

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA
(Before a Referee)

THE FLORIDA BAR,

Complainant,

v.

**Supreme Court Case No.
SC19-1545**

CATHERINE ELIZABETH CZYZ,

Respondent.

Florida Bar File No.
2017-00,628(2A)

**REFEREE'S INTERIM REPORT AS TO GUILT
AND ORDER FOR SANCTION HEARING**

THIS CAUSE having come before the Referee for trial, and the Referee having reviewed the file, considered the all testimony and evidence received, and argument of the parties, and being otherwise fully advised hereby, the Referee hereby notifies the parties of the Referee's interim findings as to guilt that will be included in the Referee's final report¹ submitted to the Florida Supreme Court:

1. The Referee's final report will include the Referee's recommendation based upon findings from clear and convincing evidence presented at trial that Respondent, CATHERINE ELIZABETH CZYZ, be found guilty of violating the following Rules Regulating the Florida Bar:

- | | |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3-4.3 | Misconduct and Minor Conduct; |
| 4-1.1 | Competence; |
| 4-1.2 | Scope and Objective of Representation; |
| 4-1.5 | Fees and Costs for Legal Services: a) Illegal, Prohibited, or Clearly Excessive Fees and Costs; |
| 4-3.1 | Meritorious Claims and Contentions; |
| 4-3.4 | Fairness to Opposing Party and Counsel; |
| 4-8.4(c) | A lawyer shall not engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation; |
| 4-4.8(d) | A lawyer shall not engage in conduct in connection with the practice of law that is prejudicial to the administration of justice; |

¹ The Referee's final report will include findings of fact and additional analysis as to each alleged violation.

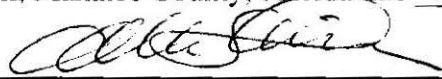
- 5-1.1(a)(1) Nature of Money or Property Entrusted to Attorney, Trust Account Required: commingling prohibited;
- 5-1.2(b) Trust Account Records' and
- 5-1.2(d) Minimum Trust Accounting Procedures.

2. The Referee's final report will include the Referee's recommendation that Respondent, CATHERINE ELIZABETH CZYZ, be found not guilty of violating the following Rules Regulating the Florida Bar, as these violations were not established by clear and convincing evidence:

- 4-1.3 Diligence;
- 4-3.5 Impartiality and Decorum of the Tribunal;

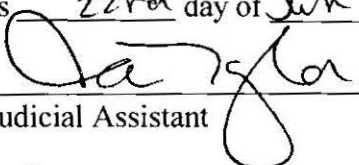
3. In light of the Referee's interim findings as to guilt, the Referee hereby orders that a sanction hearing be held; at such hearing the Referee shall consider all applicable aggravating and mitigating factors, relevant case law, and the Florida Standards for Imposing Lawyer Sanctions. The Standards for Imposing Lawyer Sanctions may be accessed at <http://www.floridabar.org> under the Lawyer Regulation tab, or in Florida Rules of Court.
4. The Referee's Judicial Assistant will immediately contact the parties to schedule a sanction hearing; the Referee has determined that the sanction hearing should be scheduled for a minimum of one-half day. A request from either party for additional time will be considered by the Referee before an order scheduling the hearing is issued; any such request shall be made within five (5) business days of the date of this order.
5. To allow time to complete the sanction hearing, the Referee will file a motion with the Florida Supreme Court seeking additional time to file a final report.

DONE AND ORDERED in Bradenton, Manatee County, Florida this 22 day of JAN -, 20 21.



CHARLES SNIFFEN
Circuit Judge

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a copy of the foregoing has been furnished by email to the parties named in the attached service list this 22nd day of Jan, 20 21.



Judicial Assistant

Service List

Supreme Court Case
SC19-1545

The Florida Bar File
No. 2017-00,628(2A)

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