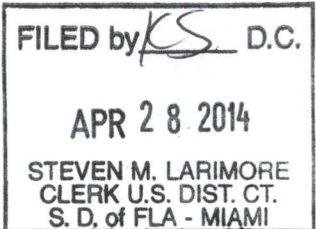


UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2014-33

**IN RE: DONNETTE SONYA RUSSELL-LOVE**  
**FLORIDA BAR# 351120**

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**ORDER OF SUSPENSION**

The Supreme Court of Florida has entered an Order of Suspension dated January 23, 2014, suspending Donnette Sonya Russell-Love from the practice of law for ninety-one days based upon her actions in the representation of a client in obtaining a visa. *See The Florida Bar v. Russell-Love*, No. SC12-223, 2014 WL 241916 (Fla. Jan. 23, 2014). That Order of Suspension was predicated on a report of the referee. The Clerk served attorney Russell-Love 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.

On April 5, 2014, Russell-Love filed a Response to Court's Order to Show Cause. In this response, Russell-Love opposes the imposition of identical discipline on the basis that there was an infirmity of proof establishing the misconduct that gave rise to the Order of Suspension by the Florida Supreme Court. Russell-Love specifically contends that because the instructions on completing form I-129 (one of two forms, form G-28 being the other; both submitted to obtain a P-1 visa) were not considered, it was error for the Court to make a determination on whether the forms were completed in a fraudulent manner.

Reciprocal discipline in this District is governed by Rule 5 of the Rules Governing Attorney Discipline, Local Rules of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida. Rule 5(e) establishes the applicable grounds in which to contend reciprocal discipline, which includes the defense that "there was such an infirmity of proof establishing misconduct as to

give rise to the clear conviction that this Court could not, consistent with its duty, accept as final the conclusion on that subject. . . .”

The record provides both testimonial and documentary evidence of misrepresentation on the forms accompanying the P-1 visa application. Russell-Love has admitted to and the documents implicate that she falsely listed the United States Tennis Association (“USTA”) as the “employer” on form I-129 and as the “Petitioner” on form G-28, where the USTA took neither of such positions; without authorization, she hand wrote the name of a USTA employee on the signature portion of form I-129 (confirming that the form is submitted under the authority of the USTA) and form G-28 (indicating that Russell-Love was appearing on behalf of the USTA); and signed both forms, asserting the veracity of the information provided, knowing that the forms contained false information. Notwithstanding a cover letter indicating the extent of her representation and the attachment of a letter from the USTA stating that the organization does not endorse Russell-Love’s client, there is sufficient evidence to support the Florida Supreme Court’s finding of misconduct. Even if the instructions on form I-129 were considered, it does not diminish those misrepresentations on form G-28 nor justify completing form I-129 in disregard of the truthfulness of the information provided.

Rule 5(d) provides in pertinent part that “[a]fter consideration of the response called for by the order [to show cause] . . . the Court may impose the identical discipline or may impose any other sanction the Court may deem appropriate.” Given this background, pursuant to Rule 5(d) 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 she 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 her court record address.

28<sup>th</sup> DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at Miami, Miami-Dade County, Florida, this day of April, 2014.

  
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FEDERICO A. MORENO  
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Copies furnished as follows:

c: Honorable Ed Carnes, 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, 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
National Lawyer Regulatory Data Bank  
Florida Bar  
Attorney Admissions Clerk  
Library  
Donnette Sonya Russell-Love