

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA

THE FLORIDA BAR,

Complainant,

v.

SABRINA STARR SPRADLEY,

Respondent.

Supreme Court Case
No.

The Florida Bar File
Nos. 2017-50,729(15F),
2017-50,882(15F), 2017-50,932(15F)
and 2017-50,956(15F)

COMPLAINT

The Florida Bar, complainant, files this Complaint against Sabrina Starr Spradley, respondent, pursuant to the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar and alleges:

1. Respondent is, and at all times mentioned in the complaint was, a member of The Florida Bar, admitted on October 5, 2009 and is subject to the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of Florida.
2. Respondent's record bar address is in Palm Beach County, Florida, at all times material.
3. The Fifteenth Judicial Circuit Grievance Committee "F" found probable cause to file this Complaint pursuant to Rule 3-7.4, of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar, and this Complaint has been approved by the presiding member of that committee.

COUNT I

The Florida Bar File No. 2017-50,729(15F)

4. Respondent represented Sean Agerson in the case styled Agerson v. Ambort Case No. 17-DR-14994, in the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit in and for Brevard County, Florida.

5. On or about February 24, 2017, opposing counsel Taylor Hughes, Esq., filed a Motion to Quash.

6. On February 25, 2017, Respondent sent an e-mail to Hughes which states in pertinent part:

I just read your sham of a motion. Do you really want to waste my time and a Judge's or a General Magistrate's time with this motion?!

Did you realize that you stated that you are the attorney for the "husband"?! I will have a field day with that ALONE!

I am 39 years old. I have been licensed to practice law since 2009. I assure you, you will not enjoy being in the same courtroom with me. I have made men who were practicing law since before I was born wish they had not underestimated me.

7. On February 27, 2017, Respondent sent a second email, which states in pertinent part:

...If I were you, I would STOP WAISTING [sic] MY CLIENTS MONEY, and MORE IMPORTANTLY MY TIME, AND TRY filing say a real Answer or would that be too difficult for you?

Do you STILL INSIST ON WAISTING [sic] MY TIME, my client's time, and a Judge or General Magistrate's time by actually having this sham of a motion heard?!!! If so, I guarantee you a couple of things. I will thoroughly enjoy EVERY SECOND OF THAT HEARING! You will pray that you never hava [sic] to appear before that Judge or General Magistrate EVER AGAIN. Your client will wish that she were able to afford to hire my [sic] rather than you. Do I need to elaborate further? Let me just elaborate a tad more. How long have you been licensed to practice law? Was your father a FAMOUS WORLD RENOWN INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ATTORNEY? Were you bom [sic] with this man's passion to practice law running through your veins? Should I provide you with his name so that you can quiver just a little or are you smart enough to figure it out on your own? He died before the Internet was really even invented. Was your life path to become an excellent engineer and then practice law alongside said famous attorney? Did you receive 7 4.0s while obtaining a Bachelors of Science in Industrial and Systems Engineering at Georgia Tech, the number one school in the nation for said major for nearly 30 years in a row. Did you graduate 6th in your law school class with very little effort while effectively functioning as an associate regulatory attorney for a Fortune 500 Company during the day? Did you only take 2 weeks off of your career to study for the Florida Bar and pass it even though nearly 40% of those taking the Florida Bar that year failed the Bar Exam?

Think VERY CAREFULLY BEFORE responding to me and govern yourself accordingly.

8. Respondent's emails dated February 25, 2017 and February 27, 2017 were prejudicial to the administration of justice, unprofessional, threatening, and designed to embarrass, burden, disparage, humiliate and harass opposing counsel.

9. By the conduct set forth above, Respondent violated R. Regulating Fla. Bar: 3-4.2 [Violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct as adopted by the

rules governing The Florida Bar is a cause for discipline.]; 4-4.4(a) [In representing a client, a lawyer may not use means that have no substantial purpose other than to embarrass, delay, or burden a third person or knowingly use methods of obtaining evidence that violate the legal rights of such a person.]; 4-8.4(a) [A lawyer shall not violate or attempt to violate the Rules of Professional Conduct, knowingly assist or induce another to do so, or do so through the acts of another.]; and 4-8.4(d) [A lawyer shall not engage in conduct in connection with the practice of law that is prejudicial to the administration of justice, including to knowingly, or through callous indifference, disparage, humiliate, or discriminate against litigants, jurors, witnesses, court personnel, or other lawyers on any basis, including, but not limited to, on account of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, national origin, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, age, socioeconomic status, employment, or physical characteristic.].

COUNT II

The Florida Bar File No. 2017-50,882(15F)

10. Respondent represented Alexander Stabilito in the case styled Harvey v. Stabilito, Case No. 2016-DR-047650 in the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit in and for Brevard County, Florida.

11. In or about February 2017, after withdrawing from the representation, Respondent filed a Motion for Charging Lien in the matter.

12. In an order dated May 5, 2017, Judge Christina Serrano denied Respondent's charging lien.

13. After receiving a copy of the Order, Respondent sent an email dated May 18, 2017 to Judge Serrano's judicial assistant.

14. Such email stated in pertinent part

Please let your boss know that I will be reporting her unfair and biased treatment of me and her ABSURD AND MERITLESS ORDER TO EVERY SINGLE POSSIBLE AUTHORITY IN FLORIDA!!!!!!!!!!!!!! SHE ADMITTED THAT SHE LITERALLY KNEW NOTHING ABOUT ATTORNEY'S CHARGING LIENS!!! IF I HAD A JUDGE WHO HAD ACTUALLY PRACTICED FAMILY LAW AND WAS AT LEAST SOMEWHAT COMPETENT MY LIEN WOULD [sic] HAVE BEEN GRANTED!!!! SHE LET ALEXANDER SCREAM AT ME AND VERBALLY ABUSE ME. HE EVEN STOOD UP AND ALMOST LUNGED ACROSS THE TABLE AT ME!!! YOUR JUDGE DID NOTHING!!!! I HOPE THAT THERE IS A RECORDING OF THIS SHAM OF A HEARING!!!! YOUR BOSS LET A BABY KILLER AND MULTIPLE TIME CRIMINAL STEAL \$6,000 FROM ME!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I WILL GET EVERY SINGLE NEWS STATION INVOLVED!!!! I WILL PAY \$20,000 TO AIR THREE MINUTE ADS ABOUT HOW SHE SHOULD HAVE NEVER BEEN ALLOWED TO HOLD SUCH AN HONORABLE POSITION AS JUDGE!!!! AND GUESS WHAT?!!! THAT BABY KILLER ALEX BLOCKED MY PHONE NUMBER AND MY PARALEGAL'D [sic] PHONE NUMBER !!!!!!! HE WILL NEVER PAY ME AND IT IS ALL CHRISTINA SERRANO'S FAULT!!!!

15. Respondent made the aforesaid statements in the e-mail, which concerned the qualifications or integrity of Judge Serrano. Respondent knew the statements to be false or made the statements with reckless disregard as to their truth or falsity.

16. Respondent's statements were prejudicial to the administration of justice, unprofessional, threatening, and designed to embarrass, burden, disparage, humiliate and harass Judge Serrano.

17. By the conduct set forth above, Respondent violated R. Regulating Fla. Bar: 3-4.2 [Violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct as adopted by the rules governing The Florida Bar is a cause for discipline.]; 3-4.3 [The standards of professional conduct required of members of the bar are not limited to the observance of rules and avoidance of prohibited acts, and the enumeration of certain categories of misconduct as constituting grounds for discipline are not all-inclusive nor is the failure to specify any particular act of misconduct be construed as tolerance of the act of misconduct. The commission by a lawyer of any act that is unlawful or contrary to honesty and justice may constitute a cause for discipline whether the act is committed in the course of the lawyer's relations as a lawyer or otherwise, whether committed within Florida or outside the state of Florida, and whether the act is a felony or a misdemeanor.]; 4-8.2(a) [A lawyer shall not make a statement that the lawyer knows to be false or with reckless disregard as to its truth

or falsity concerning the qualifications or integrity of a judge, mediator, arbitrator, adjudicatory officer, public legal officer, juror or member of the venire, or candidate for election or appointment to judicial or legal office.]; 4-8.4(a) [A lawyer shall not violate or attempt to violate the Rules of Professional Conduct, knowingly assist or induce another to do so, or do so through the acts of another.]; and 4-8.4(d) [A lawyer shall not engage in conduct in connection with the practice of law that is prejudicial to the administration of justice, including to knowingly, or through callous indifference, disparage, humiliate, or discriminate against litigants, jurors, witnesses, court personnel, or other lawyers on any basis, including, but not limited to, on account of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, national origin, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, age, socioeconomic status, employment, or physical characteristic.].

COUNT III

The Florida Bar File No. 2017-50,932(15F)

18. James A. Goins retained Respondent for legal representation in or about February 2017.

19. Goins paid Respondent \$1,500.00 for the representation.

20. After accepting the case and her fee, Respondent took little or no action in the matter.

21. Goins made numerous attempts to contact Respondent to ascertain the status of his case.

22. Respondent failed to properly communicate with Goins and failed to keep him updated as to the status of his case.

23. Further, Respondent has failed and refused to refund any of the fee paid to her by Goins.

24. The fee paid by Goins to Respondent was clearly excessive due to Respondent's taking little or no action in the matter for which she was retained by Goins.

25. By the conduct set forth above, Respondent violated R. Regulating Fla. Bar: 3-4.2 [Violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct as adopted by the rules governing The Florida Bar is a cause for discipline.]; 3-4.3 [The standards of professional conduct required of members of the bar are not limited to the observance of rules and avoidance of prohibited acts, and the enumeration of certain categories of misconduct as constituting grounds for discipline are not all-inclusive nor is the failure to specify any particular act of misconduct be construed as tolerance of the act of misconduct. The commission by a lawyer of any act that is unlawful or contrary to honesty and justice may constitute a cause for discipline whether the act is committed in the course of the lawyer's relations as a lawyer or otherwise, whether committed within Florida or outside the state of Florida, and

whether the act is a felony or a misdemeanor.]; 4-1.1 [A lawyer must provide competent representation to a client. Competent representation requires the legal knowledge, skill, thoroughness, and preparation reasonably necessary for the representation.]; 4-1.3[A lawyer shall act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client.]; 4-1.4(a) [A lawyer shall: (1) promptly inform the client of any decision or circumstance with respect to which the client's informed consent, as defined in terminology, is required by these rules; (2) reasonably consult with the client about the means by which the client's objectives are to be accomplished; (3) keep the client reasonably informed about the status of the matter; (4) promptly comply with reasonable requests for information; and (5) consult with the client about any relevant limitation on the lawyer's conduct when the lawyer knows or reasonably should know that the client expects assistance not permitted by the Rules of Professional Conduct or other law.]; 4-1.4(b) [A lawyer shall explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation.]; 4-1.5(a) [An attorney shall not enter into an agreement for, charge, or collect an illegal, prohibited, or clearly excessive fee or cost, or a fee generated by employment that was obtained through advertising or solicitation not in compliance with the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar.]; 4-8.4(a) [A lawyer shall not violate or attempt to violate the Rules of Professional Conduct, knowingly assist or induce another to do so, or do so

through the acts of another.]; and 4-8.4(d) [A lawyer shall not engage in conduct in connection with the practice of law that is prejudicial to the administration of justice, including to knowingly, or through callous indifference, disparage, humiliate, or discriminate against litigants, jurors, witnesses, court personnel, or other lawyers on any basis, including, but not limited to, on account of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, national origin, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, age, socioeconomic status, employment, or physical characteristic.].

COUNT IV

The Florida Bar File No. 2017-50,956(15F)

26. On or about January 21, 2017, Anka Freund and her husband hired respondent to represent them in an adoption matter.

27. Respondent accepted approximately \$1,700.00 in fees and \$406.00 in court costs.

28. After accepting the case and her fee, Respondent did not provide proper or diligent representation in the case.

29. Due to Respondent's improper representation, Freund claims a new attorney is necessary to properly complete the adoption matter.

30. Despite Freund's numerous attempts to contact her, Respondent failed to properly respond to Complainant's requests for information about the case.

31. Further, Respondent has failed to refund any unearned fees.

32. The fee paid by Freund to Respondent was clearly excessive due to Respondent's taking little or no action in the matter for which she was retained by Freund.

33. By the conduct set forth above, Respondent violated R. Regulating Fla. Bar: 3-4.2 [Violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct as adopted by the rules governing The Florida Bar is a cause for discipline.]; 3-4.3 [The standards of professional conduct required of members of the bar are not limited to the observance of rules and avoidance of prohibited acts, and the enumeration of certain categories of misconduct as constituting grounds for discipline are not all-inclusive nor is the failure to specify any particular act of misconduct be construed as tolerance of the act of misconduct. The commission by a lawyer of any act that is unlawful or contrary to honesty and justice may constitute a cause for discipline whether the act is committed in the course of the lawyer's relations as a lawyer or otherwise, whether committed within Florida or outside the state of Florida, and whether the act is a felony or a misdemeanor.]; 4-1.1 [A lawyer must provide competent representation to a client. Competent representation requires the legal knowledge, skill, thoroughness, and preparation reasonably necessary for the representation.]; 4-1.3[A lawyer shall act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client.]; 4-1.4(a) [A lawyer shall: (1) promptly inform

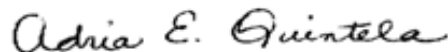
the client of any decision or circumstance with respect to which the client's informed consent, as defined in terminology, is required by these rules; (2) reasonably consult with the client about the means by which the client's objectives are to be accomplished; (3) keep the client reasonably informed about the status of the matter; (4) promptly comply with reasonable requests for information; and (5) consult with the client about any relevant limitation on the lawyer's conduct when the lawyer knows or reasonably should know that the client expects assistance not permitted by the Rules of Professional Conduct or other law.]; 4-1.4(b) [A lawyer shall explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation.]; 4-1.5(a) [An attorney shall not enter into an agreement for, charge, or collect an illegal, prohibited, or clearly excessive fee or cost, or a fee generated by employment that was obtained through advertising or solicitation not in compliance with the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar.]; 4-8.4(a) [A lawyer shall not violate or attempt to violate the Rules of Professional Conduct, knowingly assist or induce another to do so, or do so through the acts of another.]; and 4-8.4(d) [A lawyer shall not engage in conduct in connection with the practice of law that is prejudicial to the administration of justice, including to knowingly, or through callous indifference, disparage, humiliate, or discriminate against litigants, jurors, witnesses, court personnel, or other lawyers on any basis, including, but not limited to, on account of race,

ethnicity, gender, religion, national origin, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, age, socioeconomic status, employment, or physical characteristic.].

WHEREFORE, The Florida Bar prays respondent will be appropriately disciplined in accordance with the provisions of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar as amended.



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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that this Complaint has been e-filed with The Honorable John A. Tomasino, Clerk of the Supreme Court of Florida, using the e-filing portal, with a copy provided via email using the e-filing portal to Sabrina Starr Spradley, Respondent, at spradleylaw@att.net; and that a copy has been furnished by United States Mail via certified mail no. 7017 1450 0001 4287 4030, return receipt requested to Sabrina Starr Spradley, Respondent, whose record bar address is Spradley & Associates, P.A., 207 Tropic Isle Drive, Apt. 107, Delray Beach, FL 33483-4735 and via email to Michael David Soifer, Bar Counsel, at msoifer@floridabar.org and abowden@floridabar.org, on this 24th day of September, 2018.

Adria E. Quintela

DRIA E. QUINTELA
Staff Counsel

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

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the trial counsel in this matter is Michael David Soifer, Bar Counsel, whose address, telephone number and primary email address are The Florida Bar, Ft. Lauderdale Branch Office, Lake Shore Plaza II, 1300 Concord Terrace, Suite 130, Sunrise, Florida 33323, (954) 835-0233 and msoifer@floridabar.org and abowden@floridabar.org. Respondent need not address pleadings, correspondence, etc. in this matter to anyone other than trial counsel and to Adria E. Quintela, Staff Counsel, The Florida Bar, Lakeshore Plaza II, Suite 130, 1300 Concord Terrace, Sunrise, Florida 33323, aquintel@floridabar.org.

MANDATORY ANSWER NOTICE

RULE 3-7.6(h)(2), RULES OF DISCIPLINE, EFFECTIVE MAY 20, 2004,
PROVIDES THAT A RESPONDENT SHALL ANSWER A COMPLAINT.