

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2010-114

IN RE: **ALEXANDER OSONDU AKPODIETE**
Florida Bar #17728

FILED by KS D.C.

SEP 10 2010

STEVEN M. LARIMORE
CLERK U. S. DIST. CT.
S. D. of FLA. – MIAMI

ORDER OF SUSPENSION

The Supreme Court of Florida has suspended the above-named attorney from practicing law in Florida, following a July 10, 2008 order. *See The Florida Bar v. Akpodiete*, 988 So. 2d 623 (Fla.2008). That suspension was predicated on an uncontested report of the referee. The Clerk attempted to serve attorney Akpodiete by certified mail with an Order to Show Cause why this Court should not impose the same discipline, accompanied by the Supreme Court of Florida's Order of Suspension. Service at his court record address was returned "Not Deliverable as Addressed, Unable to Forward."

Rule 5(d) of the Rules Governing Attorney Discipline, Local Rules of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida, provides in pertinent part that after expiration of the time for submitting a response to an Order to Show Cause, "the Court may impose the identical discipline or may impose any other sanction the Court may deem appropriate." Even if service is contested, as not being signed by Akpodiete, Administrative Order 2005-38 imposes upon the members of this Bar an obligation to provide in writing updated contact information to the Clerk within five business days of any change, and orders that "the failure of counsel . . . to provide such information to the Clerk . . . shall not constitute grounds for relief from deadlines imposed by Rule or by the Court." This obligation to maintain current contact information is reiterated in the Court's CM/ECF Administrative Procedures Manual, section 3D, compliance with which is mandated by Local Rule

5.5. Given this background, pursuant to Rule 5(d), Administrative Order 2005-38, and the Court's inherent power to regulate membership in its bar for the protection of the public interest, *see Chambers v. NASCO, Inc.*, 501 U.S. 32, 43 (1991) (“[A] federal court has the power to control admission to its bar and to discipline attorneys who appear before it.”),

IT IS ORDERED that said attorney be suspended from practice in this Court, effective immediately. The Clerk of Court shall strike this attorney from the roll of attorneys eligible to practice in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida, and shall also immediately revoke the attorney's CM/ECF password.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED by this Court that said attorney advise the Clerk of Court of all pending cases before this Court in which he is counsel or co-counsel of record.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED by this Court that the Clerk of Court attempt to serve by certified mail a copy of this Order of Suspension upon the attorney at his court record address.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at Miami, Miami-Dade County, Florida, this 9th day of September, 2010.



FEDERICO A. MORENO
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

c: Honorable Joel F. Dubina, Chief Judge, Eleventh Circuit
All Miami Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals Judges
All Southern District Judges
All Southern District Magistrate Judges
United States Attorney
Circuit Executive
Federal Public Defender
Clerk of Court
Clerk of Court, 11th Circuit
National Lawyer Regulatory Data Bank
Florida Bar
Attorney Admissions Clerk
Library
Alexander Osondu Akpodiete