Supreme Court of Florida

No. AOSC20-27

IN RE: COVID-19 EMERGENCY MEASURES RELATING TO THE RULES REGULATING THE FLORIDA BAR

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

WHEREAS because of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, the Governor of Florida has declared a state of emergency for the entire state, and the State Surgeon General and State Health Officer have declared a public health emergency exists in Florida; and

WHEREAS, in response to the ongoing public health emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and at the request of The Florida Bar, on March 20, 2020, the Court issued an emergency order in *In re COVID-19 Emergency Measures Relating to the Rules Regulating the Florida Bar*, No. SC20-392 (Fla. order filed March 20, 2020), temporarily suspending all time periods and deadlines in Chapter 3 (Rules of Discipline) and Chapter 10 (Rules Governing the Investigation and Prosecution of the Unlicensed Practice of Law) of the Rules Regulating the Florida Bar (Bar Rules) for all Bar discipline cases and for all unlicensed practice of law cases, respectively, and suspended the filing and

evaluation requirements for lawyer advertisements under Rule Regulating the Florida Bar 4-7.19 (Evaluation of Advertisements), until further order of the Court; and

WHEREAS, in the Court's opinion in *In re COVID-19 Emergency Measures Relating to the Rules Regulating the Florida Bar and Amendment to Rule Regulating the Florida Bar 1-12.1*, No. SC20-392 (April 9, 2020), the Court, on its own motion, amended Bar Rule 1-12.1 to add new subdivision (j) (Action by the Chief Justice), which recognizes that I, as Chief Justice, am authorized to institute mitigating measures that are necessary to respond to public health emergencies, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, that may impact The Florida Bar's and the various other Bar participants' ability to meet procedural requirements in the Bar Rules; and the Court also stated that the time periods, deadlines, and requirements suspended in the Court's March 20, 2020, order, will remain suspended until reinstated or otherwise modified by subsequent order issued by me, as Chief Justice; and

WHEREAS, it is now my intent, as Chief Justice, to: (1) reinstate all the time periods and deadlines in Chapters 3 and 10 of the Bar Rules that were suspended in the Court's March 20, 2020, order, except for the time periods and deadlines in Bar Rule 3-7.16 (Limitation on Time to Open Investigation) and (2)

extend the suspension of the rule 3-7.16 time periods and deadlines and the filing and evaluation requirements for lawyer advertisements under Bar Rule 4-7.19.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the article V, section 15 of the Florida Constitution and the authority conferred upon me by Rule Regulating the Florida Bar 1-12.1(j),

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The following time periods, deadlines, and requirements suspended in the Court's March 20, 2020, order shall remain suspended until May 29, 2020:

A. All time periods and deadlines in Bar Rule 3-7.16 (Limitation on Time to Open Investigation).

B. The filing and evaluation requirements for lawyer advertisements under Rule Regulating the Florida Bar 4-7.19 (Evaluation of Advertisements).

2. Any other time period or deadline in Chapters 3 or 10 of the Bar Rules suspended by the Court's March 20, 2020, order, other than those time periods or deadlines that remain suspended under paragraphs 1(A) of this order, is reinstated to its original time period or deadline. However, if the applicable time period or deadline elapsed during the term of the suspension or that time period or deadline will expire within 7 days after the date of this order, that time period or deadline is extended until April 24, 2020.

3. Additional orders extending or modifying these measures will be issued as warranted by changing circumstances during the public health emergency.

DONE AND ORDERED at Tallahassee, Florida, on Thursday, April 9, 2020.

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Chief Justice Charles T. Canady

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ATTEST:

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John A. Tomasino, Clerk of Court

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