

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA

THE FLORIDA BAR,

Complainant,

v.

CHRISTOPHER JOHN BONDANI,

Respondent.

Supreme Court Case
No. SC-

The Florida Bar File
Nos. 2018-30,257 (7B) and
2018-30,309 (07B)

CONDITIONAL GUILTY PLEA FOR CONSENT JUDGMENT

COMES NOW, the undersigned respondent, Christopher John Bondani, 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 two Florida Bar disciplinary matters which have been assigned The Florida Bar File Nos. 2018-30,257 (7B) and 2018-30,309 (07B). The Seventh Judicial Circuit Grievance Committee "B" has found probable cause in both matters.

3. Respondent is acting freely and voluntarily in this matter, and tenders this Plea without fear or threat of coercion. Respondent is represented by counsel in this matter.

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

A. Suspension from the practice of law for 10 days with automatic reinstatement at the end of the period of suspension as provided in R. Reg. Fla. Bar 3-5.1(e).

B. Upon automatic reinstatement to the practice of law, respondent shall be placed on a three-year period of supervised probation with the following conditions:

1) Respondent will participate actively in the program offered by Florida Lawyers Assistance, Inc., by signing a rehabilitation contract with that organization within thirty (30) days of the order of the Supreme Court of Florida accepting this Conditional Guilty Plea for Consent Judgment. Respondent shall follow all recommendations by Florida Lawyers Assistance, Inc., during the entire probation period.

2) Respondent will pay a Florida Lawyers Assistance, Inc., registration fee of \$250.00 and a probation monitoring fee of \$100.00 a month to The Florida Bar's headquarters office. All monthly monitoring fees must be remitted no later than the end of each respective month in which the monitoring fees are due. All fees must be paid to the Bar's headquarters office in Tallahassee. Failure to pay shall be deemed cause to revoke probation.

C. Payment of the discipline costs.

5. Respondent acknowledges that, unless waived or modified by the Court on motion of respondent, the court order will contain a provision that prohibits respondent from accepting new business from the date of the order or opinion and shall provide that the suspension is effective 30 days from the date of the order or opinion so that respondent may close out the practice of law and protect the interest of existing clients.

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. On October 12, 2017, respondent was arrested in St. Johns County, Florida on charges of driving while under the influence after being involved in a minor automobile accident. Respondent entered a no contest plea to the amended charge of reckless driving, a second-degree misdemeanor. On May 1, 2018, the trial court adjudicated respondent guilty and sentenced him to 364 days of probation with conditions of supervision.

B. On October 25, 2017, respondent was arrested in Duval County, Florida on charges of driving while under the influence after being involved in a minor automobile accident. Respondent entered a no contest plea to the charge of driving under the influence, a misdemeanor. The trial court adjudicated respondent guilty and sentenced him to twelve months of probation with conditions of supervision.

7. Wherefore, by reason of the foregoing, respondent has violated the following Rules Regulating The Florida Bar: 3-4.3 [Misconduct] and 4-8.4(b) [Misconduct].

8. In mitigation, respondent has no prior disciplinary history [Florida Standards for Imposing Lawyer Sanctions 9.32(a)], suffers from a physical or mental disability or impairment due to chemical dependency, alcoholism and co-occurring disorders [Florida Standards for Imposing Lawyer Sanctions 9.32(h)], and has undergone interim rehabilitation by completing an extensive 102 day course of treatment at an in-patient treatment facility, where he served as a mentor that other clients referred to in time of need and support. [Florida Standards for Imposing Lawyer Sanctions 9.32(j)]. Since his

release from the in-patient treatment facility, respondent has not tested positive for alcohol or drugs and has complied with all terms of his existing Florida Lawyers Assistance, Inc. treatment contract. Respondent now assists FLA in its goals by serving as a monitor for other individuals under FLA purview and leading a weekly Lawyer Support Group on FLA's behalf. Respondent has been an active member of the 12-step program of Alcoholics Anonymous, having obtained a sponsor and maintained 16 months of sobriety. In addition, respondent suffered the imposition of criminal penalties [Florida Standards for Imposing Lawyer Sanctions 9.32(k)]. In aggravation, respondent engaged in multiple offenses [9.22(d)]; and he has substantial experience in the practice of law, admitted in 2010 [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 \$1,377.70. 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. If this plea is approved, and restitution is owed, if the person to whom restitution is owed cannot be located after a diligent search, respondent shall execute an affidavit of diligent search and provide same to The Florida Bar and shall pay the full amount of the restitution to the Clients' Security Fund of The Florida Bar within 30 days of the date of the affidavit of diligent search.

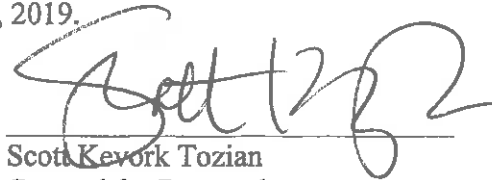
14. This Conditional Guilty Plea for Consent Judgment fully complies with all requirements of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar.

Dated this 20 day of February, 2019.



Christopher John Bondani
Respondent
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Dated this 25 day of FEB, 2019.



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Dated this 25th day of February, 2019.



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