

IN RE: HEATHER AQUAFRESCA

NO. BD-2017-018

S.J.C. Order of Term Suspension entered by Justice Lowy on June 23, 2017.¹

SUMMARY²

The respondent, Heather Aquafresca, is an attorney duly admitted to the bar of the Commonwealth on June 23, 2008. She was administratively suspended from practice in Massachusetts on November 17, 2015, for nonpayment of registration fees.

The respondent was also admitted to practice in the State of Florida. On October 20, 2016, the Supreme Court of Florida suspended the respondent from practice for 91 days, effective immediately, for neglect of two matters. In those matters, one civil and one criminal, the respondent agreed to represent a client and accepted a fee, and then failed to take any action on the matter, failed to adequately communicate with the clients, and failed to refund the fees. The respondent also failed to cooperate with the Florida Bar's investigation and did not appear at the Florida disciplinary hearing.

The respondent then failed to comply with the terms of the October 2016 Florida suspension order. On March 8, 2017, the Supreme Court of Florida issued an order suspending the respondent for one year for contempt of the 2016 order; effective immediately.

On February 21, 2017, bar counsel filed a petition for reciprocal discipline, pursuant to S.J.C. Rule 4:01§ 16, and the October 2016 Order of the Supreme Court of Florida. On May 26, 2017, bar counsel filed an amended petition for reciprocal discipline, based on the Florida court's March 8, 2017 order.

On June 7, 2017, the Supreme Judicial Court issued an order of notice to respondent directing her to appear at a hearing on June 21, 2017. The order of notice was duly served on the respondent. The respondent did not file any response with the Court or appear at the June 21, 2017 hearing, of which she had been duly notified.

On June 23, 2017, the Court (Lowy, J.) entered an order suspending the respondent for one year, effective immediately upon entry of the order. The respondent's reinstatement in Massachusetts is conditioned on her reinstatement to the practice of law in the State of Florida and her compliance with the November 17, 2015 judgment of administrative suspension.

¹ The complete order of the Court is available by contacting the Clerk of the Supreme Judicial Court for Suffolk County.

² Compiled by the Board of Bar Overseers based on the record filed with the Supreme Judicial Court.