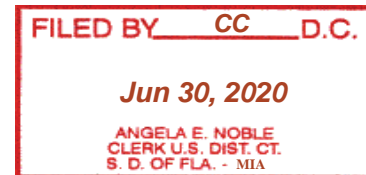


UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020-43  
CASE # 20-MC-22140

IN RE: RAFAEL ANGEL CASTRO, III  
FLORIDA BAR # 47015

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**ORDER OF DISBARMENT**

On May 21, 2020, the Supreme Court of Florida entered an Order of Disbarment, disbaring Rafael Angel Castro, III from the practice of law. *See The Florida Bar v. Castro*, No. SC18-1037, 2020 WL 2563701 (Fla. May 21, 2020) (ECF No. 1). The disbarment was predicated on a Report of Referee. The Florida Supreme Court approved the referee’s finding of fact and recommendations of guilt but disapproved the recommended eighteen-month suspension and instead imposed disbarment. The Clerk attempted to serve attorney Castro 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 Disbarment. (ECF No. 2). Service at Castro’s court record address was returned – “Return To Sender – Not Deliverable As Addressed – Unable to Forward.” Service at attorney’s Florida Bar address was signed with an illegible signature without notation as to “agent” or “addressee.”

Rule 8(a) of the Rules Governing the Admission, Practice, Peer Review, and Discipline of Attorneys, Local Rules of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida, requires that “[a]n attorney admitted to practice before this Court shall, upon being subjected to reprimand, discipline, suspension, or disbarment by a court of any state . . . promptly inform the Clerk of the Court of such action.” Rule 8(d) 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, Local Rule 11.1(g) imposes upon the members of this Bar an obligation to provide updated contact information to the Clerk within seven days of any change, and that “the failure to comply 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 5.1. Given this background, pursuant to Rule 8(a) and (d), Local Rule 11.1(g) 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 disbarred from practice in this Court, effective immediately. The attorney may not resume the practice of law before this Court until reinstated by order of this Court. *See* Rule 12(a). 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 Disbarment upon the attorney at his court record and Florida Bar addresses.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at Miami, Miami-Dade County, Florida, this 30th day of June, 2020.



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K. MICHAEL MOORE  
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Copies furnished as follows:  
See attached

c: All South Florida Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals Judges  
All Southern District Judges  
All Southern District Bankruptcy Judges  
All Southern District Magistrate Judges  
United States Attorney  
Circuit Executive  
Federal Public Defender  
Clerks of Court – District, Bankruptcy and 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
Florida Bar and National Lawyer Regulatory Data Bank  
Library  
Rafael Angel Castro, III