohio found respondent guilty of election fraud as charged in Counts 1 and 2 of the Indictment for illegally voting in both Ohio and Florida for the 2020 presidential election and the 2022 general election. The Order on Bench Trial is attached as Exhibit A.

5. On August 22, 2023, the court imposed an 18-month sentence for each count, to run consecutively.

WHEREFORE, The Florida Bar respectfully requests that this Court enter an order:

A. Finding Respondent guilty of violating Rule 4-8.4(b) (A lawyer shall not commit a criminal act that reflects adversely on the lawyer’s honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a lawyer in other respects.) of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar;

B. Suspending Respondent pursuant to Rule 3-7.2(f), Rules of Discipline of The Florida Bar;

C. Ordering Respondent to furnish a copy of the suspension order to all clients, opposing counsel and courts before which he is counsel of record as required by Rule 3-5.1(h) of the Rules of Discipline of The Florida Bar and to furnish staff counsel with the requisite affidavit listing all clients, counsel and courts so informed within 30 days after receipt of the court's order; and

D. Appointing or directing the appointment of a referee to conduct a hearing on sanctions pursuant to Rule 3-7.2(h), Rules of Discipline of The Florida Bar.

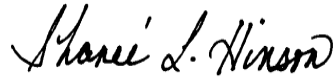
Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Shaneé L. Hinson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shaneé L. Hinson, Bar Counsel
The Florida Bar
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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, via the E-filing Portal, with a copy furnished by U.S. Mail via Certified Mail No. 7015 0640 0006 9912 7579, return receipt requested, to James Dalton Saunders, Respondent, whose record bar address is 6210 Shaker Blvd., Shaker Heights, OH 44120-1664, and a copy via U.S. Mail to Respondent's alternate address at #A803381, Chillicothe Correctional Institution, P.O. Box 5500, Chillicothe, OH 45601, and to Patricia Ann Toro Savitz, Staff Counsel, The Florida Bar, at psavitz@floridabar.org, on this 29th day of January, 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Shaneé L. Hinson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shaneé L. Hinson, Bar Counsel

NOTICE OF TRIAL COUNSEL AND DESIGNATION OF PRIMARY EMAIL ADDRESS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the trial counsel in this matter is Shaneé L. Hinson, Bar Counsel, whose address, telephone number and primary email address are The Florida Bar, Tallahassee Branch Office, 651 E. Jefferson Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2300, (850) 561-5845, and shinson@floridabar.org. Respondent need not address pleadings, correspondence, etc. in this matter to anyone other than trial counsel and to Staff Counsel, The Florida Bar, 651 E. Jefferson Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-2300, psavitz@floridabar.org.