

SUPREME COURT DISCIPLINES 24 ATTORNEYS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Summaries of orders issued June 6 – July 10, 2014

The Florida Bar, the state's guardian for the integrity of the legal profession, announces that the Florida Supreme Court in recent court orders disciplined 24 attorneys; disbarred four, revoking the licenses of three, suspending 16 and publicly reprimanding one. Two attorneys received more than one form of discipline. Two were placed on probation and one was also ordered to pay restitution.

As an official arm of the Florida Supreme Court, The Florida Bar and its Department of Lawyer Regulation are charged with administering a statewide disciplinary system to enforce Supreme Court rules of professional conduct for the 98,000-plus lawyers admitted to practice law in Florida. Key discipline case files that are public record are posted to attorneys' individual online Florida Bar profiles. [To view discipline documents, follow these steps.](#) Additional information on the discipline system and how to file a complaint are available at www.floridabar.org/attorneydiscipline.

Court orders are not final until time expires to file a rehearing motion and, if filed, determined. The filing of such a motion does not alter the effective date of the discipline. Disbarred lawyers may not re-apply for admission for five years. They are required to go through an extensive process that rejects many who apply. It includes a rigorous background check and retaking the bar exam. Historically, less than 5 percent of disbarred lawyers seek readmission.

Russell Samuel Adler, 55 S.E. 2nd Ave., **Delray Beach**, **disbarred** effective immediately, following a June 19 court order. (Admitted to practice: 1986) In March, Adler was charged with and pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to violate the Federal Election Campaign Act and to defraud the United States, in violation of Title 18, U.S. Code, Section 371, a felony. (Case No. SC14-1026)

Bernard H. Butts Jr., 4801 S. University Drive, **Davie**. The Supreme Court granted Butts' request for a **disciplinary revocation**, effective 30 days from a June 19, court order, with leave to seek readmission after five years. (Admitted to practice: 1967) Disciplinary revocation is equivalent to disbarment. Butts had a Bar case and a civil case pending alleging that he failed to preserve and apply escrow funds connected to an investment venture. (Case No. SC14-132)

Richard A. Colegrove Jr., P.O. Box 726, **Sanford**, **suspended** for 91 days, effective 30 days from a July 8 court order. Further, Colegrove shall attend and successfully complete ethics school prior to petitioning for reinstatement. (Admitted to practice: 1988) Colegrove was found in contempt for failing to comply with the terms of a Feb. 4 suspension order. Specifically Colegrove did not submit a sworn affidavit listing the names and addresses of all

persons and entities that were furnished a copy of his suspension order. (Case No. SC14-831)

Hugh Adolphus Davis II, 9161 Silver Lake Drive, **Leesburg**, **suspended** for nine months, effective 30 days from a July 10 court order. (Admitted to practice: 1978) In three separate instances, Davis accepted money to represent clients and failed to adequately do so. He often failed to communicate, failed to timely handle one probate case and failed to take action in another. Two clients were forced to hire new counsel. (Case Nos. SC13-766 & SC13-1327)

Kathleen M.P. Davis, P.O. Box 542796, **Greenacres**, **disbarred** following a June 12 court order. (Admitted to practice: 1995) A default was entered against Davis in November 2011 due to her failure to file an answer to the Bar's allegations in a complaint. Two months later she failed to appear at the final hearing set by the referee. In 2007, Davis was retained and paid \$5,000 to handle a divorce. She never filed the divorce papers. (Case No. SC11-1817).

David Bradley Dohner, 2500 E. Hallandale Beach Blvd., **Hallandale**, **suspended** until further order, following a July 3 court order. (Admitted to practice: 1994) Dohner was found in contempt for failing to respond to official Bar inquiries regarding three separate cases. (Case No. SC14-658)

Obed Dorceus, 8 3rd St., **St. Augustine**, **suspended** for 60 days, effective 30 days from a July 10 court order. (Admitted to practice: 1994) Between September 2006 and December 2007, in his role as an agent for Attorneys' Title Insurance Fund, Dorceus failed to timely remit to the fund premiums totaling approximately \$7,135.18 that he had collected as a part of real estate closings. He also failed to adequately supervise his non-lawyer employee and failed to maintain the minimum required trust account records and follow trust accounting procedures. (Case No. SC13-2419)

Gayle Patricia Ellsworth, 5 Cedar Pond Drive, Apt. 7, **Warwick, R.I.**, **suspended** for three years effective immediately, following a July 9 court order. (Admitted to practice: 1985) Ellsworth was found in contempt for failing to comply with the terms of a November 21, 2013, suspension order. Specifically, Ellsworth did not submit a sworn affidavit listing the names and addresses of all persons and entities that were furnished a copy of her suspension order. (Case No. SC14-518)

Charles A. Esposito, 94 Fulton Place, **Palm Coast**, **suspended** for 30 days, effective 30 days from a June 6 court order. (Admitted to practice: 1992) In seven separate cases, Esposito was retained to represent clients and he failed to adequately communicate. He also failed to timely respond to Bar inquiries about his conduct and had trust account violations. Three clients had to sever their ties with him and hire new counsel. (Case No. SC13-2418)

Maria A. Fernandez, 401 W. Main St., Suite 1807, **Louisville, Ky.**, **suspended** for 30 days, effective June 24, following a June 13, court order. Upon reinstatement, Fernandez is further placed on **probation** for one year. (Admitted to practice: 1991) This is a reciprocal discipline action. Fernandez is also a member of the Kentucky Bar Association. A court of appeals found that Fernandez breached her fiduciary duty to an estate in several regards. She improperly served as executrix and attorney and her fees of \$175,000 were excessive.

She improperly based her fee on a percentage of the gross estate of the decedent, instead of the personal estate as required by statute. She also improperly billed the estate for handling the estates of two of the decedent's family members. (Case No. SC13-1520)

Ariel Manuel Friedler, 1560 Wilson Blvd., Suite 550, **Arlington, Va.**, **suspended** until further order, effective June 25, following a June 19, court order. (Admitted to practice: 2004) Friedler entered into a plea agreement in federal court, waiving indictment and pleading guilty to one count of conspiracy to access a protected computer without authorization. (Case No. SC14-1186)

Frances Grace Jaynal, 6251 Park Blvd. N., Suite 3, **Pinellas Park**, **suspended** until further order, effective 30 days from a June 6, emergency suspension order. (Admitted to practice: 2004) Jaynal was found in contempt by a grievance committee for failure to respond to official Bar inquiries. According to the June 6 court order, Jaynal appeared to be causing great public harm by misappropriating funds to be held in trust. (Case No. SC14-386)

Janice L. Jennings, P.O. Box 1013, **West Palm Beach**, **suspended** until further order, effective 30 days from a July 2, court order. (Admitted to practice: 1985) According to a petition for emergency suspension order, suspending Jennings' privilege to practice law is necessary for the protection of the public. The Florida Bar became aware of statements and conduct by Jennings which raised grave concerns about her mental state. (Case No. SC14-1218)

Ralph Ernest Lerner, 590 Madison Ave., Floor 21, **New York, N.Y.**, **suspended** for one year, effective July 3, following a June 27 court order. (Admitted to practice: 1975) This is a reciprocal discipline action. Lerner is also a member of the New York State Bar Association. A disciplinary committee found that over a 10-year period, Lerner had improperly charged 448 car service rides for himself and members of his immediate family to law firm clients. (Case No. SC14-356)

Beverley A. Linton-Davis, 5921 Hollywood Blvd., Suite A, **Hollywood**. The Florida Supreme Court granted Linton-Davis' request for **adisciplinary revocation**, effective immediately, following a June 26, court order, with leave to seek readmission after five years. (Admitted to practice: 1986) Disciplinary revocation is equivalent to disbarment. Among the disciplinary charges pending against Linton-Davis, she failed to disclose pending felony charges of mail fraud, to which she pleaded guilty, to The Florida Bar. (Case No. SC14-391)

Anthony Martin Livoti Jr., 721 N.E. 3rd Ave., **Fort Lauderdale**. The Florida Supreme Court granted Livoti's request for a **disciplinary revocation**, effective immediately, following a June 27, court order, with leave to seek readmission after five years. (Admitted to practice: 1974) Disciplinary revocation is equivalent to disbarment. Livoti had a disciplinary proceeding pending due to a 2013 felony conviction. (Case No. SC14-121)

Charles Denis Miner, 5120 Curry Ford Road, **Orlando**, **disbarred** effective immediately, following a July 10, 2014 court order. (Admitted to practice: 1979) Miner engaged in repeated violations of Bar rules regarding shortages in his trust account, which

subsequently led to his suspension on an emergency basis. (Case No. SC14-557)

David Karl Delano Osborne, 121 S. Orange Ave., Suite 1500, **Orlando**, **suspended** until further order, following a June 6, court order. (Admitted to practice: 2001) According to a petition for emergency suspension order, Osborne appeared to be causing great public harm by misappropriating trust funds. (Case No. SC14-1042)

Vana Renejuste, 3049 Cleveland Ave., Suite 140, **Fort Myers**, was **publicly reprimanded**, placed on **probation** for one year, required to attend ethics school, and ordered to pay **restitution** of \$2,500 to one client following a July 10 court order. (Admitted to practice: 2006) Renejuste failed to act with diligence in handling three separate cases and failed to properly communicate with her clients. In two of the matters, she improperly handled the cases due to her inexperience in the areas of law for which she was hired. She also collected and attempted to collect improper fees for using credit plans. (Case No. SC14-173)

Stuart Alan Rosenfeldt, 100 S.E. 3rd Ave., **Fort Lauderdale**, **disbarred** effective July 21, 2014, following a June 27, court order. (Admitted to practice: 1981) Rosenfeldt was charged by Information and pleaded guilty to Conspiracy, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371, a felony. (Case No. SC14-1088)

George Allen Routh, 1521 Finland Drive, **Spring Hill**, **suspended** for 91 days, effective July 21, following a July 10, court order. (Admitted to practice: 1961) Routh knowingly transferred marital assets to prevent his former wife or the courts from considering it as a marital asset in the dissolution of marriage proceeding. He failed to obey court orders directing him to pay spousal support. (SC13-922)

Robert L. Shear, 131 Bluff View Drive, Apt. 204, **Belleair Bluffs**, **suspended** for 18 months, following a July 10, court order. (Admitted to practice: 1977) A Bar audit found that Shear was not in compliance with Bar rules. He commingled earned fees with client money and his record-keeping for his trust account was completely inadequate. (Case Nos. SC13-1110, SC13-2292)

Adam Ira Skolnik, 1761 W. Hillsboro Blvd., Suite 201, **Deerfield Beach**, **suspended** for 15 days, effective Aug. 8, following a June 13, court order. Skolnik swore under oath that a statement was true, when in fact, he knew that it was not. (Admitted to practice: 2004) (Case No. SC12-2107)

Paul Bradford Woods, 1221 Brickell Ave., Floor 9, Suite 900, **Miami**, **suspended** for 91 days, effective 30 days from a June 25 court order. (Admitted to practice: 1981) Woods was found in contempt for failing to comply with the terms of a Dec. 5, 2013 suspension order. Specifically, Woods did not timely submit a sworn affidavit listing the names and addresses of all persons and entities that were furnished a copy of his suspension order or attend a required Practice and Professionalism Enhancement Program. (Case No. SC14-503)