

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA

THE FLORIDA BAR,

Petitioner,

v.

STEPHEN MICHAEL JONES,

Respondent.

Supreme Court Case  
No. SC-

The Florida Bar File  
No. 2021-30,140 (9B) (OSC)

---

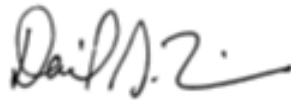
**PETITION FOR CONTEMPT AND ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE**

The Florida Bar, petitioner, pursuant to Rule 3-7.11(f), Rules Regulating The Florida Bar, files this Petition for Contempt and Order to Show Cause, and states:

1. A copy of the Grievance Committee Finding of Non-Compliance and Failure to Respond to Official Bar Inquiry and Contempt is attached to this Petition as **“Exhibit 1.”**
2. As of the date of the service of this Petition, respondent has failed to respond to an official bar inquiry.
3. The other members of The Florida Bar should not have to pay for respondent’s failure to respond to an official bar inquiry and the initiation of the instant proceeding. Therefore, the bar is requesting administrative costs of \$1,250.00 against respondent.

WHEREFORE, The Florida Bar requests that this Court suspend respondent pursuant to Rule 3-7.11(f), until such time as respondent fully responds in writing to the official bar inquiry detailed in “**Exhibit 1**” and until further order of this Court.


Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan J. Quinn". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

DANIEL JAMES QUINN  
Bar Counsel  
The Florida Bar  
1000 Legion Place, Suite 1625  
Orlando, Florida 32801  
(407) 425-5424  
Florida Bar No. 122435  
[dquinn@floridabar.org](mailto:dquinn@floridabar.org)  
[orlandooffice@floridabar.org](mailto:orlandooffice@floridabar.org)  
[kperaza@floridabar.org](mailto:kperaza@floridabar.org)

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that this document has been e-filed with The Honorable John A. Tomasino, Clerk of the Supreme Court of Florida, using the E-Filing Portal, and that a copy has been furnished by United States Mail via Certified Mail No. 9414 7266 9904 2965 0425 33, return receipt requested, to Stephen Michael Jones, Respondent, 390 North Orange Avenue, Suite 2300, Orlando, Florida 32801, and via email to [sjones@s-joneslaw.com](mailto:sjones@s-joneslaw.com); with a copy to Staff Counsel, The Florida Bar, 651 East Jefferson Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399, via email to [psavitz@floridabar.org](mailto:psavitz@floridabar.org); on this 24th day of September, 2020.



Daniel James Quinn, Bar Counsel

**NOTICE OF TRIAL COUNSEL AND DESIGNATION OF PRIMARY  
EMAIL ADDRESS**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the trial counsel in this matter is Daniel James Quinn, Bar Counsel, whose address, telephone number, and primary email address are The Florida Bar, 1000 Legion Place, Suite 1625, Orlando, Florida 32801, (407) 425-5424, and [dquinn@floridabar.org](mailto:dquinn@floridabar.org). Respondent need not address pleadings, correspondence, etc. in this matter to anyone other than trial counsel and to Staff Counsel, The Florida Bar, 651 East Jefferson Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399, via email to [psavitz@floridabar.org](mailto:psavitz@floridabar.org).

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA  
(Before a Grievance Committee)

THE FLORIDA BAR,  
  
Complainant,

The Florida Bar File  
No. 2020-30,563 (9B)

v.

STEPHEN MICHAEL JONES,  
  
Respondent.

\_\_\_\_\_/

**GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE FINDING OF NON-COMPLIANCE AND  
FAILURE TO RESPOND TO OFFICIAL BAR INQUIRY AND  
CONTEMPT**

On September 14, 2020, pursuant to Rule 3-7.11(f), Rules Regulating The Florida Bar, the Ninth Judicial Circuit Grievance Committee "B" considered whether to issue a Finding of Non-Compliance and Failure to Respond to Official Bar Inquiry and Finding of Contempt and made the following findings:

1. On February 27, 2020, The Florida Bar sent respondent a letter to his record bar address advising of a complaint in this case. The letter required that respondent provide a response by March 13, 2020.

2. Respondent failed to respond to The Florida Bar as requested in the letter of February 27, 2020.

3. On July 6, 2020, The Florida Bar sent respondent a letter to his record bar address, and via email to his designated email address, advising of the February

27, 2020 letter, and requiring that respondent provide a response by July 16, 2020.

4. Respondent failed to respond to The Florida Bar as requested in the letter of July 6, 2020.

5. On July 30, 2020, The Florida Bar's staff investigator sent an email to respondent's designated email address requesting that respondent contact him to discuss the pending complaint.

6. Respondent again failed to respond to The Florida Bar as requested.

7. In addition, the bar's staff investigator repeatedly attempted to contact respondent by phone without success. Respondent's bar designated phone number linked to a recording stating that the number was "temporarily unavailable."

8. The bar's staff investigator contacted respondent's landlord on July 30, 2020, and the landlord confirmed that he had been communicating with respondent on the same email address on file with the bar. The landlord had received an email from respondent about a plumbing leak on May 19, 2020. The landlord also provided a secondary phone number for respondent but calls to that phone number received a recording that the number was not accepting calls at this time.

9. Due to respondent's failure to respond, respondent was given notice that the Ninth Judicial Circuit Grievance Committee "B" would hold a hearing on the Request for Issuance of Notice of Non-Compliance and Finding of Contempt.

**A copy of the Notice of Hearing and the Request for Issuance of Notice of Non-Compliance and Finding of Contempt, with attached exhibits, is attached hereto as "Exhibit A."**

10. Respondent made no response to the Request for Issuance of Notice of Non-Compliance and Finding of Contempt.

11. On September 14, 2020, the Grievance Committee found that respondent failed to show good cause for failing to respond to the official bar inquiries and that the non-compliance was willful.

12. The Grievance Committee found respondent to be in contempt and requested The Florida Bar to file a Petition for Contempt and Order to Show Cause with the Supreme Court.

Dated this 15 day of September, 2020.

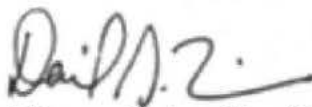
Ninth Judicial Circuit Grievance Committee "B"

  
Thomas Bert Feiter, Chair



**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify this document has been furnished Stephen Michael Jones, Respondent, 390 North Orange Avenue, Suite 2300, Orlando, Florida 32801, via email at [sjones@s-joneslaw.com](mailto:sjones@s-joneslaw.com); to Thomas Bert Feiter, Grievance Committee Chair, 120 East Robinson Street, Orlando, Florida 32801, via email at [tom@fighterlaw.com](mailto:tom@fighterlaw.com); to Julia Lauren Frey, Designated Reviewer, Post Office Box 2809, 215 North Eola Drive, Orlando, Florida 32801, via email at [julia.frey@lowndes-law.com](mailto:julia.frey@lowndes-law.com), [annette.lopez@lowndes-law.com](mailto:annette.lopez@lowndes-law.com); and to Staff Counsel, The Florida Bar, 651 East Jefferson Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399, via email at [psavitz@floridabar.org](mailto:psavitz@floridabar.org), on this 18th day of September, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel J. Quinn", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Daniel James Quinn, Bar Counsel

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA  
(Before a Grievance Committee)

THE FLORIDA BAR,  
  
Complainant,

The Florida Bar File  
No. 2020-30,563 (9B)

v.

STEPHEN MICHAEL JONES,  
  
Respondent.

---

**REQUEST FOR ISSUANCE OF NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANCE  
AND FINDING OF CONTEMPT**

Pursuant to Rule 3-7.11(f)(2), Rules Regulating The Florida Bar, the undersigned bar counsel requests that on **September 14, 2020**, the Ninth Judicial Circuit Grievance Committee "B," hear the issue of whether respondent shall be found in contempt for failure to respond to an official bar inquiry without good cause shown and states the following:

1. On February 27, 2020, The Florida Bar sent respondent a letter to his record bar address advising of a complaint in this case. The letter required that respondent provide a response by March 13, 2020. A copy of the letter, with attachments, is attached hereto as "Exhibit A."
2. Respondent failed to respond to The Florida Bar as requested in the letter of February 27, 2020.



3. On July 6, 2020, The Florida Bar sent respondent a letter to his record bar address, and via email to his designated email address, advising of the February 27, 2020 letter, and requiring that respondent provide a response by July 16, 2020. A copy of the letter is attached hereto as "Exhibit B."

4. Respondent failed to respond to The Florida Bar as requested in the letter of July 6, 2020.

5. On July 30, 2020, The Florida Bar's staff investigator sent an email to respondent's designated email address requesting that respondent contact him to discuss the pending complaint. A copy of the staff investigator's email is attached hereto as "Exhibit C."

6. Respondent again failed to respond to The Florida Bar as requested.

7. In addition, the bar's staff investigator repeatedly attempted to contact respondent by phone without success. Respondent's bar designated phone number linked to a recording stating that the number was "temporarily unavailable."

8. The bar's staff investigator contacted respondent's landlord on July 30, 2020 and the landlord confirmed that the landlord had been communicating with respondent on the same email address as the email address on file with the bar. The landlord had received an email from respondent about a plumbing leak on May 19, 2019. The landlord also provided a secondary phone number for respondent but calls to that phone number received a recording that the number was not accepting calls at this time.

9. As of the date of this Request for Issuance of Notice of Non-Compliance and Finding of Contempt, the respondent has willfully failed to respond to an official bar inquiry without good cause.

WHEREFORE, the undersigned bar counsel respectfully requests that this grievance committee issue its findings as to whether respondent has willfully failed to respond to an official bar inquiry and whether respondent should be held in contempt for failure to respond to an official bar inquiry.

Respectfully submitted,

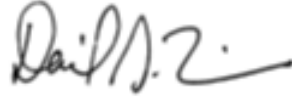


DANIEL JAMES QUINN  
Bar Counsel  
The Florida Bar  
1000 Legion Place, Suite 1625  
Orlando, Florida 32801  
(407) 425-5424  
Florida Bar No. 122435  
[dquinn@floridabar.org](mailto:dquinn@floridabar.org)  
[orlandooffice@floridabar.org](mailto:orlandooffice@floridabar.org)

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify this document has been furnished Stephen Michael Jones, Respondent, 390 North Orange Avenue, Suite 2300, Orlando, Florida 32801, via email at [sjones@s-joneslaw.com](mailto:sjones@s-joneslaw.com); to Thomas Bert Feiter, Grievance Committee Chair, 120 East Robinson Street, Orlando, Florida 32801, via email at [tom@fighterlaw.com](mailto:tom@fighterlaw.com); to Julia Lauren Frey, Designated Reviewer, Post Office Box 2809, 215 North Eola Drive, Orlando, Florida 32801, via email at [julia.frey@lowndes-law.com](mailto:julia.frey@lowndes-law.com), [annette.lopez@lowndes-law.com](mailto:annette.lopez@lowndes-law.com); and to Staff

Counsel, The Florida Bar, 651 East Jefferson Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399,  
via email at [psavitz@floridabar.org](mailto:psavitz@floridabar.org), on this 17th day of August, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D.J. Quinn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "D" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Daniel James Quinn, Bar Counsel



# The Florida Bar

651 East Jefferson Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2300

Joshua E. Doyle  
Executive Director

850/561-5600  
www.FLORIDABAR.org

February 27, 2020

Mr. Stephen Michael Jones  
390 N Orange Ave Ste 2300  
Orlando, FL 32801-1684

Re: Complaint by William J. Fleming against Stephen Michael Jones  
The Florida Bar File No. 2020-30,563 (9F)

Dear Mr. Jones:

Enclosed is a copy of an inquiry/complaint and any supporting documents submitted by the above referenced complainant(s). Your response to this complaint is required under the provisions of Rule 4-8.4(g), Rules of Professional Conduct of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar, and is due in our office by **March 13, 2020**. **Responses should not exceed 25 pages** and may refer to any additional documents or exhibits that are available on request. Failure to provide a written response to this complaint is in itself a violation of Rule 4-8.4(g). Please note that any correspondence must be sent through the U.S. mail; we cannot accept faxed material. **You are further required to furnish the complainant with a complete copy of your written response, including any documents submitted therewith.**

Pursuant to Rule 3-7.1(f), Rules of Discipline, you are further required to complete and return the enclosed Certificate of Disclosure form.

Finally, the filing of this complaint does not preclude communication between the attorney and the complainant(s). Please review the enclosed Notice for information on submitting your response.

Sincerely,

Charles Hughes, Bar Counsel  
Attorney Consumer Assistance Program  
ACAP Hotline 866-352-0707

Enclosures

cc: Mr. William J. Fleming

Exhibit A

Pursuant to Rule 3-7.1(f) of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar, you must execute the applicable section of this form and return it to my attention. The rule provides that the nature of the charges be described in the notice to your firm or you may attach a copy of the complaint.

**CERTIFICATE OF DISCLOSURE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, a true copy of the foregoing disclosure was furnished to \_\_\_\_\_, a member of my present law firm of \_\_\_\_\_, and, if different, to \_\_\_\_\_, a member of the law firm of \_\_\_\_\_, with which I was associated at the time of the act(s) giving rise to the complaint in The Florida Bar File No. 2020-30,563 (9F).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen Michael Jones

**CERTIFICATE OF DISCLOSURE**  
(Corporate/Government Employment)

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, a true copy of the foregoing disclosure was furnished to \_\_\_\_\_, my supervisor at \_\_\_\_\_ (name of agency), with which I was associated at the time of the act(s) giving rise to the complaint in The Florida Bar File No. 2020-30,563 (9F).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen Michael Jones

**CERTIFICATE OF NON-LAW FIRM AFFILIATION**  
(Sole Practitioner)

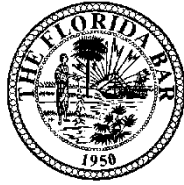
I HEREBY CERTIFY to The Florida Bar on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, that I am not presently affiliated with a law firm and was not affiliated with a law firm at the time of the act(s) giving rise to the complaint in The Florida Bar File No. 2020-30,563 (9F).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen Michael Jones

## **NOTICE OF GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

1. The enclosed letter is an official inquiry by bar counsel. Your response is required under Rule 4-8.4(g) of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar. Rule 4-8.4(g)(1) and (2) require that a lawyer submit a written response within 15 days to an initial inquiry and within 10 days to any follow-up inquiry made by bar counsel, the grievance committee or the board of governors during the course of an investigation of the lawyer's conduct. If you do not respond, the matter will be forwarded to the grievance committee for disposition in accordance with Rule 3-7.3. Failure to respond may also be a matter of contempt and processed in accordance with Rule 3-7.11(f).
2. Many inquiries considered first by staff counsel are not forwarded to a grievance committee, as they do not involve violations of the Rules of Professional Conduct justifying disciplinary action.
3. Pursuant to Rule 3-7.1, any reports, correspondence, papers, recordings and/or transcripts of hearings submitted by you in this matter shall become accessible to the public upon dismissal or a decision by the grievance committee. Please advise Bar Counsel if you believe any material provided to The Florida Bar is confidential under applicable law and identify the basis of your claim that the material is confidential. Please note that The Florida Bar is required to acknowledge the status of proceedings during the pendency of an investigation, if a specific inquiry is made and the matter is deemed to be in the public domain.
4. The grievance committee is the Bar's "grand jury." Proceedings before the grievance committee are non-adversarial in nature. The grievance committee's function and procedures are set forth in Rule 3-7.4.
5. If the grievance committee finds probable cause, formal adversarial proceedings before the Supreme Court of Florida will be initiated pursuant to Rule 3-7.6. A referee will make a recommendation as to guilt and discipline to The Supreme Court of Florida, unless a plea is submitted pursuant to Rule 3-7.9.

.



# The Florida Bar

651 East Jefferson Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2300

Joshua E. Doyle  
Executive Director

850/561-5600  
www.FLORIDABAR.org

February 27, 2020

Mr. William J. Fleming  
11410 South Camden Commons Drive  
Windermere, FL 34786

Re: Stephen Michael Jones; The Florida Bar File No. 2020-30,563 (9F)

Dear Mr. Fleming:

Enclosed is a copy of our letter to Mr. Jones which requires a response to your complaint.

Once you receive Mr. Jones's response, you have 10 days to file a rebuttal if you so desire. **If you decide to file a rebuttal, you must send a copy to Mr. Jones.** Rebuttals should not exceed 25 pages and may refer to any additional documents or exhibits that are available on request. Please address any and all correspondence to me. Please note that any correspondence must be sent through the U.S. mail; we cannot accept faxed material.

**It is important that you keep The Florida Bar informed of any changes to your contact information.**

Please be advised that as an arm of the Supreme Court of Florida, The Florida Bar can investigate allegations of misconduct against attorneys, and where appropriate, request that the attorney be disciplined. The Florida Bar cannot render legal advice nor can The Florida Bar represent individuals or intervene on their behalf in any civil or criminal matter.

Please review the enclosed Notice on mailing instructions for information on submitting your rebuttal.

Sincerely,

Charles Hughes, Bar Counsel  
Attorney Consumer Assistance Program  
ACAP Hotline 866-352-0707

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Stephen Michael Jones



## **NOTICE OF GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

1. The enclosed letter is an informal inquiry. Your response is required under the provisions of The Rules Regulating The Florida Bar 4 8.4(g), Rules of Professional Conduct. Failure to provide a written response to this complaint is in itself a violation of Rule 4 8.4(g). If you do not respond, the matter will be forwarded to the grievance committee for disposition in accordance with Rule 3-7.3 of the Rules of Discipline.
2. Many complaints considered first by staff counsel are not forwarded to a grievance committee, as they do not involve violations of the Rules of Professional Conduct justifying disciplinary action.
3. “Pursuant to Rule 3-7.1(a), Rules of Discipline, any response by you in these proceedings shall become part of the public record of this matter and thereby become accessible to the public upon the closure of the case by Bar counsel or upon a finding of no probable cause, probable cause, minor misconduct, or recommendation of diversion. Disclosure during the pendency of an investigation may be made only as to status if a specific inquiry concerning this case is made and if this matter is generally known to be in the public domain.”
4. The grievance committee is the Bar’s “grand jury.” Its function and procedure are set forth in Rule 3-7.4. Proceedings before the grievance committee, for the most part, are non-adversarial in nature. However, you should carefully review Chapter 3 of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar.
5. If the grievance committee finds probable cause, formal adversarial proceedings, which ordinarily lead to disposition by the Supreme Court of Florida, will be commenced under 3-7.6, unless a plea is submitted under Rule 3-7.9.



# The Florida Bar

1000 Legion Place, Suite 1625  
Orlando, Florida 32801  
(407) 425-5424

Joshua E. Doyle  
Executive Director

(850) 561-5600  
www.FLORIDABAR.org

July 6, 2020

VIA E-Mail to [sjones@s-joneslaw.com](mailto:sjones@s-joneslaw.com)

Stephen Michael Jones  
390 North Orange Avenue, Suite 2300  
Orlando, Florida 32801

Re: Complaint of William J. Fleming against Stephen Michael Jones  
The Florida Bar File No. 2020-30,563 (9B)

Dear Mr. Jones:

Enclosed you will find correspondence dated February 27, 2020, requiring a response. Please be advised that a written response is required pursuant to Rule 4-8.4(g) of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar, and a response has not been received.

If a response is not received by **July 16, 2020**, this matter will be forwarded to the grievance committee for further investigation.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Quinn  
Bar Counsel

Enclosure

cc via email: William J. Fleming, Complainant  
[bffleming568@gmail.com](mailto:bffleming568@gmail.com)

**Received** Thu 07/30/2020 2:04PM  
**From** Pennell, David  
**Subject** Complaint by William Fleming, TFB# 2020-30563(9B)  
**To** sjones@s-joneslaw.com  
**cc** Quinn, Daniel J; Peraza, Kelly  
**bcc**

Mr. Jones, please contact me at (352) 771-1102 to discuss the above referenced matter. We have not received your response to our letter of February 27, 2020 that was due March 13, 2020 or to our letter of July 6, 2020 that was due July 16, 2020.

Thanks,

Dave

**David A. Pennell, CFE**

Staff Investigator

Orlando Branch Office

THE FLORIDA BAR

1000 Legion Place, Suite 1625

Orlando, FL 32801-1050

(407) 515-3252

(888) 426-6615 FAX

dpennell@floridabar.org

**Due to COVID-19 concerns, The Florida Bar's Orlando Branch office remains temporarily closed. At this time, we request that you send us all communications via email. However, if you are unable to do so, please keep in mind that our mail is being forwarded to the Bar's Headquarters in Tallahassee. Additionally, if you need to use a common carrier (FedEx, other overnight delivery service, etc.), please use the following address: The Florida Bar, 651 E. Jefferson St., Tallahassee, FL 32399-2300.**



Please note: Florida has very broad public records laws. Many written communications to or from The Florida Bar regarding Bar business may be considered public records, which must be made available to anyone upon request. Your e-mail communications may therefore be subject to public disclosure.