

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA
(Before a Referee)

THE FLORIDA BAR,
Complainant,

Supreme Court Case
No. SC20-553

v.

STEN THIELD SLIGER,
Respondent.

Florida Bar File Nos.
2019-00,065(2B); 2019-00,457(2B);
2019-00,464(2B); 2019-00,467(2B);
2019-00,533(2B); 2020-00,326(2B);
2020-00,350(2B); 2020-00,355(2B);
2020-00,357(2B); 2020-00,368(2B);
2020-00,435(2B); 2020-00,451(2B);
2021-00,018(2B)

AMENDED CONDITIONAL GUILTY PLEA FOR CONSENT JUDGMENT

COMES NOW, the undersigned respondent, Sten Thield Sliger, and files this Amended Conditional Guilty Plea pursuant to Rule 3-7.9 of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar.

1. Respondent is, and at all times mentioned herein was, a member of The Florida Bar, subject to the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of Florida.

2. Respondent is acting freely and voluntarily in this matter and tenders this Plea without fear or threat of coercion. Respondent is represented in this matter.

3. As to The Florida Bar File Nos. 2019-00,065(2B); 2019-00,457(2B); 2019-00,464(2B); 2019-00,467(2B); and 2019-00,533(2B), there has been a finding of probable cause by the Grievance Committee. As to The Florida Bar File Nos. 2020-00,326(2B); 2020-00,350(2B); 2020-00,355(2B);

2020-00,357(2B); 2020-00,368(2B); 2020-00,435(2B); 2020-00,451(2B); and 2021-00,018(2B), respondent has waived a finding of probable cause.

4. The disciplinary measures to be imposed upon respondent are as follows:

A. Three years' suspension;

B. Payment of The Florida Bar costs;

C. Respondent shall pay restitution to Marc Friedman in the amount of \$3,900.00 and to Theresa Nunamaker in the amount of \$450.00, within 9 months of the Court Order approving the report of referee. Respondent will also pay restitution of \$5,000.00 to Charlotte McClellan within 18 months of the court order. The restitution amount is in full satisfaction of any judgment Ms. McClellan has against respondent.

i. Respondent must submit proof of payment of restitution to the bar's headquarters office in Tallahassee, which shall consist of copies (front and back) of the negotiated checks or copies of the checks/money orders and certified return receipts.

ii. Respondent agrees not to attempt to discharge the obligation for payment of this restitution in any future

proceedings, including but not limited to, a petition for bankruptcy.

D. Respondent shall participate in the Fee Arbitration Program of The Florida Bar with the following complainants: Sharon and Donald Poland, Sandra Ray, Wayne and Ruth Langston, Henry and Rose Burg, Sheila Tuten, Carolyn McLeod, Walter Rogers, Amy Lewis Powell, Marisa VanLandingham and Donald Butcher. Respondent shall submit an application to the Fee Arbitration Coordinator, The Florida Bar, 651 East Jefferson Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2300, within sixty (60) days of the Court's Order approving the report of referee for each complainant. Respondent agrees to be bound by the decision of the arbitrator and make payment in full within the time frame specified in the award or within thirty (30) days of the award becoming final, if an award is given to the client. Failure to abide by the decision of the arbitrator is in direct violation of this order and will result in respondent being deemed delinquent. Respondent shall provide proof of submission of the applications to the Bar's headquarters office.

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

5. Respondent acknowledges that he is currently suspended pursuant to the Supreme Court Order in Case No. SC19-1569. Respondent acknowledges that he does not require an additional 30 days to close out his practice or to protect client interests; therefore, the Court Order in this matter will become effective immediately.

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

COUNT I – TFB FILE NO. 2019-00,065(2B) – MARC D. FRIEDMAN

A. On or about January 23, 2018, Marc Friedman (“Mr. Friedman”), met with respondent regarding a possible real estate purchase. Mr. Friedman had additional counsel representing him at the time. He paid respondent a \$5,000.00 refundable retainer via check, which was endorsed and processed that same day.

B. Respondent reviewed voluminous documents on January 26, 2018 and had two telephone conversations with Mr.

Friedman thereafter. After continuing to review documents in late January and early February, 2018, respondent met with Mr. Friedman on February 27, 2018. On March 9, 2018, respondent contacted the appropriate lawyers to discuss the purchase of the property. Mr. Friedman attempted to contact respondent for several months to no avail. He eventually went to respondent's office where he was told respondent was in a meeting and could not be disturbed.

C. Mr. Friedman never heard from respondent and on July 27, 2018, he filed a complaint with The Florida Bar.

D. On August 27, 2018, respondent filed a response stating that he had reviewed documents and had a few phone conversations with Mr. Friedman and had contacted counsel regarding purchase of the property. He stated that the retainer was refundable and that he would refund the remaining balance of \$3,900.00 to Mr. Friedman.

E. On September 28, 2018, Mr. Friedman filed his rebuttal, informing the bar that respondent had not refunded his money as promised.

F. On or about May 15, 2019, respondent spoke with the investigating member of the grievance committee. He informed her

that he intended to send Mr. Friedman a refund check via certified mail on May 31, 2019.

G. On June 3, 2019, the investigating member left a voice mail message for respondent and also sent respondent an email.

H. Respondent failed to respond to the investigating member.

I. By reason of the foregoing, respondent has violated the following Rules Regulating The Florida Bar: 4-1.2 (Objectives and Scope of Representation); 4-1.3 (Diligence); 4-1.4 (Communication); and 4-1.5 (Fees and Costs).

**COUNT II – TFB FILE NO. 2019-00,457(2B) – SHARON AND DONALD
POLAND**

J. In May 2018, Ms. Poland had discussed with respondent the problems with the contractor. She did not retain respondent at that time. In August, Mrs. Poland again contacted respondent and advised him she was still negotiating with the contractor. On September 11, 2018, Mr. and Mrs. Poland (“the Polands”) retained respondent to represent them regarding construction issues with their new home. Respondent was paid a fee of \$4,350.00.

K. After reviewing voluminous documentation, on October 9, 2018, respondent provided the Polands with a draft of a 558 notice of claim and an Authority to Represent.

L. On October 31, 2018, Mrs. Poland emailed respondent requesting a status update. Respondent replied that the letter would go out the next day.

M. On November 8, 2018, respondent's assistant notified Mrs. Poland that the documents were sent via regular mail on November 1, 2018 and via certified mail on November 8, 2018.

N. On November 14, 2018, respondent notified the Polands that he received an email about the 558 notice, from the builder, Rick Singletary. According to respondent, he and Mr. Singletary discussed working out the issues and whether litigation or arbitration would be necessary.

O. Mrs. Poland emailed respondent on December 3, 2018 with questions but received no response. Mrs. Poland emailed respondent again on December 27, 2018 requesting a status update.

P. Respondent replied on January 3, 2019, stating that he had not received a response to the 558 notice and that he would

move forward with a civil complaint. He stated he would provide a draft for their review the following week.

Q. On January 15, 2019, Mrs. Poland emailed respondent requesting a status update. She also informed him that if the complaint had not been prepared at that point, she would forward him a FedEx packing label so he could return the thumb drive containing their documentation, as well as the unearned portion of the retainer.

R. The Polands heard nothing from respondent after sending that email. They filed a complaint with The Florida Bar on March 6, 2019.

S. Respondent failed to timely respond to multiple correspondence from The Florida Bar. Respondent ultimately responded to the complaint on September 29, 2019.

T. By reason of the foregoing, respondent has violated the following Rules Regulating The Florida Bar: 4-1.3 (Diligence); 4-1.4 (Communication); 4-1.5 (Fees and Costs); 4-3.2 (Expediting Litigation); and 4-8.4(g) (Fail to respond, in writing, to any official inquiry by bar counsel or a disciplinary agency).

COUNT III – TFB FILE NO. 2019-00,464(2B) – SANDRA D. RAY

U. On September 8, 2017, Sandra D. Ray (“Ms. Ray”) and her husband hired respondent to represent them in a probate matter involving conveyance of a parcel of land. Respondent was paid a \$2,500.00 fee. Specifically, respondent was to review a title search for the sale of Ms. Ray’s deceased father’s property. Probate would be necessary to sell the property. Respondent was also to prepare wills, living wills, and healthcare surrogates.

V. Although there was sparse communication throughout the remainder of 2017 and most of 2018, respondent met with Ms. Ray and her husband on February 16, 2018 to discuss probate. Respondent had drafted their wills, living wills and healthcare surrogates prior to their arriving. The Rays were unable to pay for the documentation at that time.

W. On October 8, 2018, Ms. Ray met with respondent. On October 17, 2018, Ms. Ray provided respondent with the information he requested at the requested October 8, 2018 via email. However, according to Ms. Ray, she had previously provided this information to respondent.

X. No response to the email was received.

Y. On January 28, 2019, after numerous unsuccessful attempts to contact respondent, Ms. Ray contacted The Florida Bar for assistance.

Z. On January 29, 2019, the Attorney Consumer Assistance Program sent respondent a letter advising him to contact Ms. Ray by February 12, 2019.

AA. After hearing nothing from respondent, Ms. Ray filed a complaint on March 20, 2019.

BB. Respondent failed to timely respond to numerous correspondence from The Florida Bar. Respondent ultimately filed a response on September 29, 2019.

CC. By reason of the foregoing, respondent has violated the following Rules Regulating The Florida Bar: 4-1.3 (Diligence); 4-1.4 (Communication); 4-1.5 (Fees and Costs); 4-3.2 (Expediting Litigation); and 4-8.4(g) (Fail to respond, in writing, to any official inquiry by bar counsel or a disciplinary agency).

COUNT IV – TFB FILE NO. 2019-00,467(2B) – CHARLOTTE C. MCCLELLAN

DD. On August 9, 2018, Charlotte McClellan (“Ms. McClellan”) hired respondent to represent her in two probate matters and paid fees totaling \$6,000.00. She initially contacted respondent

two days after being referred to him by Tallahassee Title Group. In the intervening time, respondent reviewed the title searches and spoke with personnel at the title company.

EE. According to Ms. McClellan, respondent also agreed to file a guardianship, which would allow her to sell a piece of property. Respondent disputes that claim.

FF. During the few conversations Ms. McClellan had with respondent between August and October 2018, he repeatedly told her that he was working on her matters. According to respondent, he met with representatives of the title group on several occasions and reviewed the purchase/sale contract Ms. McClellan signed with a potential purchaser.

GG. On October 2, 2018, Ms. McClellan met with respondent and executed the probate forms.

HH. Ms. McClellan left several messages for respondent during October 2018 but received no response.

II. On November 8, 2018, respondent returned a call from Ms. McClellan and advised that he would call her back on November 14, 2018 with an update. According to Ms. McClellan, she never heard from respondent again. However, respondent filed a Petition

for Summary Administration and supporting pleadings in one of the two probate cases in November.

JJ. Ms. McClellan filed a complaint with The Florida Bar on March 25, 2019.

KK. Respondent failed to timely respond to numerous correspondence from The Florida Bar. He ultimately responded to the complaint on September 29, 2019.

LL. By reason of the foregoing, respondent has violated the following Rules Regulating The Florida Bar: 4-1.3 (Diligence); 4-1.4 (Communication); 4-1.5 (Fees and Costs); 4-3.2 (Expediting Litigation); and 4-8.4(g) (Fail to respond, in writing, to any official inquiry by bar counsel or a disciplinary agency).

COUNT V – TFB FILE NO. 2019-00,533(2B) – THERESA NUNAMAKER

MM. On March 5, 2019, Theresa Nunamaker (“Ms. Nunamaker”) hired respondent for a guardianship matter. Respondent was paid a \$1,000.00 fee for the preparation of the Guardianship report and a Motion for Compensation for Ms. Nunamaker’s services. Respondent had previously represented her on numerous matters and was currently representing her on the Guardianship of her mother. According to respondent, his staff had

tried unsuccessfully on several previous occasions to set an appointment with Ms. Nunamaker.

NN. At their initial meeting, respondent requested additional information, which Ms. Nunamaker provided later that day.

OO. On March 6, 2019, respondent contacted Ms. Nunamaker via email and asked if he could deposit her check. She responded immediately that he could.

PP. Ms. Nunamaker emailed respondent five times throughout March 2019 requesting information and received no response until April 1, 2019, when he informed her that he had been out of town.

QQ. On April 1, 2019, respondent's assistant scheduled an appointment for Ms. Nunamaker to meet with respondent on April 8, 2019. Ms. Nunamaker advised that she was not available that day and requested a phone call from respondent. According, to respondent, his staff tried to set appointments with Ms. Nunamaker on numerous occasions without success.

RR. On April 2, 2019, Ms. Nunamaker sent respondent an email terminating his services. She requested that he return of her fee, her paperwork, and her zip drive.

SS. The following day, April 3, 2019, respondent replied that he had a draft of the petition ready. He also told her that he never received the updated information he requested during their first meeting in March.

TT. On April 10, 2019, Ms. Nunamaker sent respondent a certified letter of termination. The letter was signed for by Emily Hall of the Sliger Law Firm on April 15, 2019.

UU. On April 29, 2019, Ms. Nunamaker filed a complaint with The Florida Bar.

VV. Respondent failed to timely respond to numerous correspondence from The Florida Bar. Respondent ultimately filed his response on September 29, 2019.

WW. By reason of the foregoing, respondent has violated the following Rules Regulating The Florida Bar: 4-1.4 (Communication); 4-1.5 (Fees and Costs); and 4-8.4(g) (A lawyer shall not fail to respond, in writing, to any official inquiry by bar counsel or a disciplinary agency).

COUNT VI – TFB FILE NO. 2020-00,326(2B) – WAYNE AND RUTH LANGSTON

XX. On December 13, 2018, Wayne and Ruth Langston (“Langstons”) met with respondent regarding residential property

under a contract for deed. They had previously sent a demand letter to the resident for past due payments and had stated that they would begin foreclosure proceedings should payment not be received.

Respondent informed them that a mortgage had never been recorded and that there was no promissory note. Respondent was subsequently hired in January 2019 and paid an \$800.00 fee.

YY. On February 21, 2018 respondent spoke to Ms. Langston and asked for information that he had previously requested. She sent some information later that day, however, respondent stated that he did not receive the requested promissory note.

ZZ. Although respondent told Mr. Langston he would send a notice of foreclosure after being retained, he did not do so until April 9, 2019.

AAA. On May 27, 2019, the respondent requested an additional \$1,000 retainer to file the foreclosure lawsuit. Respondent prepared the foreclosure complaint and met with the Langstons on June 10, 2019. Mr. Langston signed the complaint on that date.

BBB. According to the Langstons, respondent told them he would contact the court to get a hearing date. They also claimed were unable to reach respondent until January 8, 2020, when he told Ms.

Langston he was trying to schedule a hearing. While respondent denies the foregoing assertions, for the purpose of this settlement he will not contest those claims.

CCC. Although respondent advised that he would call back with the hearing date, they never heard from him again. The foreclosure complaint respondent claimed he drafted in June 2019, was never filed.

DDD. By reason of the foregoing, respondent has violated the following Rules Regulating The Florida Bar: 4-1.3 Diligence; 4-1.4 Communication; 4-1.5 Fee and Costs; 4-1.16(a)(1) Declining or Terminating Representation; 4-1.16(d) Protection of Client's Interest; 4-3.2 Expediting Litigation; and 4-8.4(c) engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation.

COUNT VII – TFB FILE NO. 2020-00,350(2B) – HENRY AND ROSE BURG

EEE. On October 14, 2019, Henry and Rose Burg (“Burgs”) met with respondent regarding a matter involving their neighbor leaving debris on the Burgs’ property. Respondent was paid a \$200.00 consultation fee. The Burgs hired respondent on November 12, 2019 and paid a \$2,800.00 fee. On November 15, 2019, they executed a fee agreement for a \$3,000.00 fee.

FFF. On November 22, 2019, Mr. and Mrs. Burg met with respondent. Respondent researched the monthly meetings of the county commission, various property and business records of the neighbor, and county ordinances and rules. According to Ms. Burg, respondent agreed to attend a county commission meeting with them but called an hour before the meeting and said he was unable to make it. Despite repeated attempts, they never spoke with him again.

GGG. On November 21, 2019 the Supreme Court suspended him from practice effective December 23, 2019.

HHH. In January 2020, the Burgs learned from the clerk's office that no lawsuit had been filed on their behalf. They subsequently consulted with another attorney who did not take the case but informed them that respondent was suspended.

III. By reason of the foregoing, respondent has violated the following Rules Regulating The Florida Bar: 4-1.3 Diligence; 4-1.4 Communication; 4-1.5 Fees and Costs; 4-1.16(a)(1) Declining or Terminating Representation; 4-1.16(d) Protection of Client's Interest; and 4-8.4(c) engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation.

COUNT VII – TFB FILE NO. 2020-00,355(2B) – SHEILA DIANE TUTEN

JJJ. In August 2018, Sheila Diane Tuten (“Tuten”) hired respondent to probate her father’s estate and paid a \$3,000 flat fee. According to respondent advised her that a full administration was required and once she was named as personal representative, she could proceed with attempts to sell the property. Because Ms. Tuten did not have the original will, respondent told her the witnesses to it would have to be located.

KKK. According to Tuten, she signed the petition in September 2018 and sent it to respondent’s office with a correction. She claimed was no communication after that, despite emails asking if anything had been filed.

LLL. On September 21, 2019, Ms. Tuten called respondent’s office 15 times. Respondent informed her the signed petition was never received in his office. He then emailed her the final petition which she signed and emailed back.

MMM. The petition was filed on October 1, 2019. Tuten alleged that respondent led her to believe the matter would be completed by January 2020.

NNN. After hearing nothing from respondent, Tuten contacted the clerk of court and learned that some of the necessary paperwork had not been filed and that respondent was suspended. On November 21, 2019 the Florida Supreme Court suspended respondent effective December 23, 2019.

OOO. By reason of the foregoing, respondent has violated the following Rules Regulating The Florida Bar: 4-1.3 Diligence; 4-1.4 Communication; 4-1.5 Fees and Costs; 4-1.16(a)(1) Declining or Terminating Representation; 4-1.16(d) Protection of Client's Interest; and 4-3.2 Expediting Litigation.

COUNT XI – TFB FILE NO. 2020-00,357(2B) – CAROLYN MCLEOD

PPP. Carolyn McLeod (“McLeod”) hired respondent in May 2019 to probate her husband’s estate. Respondent was paid a fee of \$3,000.00.

QQQ. Respondent explained to her that she did not inherit anything in her husband’s will but that she was entitled to the spouse’s elective share and, although the marital residence was solely in the husband’s name, she was entitled to a life estate in that residence. Respondent also told her the husband’s first wife’s name was on the deed and that, although she had died, no death certificate

had been filed. There were also issues surrounding disputes among her husband's children regarding certificates of deposit.

RRR. On June 12, 2019, Ms. McLeod was sent the Petition for Administration, which she signed on June 17, 2019. McLeod stated that per respondent's advice, she began paying outstanding bills and cleaning the home and grounds in preparation for sale. McLeod provided all receipts to respondent with the intention of being reimbursed from the estate. According to respondent, he spoke to one of McLeod's stepchildren on June 10 and July 15, 2019, regarding a dispute over CD's. He subsequently spoke to the bank's lawyer on August 2, 2019, regarding the same issue.

SSS. On October 11, 2019 Ms. McLeod informed respondent that the beneficiaries had agreed to sell the house and share equally in the proceeds. Ten days later Ms. McLeod informed respondent that one of the stepchildren had died. Respondent informed her that the decedent's sons would receive the decedent's share of the estate McLeod contacted respondent's office in November 2019 and was told the case should be finished in four months. On November 21, 2019 respondent was suspended from practice effective December 23, 2019.

TTT. McLeod called again in January 2020 and the phone was disconnected. After some investigation, McLeod learned of respondent's suspension.

UUU. McLeod hired another attorney, and the probate was filed in March 2020.

VVV. In his response to the complaint, Respondent claimed that McLeod signed the petition in June 2019, but he failed to explain why it was never filed.

WWW. By reason of the foregoing, respondent has violated the following Rules Regulating The Florida Bar: 4-1.3 Diligence; 4-1.4 Communication; 4-1.5 Fees and Costs; 4-1.16(a)(1) Declining or Terminating Representation; 4-1.16(d) Protection of Client's Interest; and 4-3.2 Expediting Litigation.

COUNT X – TFB FILE NO. 2020-00,368(2B) – WALTER C. ROGERS

XXX. Walter C. Rogers ("Rogers") consulted with respondent on January 2, 2019 regarding a complaint he previously filed against Betts Forestry and its owner Alan Betts and paid a fee of \$200.

Rogers subsequently hired respondent on January 10, 2019 and paid a fee of \$4,000.00 with credit for the \$200 consultation fee.

Respondent entered his appearance January 23, 2019.

YYY. On November 18, 2019 respondent and Rogers discussed the case by telephone and two days later respondent obtained a hearing date for February 11, 2020. Rogers stated that on November 25, 2019, he received a notice of hearing from the court for February 11, 2020. The day before the hearing, he called respondent's office, but the phone was disconnected. He then called the courthouse and learned that the respondent was suspended.

ZZZ. Respondent was suspended on November 21, 2019 effective December 23, 2019. On February 10, 2020, he contacted the Court to postpone the February 11, 2019 hearing due to his suspension. Opposing counsel agreed to the continuance. Respondent contacted Rogers via e-mail on March 5, 2020, to notify him of his suspension.

AAAA. On March 6, 2020, Rogers emailed opposing counsel asking about the possibility of a conditional judgment and he replied the same day, advising: "I offered a consent judgment to your prior attorney at the very beginning of this case." According to Rogers, respondent failed to advise him of this offer.

BBBB. By reason of the foregoing, respondent has violated the following Rules Regulating The Florida Bar: 4-1.3 Diligence; 4-1.4

Communication; 4-1.5 Fees and Costs; 4-1.16(a)(1) Declining or Terminating Representation; 4-1.16(d) Protection of Client's Interest; and 4-3.2 Expediting Litigation.

COUNT XI – TFB FILE NO. 2020-00,435(2B) – AMY LEWIS POWELL

CCCC. On August 15, 2019, Donald Butcher, Amy Lewis Powell's ("Powell") financial advisor, met with respondent about the probate of her mother's estate. On August 20, 2019, respondent met with Butcher, Ms. Powell, and her brother. On August 22, 2019 Ms. Powell dropped off the death certificate and a draft of the affidavit of heirs. She also paid a \$3,000.00 refundable retainer.

DDDD. Between September 17 and October 8, 2019, respondent prepared a final affidavit of heirs, a petition for full administration, and consulted with Mr. Butcher and Ms. Powell. On October 8, 2019, Mr. Butcher dropped off the real property deeds and Ms. Powell's signed Petition for Full Administration.

EEEE. Powell asserted that respondent failed to do anything and failed to respond to phone calls, emails, and texts.

FFFF. Although respondent did develop a Qualified Revocable Living Trust for Powell's mother, he failed to fund the trust.

GGGG. Respondent listed his communications with Powell and her mother's financial advisor. He stated that the signed petition was given to him on October 8, 2020, but he did not explain why it was never filed.

HHHH. On November 21, 2019 respondent was suspended from practice effective December 23, 2019. Respondent did not notify Powell of his suspension until February 18, 2020.

III. By reason of the foregoing, respondent has violated the following Rules Regulating The Florida Bar: 4-1.3 Diligence; 4-1.4 Communication; 4-1.5 Fees and Costs; 4-1.16(a)(1) Declining or Terminating Representation; 4-1.16(d) Protection of Client's Interest; and 4-3.2 Expediting Litigation.

**COUNT XII – TFB FILE NO. 2020-00,451(2B) – MARISA
VANLANDINGHAM**

JJJJ. Marisa VanLandingham ("VanLandingham") hired respondent in September 2019 and paid a fee of \$3,000.00 for him to probate her husband's estate and related issues. They initially met on September 4, 2019. According to respondent, the following thereafter occurred: (1) On September 11th respondent drafted the affidavit of heirs and a petition for administration. During that timeframe he reviewed insurance, corporation, and real estate documents; (2)

Revised petitions based on additional information were provided to Ms. VanLandingham on September 17, 24, and 26; (3) On October 8, 2019 respondent filed the petition for administration and deposited the will with the Clerk's office; (4) On October 14th he met with Ms. VanLandingham and the next day he filed her personal representative oath; (5) On October 23rd, respondent drafted the Checklist, the order admitting the will and the letters of administration and on October 25th he recorded the death certificate and filed the Checklist; (6) On October 30, 2019 Judge Frank signed the Letters of Administration and the Order Appointing Personal Representative; and (7) Respondent and Ms. VanLandingham exchanged emails on October 28, 30, and November 12 and 14, 2019.

KKKK. VanLandingham alleged that after the initial paperwork was filed in October 2019, there was no further communication from respondent despite repeated attempts to contact him.

LLLL. Respondent was suspended from practice on November 19, 2019 effective December 23, 2019. VanLandingham learned of respondent's suspension from the newspaper in or around Feb./Mar. 2020. She was subsequently able to retrieve her file.

MMMM. By reason of the foregoing, respondent has violated the following Rules Regulating The Florida Bar: 4-1.3 Diligence; 4-1.4 Communication; 4-1.5 Fees and Costs; 4-1.16(a)(1) Declining or Terminating Representation; and 4-1.16(d) Protection of Client's Interest.

COUNT XIII – TFB FILE NO. 2021-00,018(2B) – DONALD BUTCHER

NNNN. Donald Butcher (“Butcher”) hired respondent to assist with the purchase of a financial planning practice. Respondent was paid an initial fee of \$1,000.00.

OOOO. Butcher asserted that respondent was hired to create a confidentiality and non-disclosure agreement between Butcher and the seller of the other practice.

PPPP. After several weeks, respondent presented Butcher with a template. Butcher alleged that the documents were not specific to his business or individuals involved in the transaction.

QQQQ. With this step of the process still pending, and with the scope of work to include more comprehensive support in the acquisition, respondent requested, and Butcher paid, an additional payment of \$3,000.00.

RRRR. According to Butcher, after receipt of the \$3,000.00, respondent became unresponsive, and the work was never completed.

SSSS. By reason of the foregoing, respondent has violated the following Rules Regulating The Florida Bar: 4-1.3 Diligence; 4-1.4 Communication; and 4-1.5 Fees and Costs.

The Florida Bar has approved this proposed plea in the manner required by Rule 3-7.9.

If this plea is not finally approved by the referee and the Supreme Court of Florida, then it shall be of no effect and may not be used by the parties in any way.

If this plea is approved, then respondent agrees to pay all reasonable costs associated with this case pursuant to Rule 3-7.6(q) in the amount of \$2,516.09. 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 shall pay interest on any unpaid costs at the statutory rate. Respondent further agrees not to attempt to discharge the obligation for payment of the Bar's costs in any future proceedings, including but not limited to, a petition for bankruptcy.

Respondent shall be deemed delinquent and ineligible to practice law

pursuant to Rule 1-3.6 if the cost judgment is not satisfied within 30 days of the final Court Order, unless deferred by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar.

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 also evidence of good faith and fiscal responsibility. Respondent understands that failure to pay the costs of this proceeding or restitution, may reflect adversely on any reinstatement proceedings or any other bar disciplinary matter in which respondent is involved.

7. If this plea is approved, and restitution is owed, if the person to whom restitution is owed cannot be located after a diligent search, respondent shall execute an affidavit of diligent search and provide same to The Florida Bar and shall pay the full amount of the restitution to the Clients' Security Fund of The Florida Bar within 30 days of the date of the affidavit of diligent search.

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

Dated this 26th day of October, 2021.



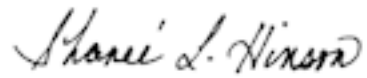
Sten Thield Sliger, Respondent
Florida Bar No. 9660
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(850) 222-6550

Dated this 26th day of October, 2021.



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Dated this 26th day of October, 2021.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shaneé L. Hinson".

Shaneé L. Hinson, Bar Counsel
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