

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA

THE FLORIDA BAR,

Complainant,

v.

MICHAEL B. HALLA,

Respondent.

Supreme Court Case
No. SC-

The Florida Bar File
No. 2025-00,256(2B)

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NOTICE OF DETERMINATION OF GUILT

The Florida Bar files this Notice of Determination of Guilt under Rule Regulating The Florida Bar 3-7.2(f) and says:

1. Respondent, Michael B. Halla, is a member of The Florida Bar, admitted on September 26, 2017.

2. On November 15, 2021, respondent was driving from his home to a meeting of the Ferris City Counsel when he struck and killed two people. A copy of the Texas Highway Patrol Investigative Report is attached as Exhibit A.

3. On March 16, 2023, respondent was indicted on two counts of Manslaughter, a violation of Section 19.04 of the Texas Penal Code, a second degree felony. Copies of the indictments are attached as Composite Exhibit B.

4. On December 20, 2024, respondent was convicted after a jury trial, of two counts of Criminally Negligent Homicide, a violation of Section 19.05 of the Texas Penal Code, a third-degree felony. According to the Judgment of Conviction by Jury, the punishment assessed was 5 years concurrent confinement in the Texas Department of Corrections for both counts. The term of confinement was suspended, and respondent was placed on 10 years community supervision. Copies of the Judgments of Conviction by Jury are attached as Composite Exhibit C.

5. The conditions of respondent's 10-year period of community supervision are set forth in the order dated December 20, 2024. Copies of the Conditions of Community Supervision are attached as Composite Exhibit D.

6. Copies of the sentencing documents are attached as Composite Exhibit D.

7. Respondent failed to notify the executive director of The Florida Bar of the charges within 10 days of the filing of the indictment or information as required by Rule 3-7.2(c).

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

A. Finding respondent guilty of violating R. Regulating Fla. Bar 3.4-3 (Misconduct and Minor Misconduct), 3-4.4 (Criminal Misconduct), 3-

7.2(c) (Notice of Institution of Felony Criminal Charges), and 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.);

B. Suspending respondent under Rule of Regulating The Florida Bar 3-7.2(f);

C. Ordering respondent to provide a copy of the suspension order to all clients; opposing counsel; co-counsel; courts, tribunals, or adjudicative agencies before which the respondent is counsel of record; and state, federal, or administrative bars of which the respondent is a member as required by R. Regulating Fla. Bar 3-5.1(h);

D. Ordering respondent to provide staff counsel with the affidavit required by R. Regulating Fla. Bar 3-5.1(h) listing the names and addresses of all persons and entities provided with the suspension order within 30 days after receipt of this Court's order; and

E. Appointing or directing the appointment of a referee to conduct a hearing on sanctions under R. Regulating Fla. Bar 3-7.2(h).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lance D. Stephens".

Lance DeWolf Stephens, Bar Counsel
The Florida Bar

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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 a copy provided via the portal to Michael B. Halla, at mhalla@hallalawfirm.com; and that a copy has been provided by United States Mail via certified mail No. 7020 1810 0000 0813 5215, return receipt requested to Michael B. Halla, whose record bar address is 187 Rolling Ct, Lancaster, TX 75146-1875, and via email to Patricia Ann Toro Savitz, Staff Counsel, at psavitz@floridabar.org, on this 14th day of July, 2025.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lance D. Stephens".

Lance DeWolf Stephens, Bar Counsel

NOTICE OF TRIAL COUNSEL AND DESIGNATION OF PRIMARY EMAIL ADDRESS

The trial counsel in this matter is Lance DeWolf Stephens, Bar Counsel, whose address, telephone number and primary email address are The Florida Bar, Tallahassee Branch Office, 651 East Jefferson Street Tallahassee FL 32399, (850) 561-5845 and lstephens@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@flabar.org.

NOTICE OF MANDATORY ELECTRONIC FILING

All parties must file all pleadings, motions, and notices in this matter electronically, with a copy to the referee, through the Florida Courts E-Filing Portal <https://www.myflcourtagency.com/authority>, under Rule Regulating The Florida Bar 3-7.6(h)(5)(A) and (B).