

Jan 17, 2023

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Bar Counsel

The Florida Bar

651 East Jefferson Street

Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Re: Reply to Response of Lee Dilly Wedekind III

The Florida Bar File No. 2023-00,229 (4A)

[REDACTED]

This is my reply to Mr. Wedekind's response to my complaint that he practiced law while suspended and ineligible to do so in the state of Florida.

Mr. Wedekind's response arguing that the Florida Bar should not consider or investigate his legal misconduct because it was reported by a member of the public is astounding.

In his response, Mr. Wedekind seems to imply that it is somehow inappropriate for a citizen and member of the general public to file a complaint with the Florida Bar reporting attorney misconduct. This argument in its entirety hangs upon the ridiculous and unsupportable contention that the very people the disciplinary rules are designed to protect cannot complain about attorney misconduct, only a lawyer can.

Surely Mr. Wedekind is familiar with the purpose of the Florida Bar and its obligations to the public, as shown on the homepage of the "Public" section of the Bar's website. I don't need to restate those public obligations here. But the rights afforded all citizens, if they believe a lawyer is engaged in legal misconduct or is violating the rules of the Bar, are very clear. In fact, the Bar's website announces specifically that The Bar protects the public by regulating lawyers and "investigating and prosecuting" people who practice law without a license.

Mr. Wedekind was not authorized or licensed to practice law in the state of Florida the entire time he was ineligible. I don't know the exact date he became ineligible, but it was sometime in the spring of 2022, and lasted until at least Dec 2, 2022 when I filed the complaint. The Bar knows the dates and what notifications Mr. Wedekind received and ignored as he continued to practice law full time.

The Bar makes it very clear to the public on their website that it is not only appropriate for a citizen to file a complaint reporting any issues of ethical and legal misconduct, but the Bar welcomes such complaints and has made specific provisions to facilitate their filling. *It is unbelievable that Mr. Wedekind would suggest otherwise and imply that he is above investigation and inquiry by the Florida Bar if the complaint is filed by a litigant who is a non-lawyer.*

Certainly, my status as a "non-lawyer" is immaterial to the allegation made in the complaint. My status as a litigant in cases involving Mr. Wedekind is immaterial as well. The Florida Bar's reasons for banning Mr. Wedekind from practicing law in the State of Florida in 2022 and declaring him ineligible are not my concern, nor my place to even question. But it is my right and duty as a citizen to report this violation.

My complaint, Florida Bar File No. 2023-00,229 (4A), is based on a **singular allegation**: *That Mr. Wedekind, while ineligible, violated his oath to uphold the integrity of the legal profession, and practiced law while he was not authorized or qualified to do so.* In addition, he apparently did that for an extended period of time, at least half the year of 2022. Engaging in such conduct is considered a serious matter and is stated to be a felony in the third degree, according to the Florida Statutes, Title XXXII, Chapter 454, 454.23; 454.31 (see attachment).

All I ask is that the Florida Bar stay true to its mission and purpose by continuing to conduct its own investigation and holding Mr. Wedekind accountable for his conduct.

Sincerely,

/s/ Charles S. Weems

ATTACHMENT TO:
January 17, 2023 letter Re: Reply to Response of Lee Dilly Wedekind III
The Florida Bar File No. 2023-00,229 (4A)

The 2022 Florida Statutes (including Special Session A)

[Title XXXII](#)
REGULATION OF PROFESSIONS AND
OCCUPATIONS

[Chapter 454](#)
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

[View Entire
Chapter](#)

TITLE XXXII

REGULATION OF PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS

CHAPTER 454 ATTORNEYS AT LAW

- 454.021 Attorneys; admission to practice law; Supreme Court to govern and regulate.
- 454.026 Authority of Department of Law Enforcement to accept fingerprints of, and exchange criminal history records with respect to, bar applicants.
- 454.11 Powers of attorneys.
- 454.17 Attorneys may administer oaths in open court.
- 454.18 Officers not allowed to practice.
- 454.19 Certain partnerships prohibited.
- 454.20 Attorneys not to be sureties.
- 454.23 Penalties.
- 454.31 Practice while disbarred or suspended prohibited.
- 454.32 Aiding or assisting disbarred or suspended attorney prohibited.

454.23 Penalties.—Any person not licensed or otherwise authorized to practice law in this state who practices law in this state or holds himself or herself out to the public as qualified to practice law in this state, or who willfully pretends to be, or willfully takes or uses any name, title, addition, or description implying that he or she is qualified, or recognized by law as qualified, to practice law in this state, commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084. History.—s. 21, ch. 10175, 1925; CGL 8133; s. 384, ch. 71-136; s. 1, ch. 74-128; s. 184, ch. 97-103; s. 1, ch. 2004-287.

454.31 Practice while disbarred or suspended prohibited.—Any person who has been knowingly disbarred and who has not been lawfully reinstated or is knowingly under suspension from the practice of law by any circuit court of the state or by the Supreme Court of the state who practices law in this state or holds himself or herself out as an attorney at law or qualified to practice law in this state commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

History.—s. 1, ch. 18006, 1937; CGL 1940 Supp. 8133(2); s. 385, ch. 71-136; s. 185, ch. 97-103; s. 2, ch. 2004-287.