

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA

THE FLORIDA BAR,

Complainant,

v.

RONALD W. HOROWITZ,

Respondent.

Supreme Court Case

No. SC-

TFB File No. 2017-30,791(07B)

CONDITIONAL GUILTY PLEA FOR CONSENT JUDGMENT

COMES NOW, the undersigned respondent, Ronald W. Horowitz, and files this 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 currently the subject of a Florida Bar disciplinary matter which has been assigned The Florida Bar File No. 2017-30,791(07B).
3. In The Florida Bar File No. 2017-30,791(07B), there has been a finding of probable cause by the grievance committee.
4. Respondent is acting freely and voluntarily in this disciplinary matter, and tenders this plea without fear or threat of coercion. Respondent is not represented in this matter.

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

A. Admonishment for minor misconduct to be administered by letter from the Grievance Committee Chair.

B. Respondent shall attend Professionalism Workshop within 6 months of the order of the Supreme Court of Florida for which continuing legal education credit will be given for participation after submission to the bar.

C. Payment of the bar's disciplinary costs.

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

A. In The Florida Bar File No. 2017-30,791(07B), respondent attended a continuing legal education seminar and had technological issues during the session. Respondent contacted an employee at complainant's company after being advised that the company had counsel. Respondent maintained that he did not know who counsel was for the company and that in representing himself and not a client in the matter, he could communicate directly with the company.

B. In January 2017, respondent advised the company representative that unless he received a refund for the seminar, he would institute a lawsuit against the company. Respondent said that he did not get a response or a refund. Respondent then filed suit in which he alleged that he paid \$500 for the

CLE seminar when he was unsure of the amount he paid due to his records being destroyed in a March 2015 house fire. Respondent did not amend the suit to correct the amount in dispute after being provided proof that the seminar payment amount was less.

7. The following Rules Regulating The Florida Bar provide the bases for the discipline imposed: 4-8.4(d) [Misconduct].

8. In mitigation, respondent has no prior disciplinary history [9.32(a)]; respondent has displayed a cooperative attitude toward the disciplinary proceedings [9.32(e)]; and he has a good character or reputation [9.32(g)]. In aggravation, respondent has substantial experience in the practice of law, admitted in 1985 [9.22(i)].

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

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

11. 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 \$1,250.00. 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

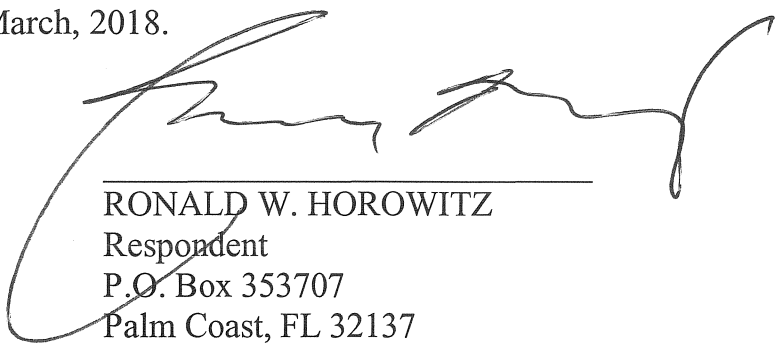
final, respondent shall pay interest on any unpaid costs at the statutory rate.

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.

12. 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 will reflect adversely on any other bar disciplinary matter in which respondent is involved.

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

Dated this 12 day of March, 2018.



RONALD W. HOROWITZ
Respondent
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386-283-4886
Florida Bar ID No. 464643
rhowitz@alliance.com

Dated this 12th day of March, 2018.



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