

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA  
ORLANDO DIVISION

In re PAUL GERARD WERSANT, ESQ.,

Case No. 6:23-cv-1293-RBD-EJK

Respondent.

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**ORDER**

Before the Court is the Report and Recommendation of the Grievance Committee. ([Doc. 75](#) (“R&R”).)

Early in this case, the Court issued an Order to Show Cause to Plaintiff’s counsel, Respondent Paul Gerard Wersant, Esq., for failing to participate in preparing a joint case management report. ([Doc. 39](#) (“OSC”).) The day before his response was due, Respondent filed a “time-sensitive” motion for more time to gather evidence of opposing counsel’s wrongdoings. ([Doc. 41](#).) The Court granted this extension but explicitly warned Respondent not to blame opposing counsel for his own actions. ([Doc. 44](#).) After missing this new deadline and receiving yet another extension ([Doc. 46](#)), Respondent filed a combative response to the OSC in which he – against the Court’s instruction – blamed opposing counsel. ([Doc. 47](#).)

The Court then scheduled a Show Cause Hearing and ordered all counsel to appear in person. ([Doc. 48](#).) Respondent did not appear. ([Doc. 57](#).) Instead, he filed another “time-sensitive” motion for a continuance the day before the hearing claiming a conflict in Georgia state court ([Doc. 52](#)), misrepresented opposing

counsel's agreement to the continuance (Doc. 53; *see* Doc. 53-1, pp. 4-5), and filed yet another "time-sensitive" motion the morning of the hearing to appear telephonically (Doc. 56). So the Court sanctioned Respondent by ordering him to reimburse opposing counsel's travel and reasonable attorney's fees. (Doc. 59, p. 5.) The Court also referred this matter to the Grievance Committee for a recommendation concerning further sanctions. (*Id.* at 5-6.)

In a thorough and well-reasoned R&R, the Committee concluded that the totality of Respondent's misconduct showed a lack of diligence and professionalism and violated the Rules Regulating the Florida Bar. (Doc. 75, pp. 6-7.) So the Committee recommended suspending the Respondent from the Bar of the Middle District of Florida. (*Id.* at 10-11.) Though given the opportunity to respond to the Committee, Respondent did not do so. (*See id.* at 6.) So the Court finds that the R&R is due to be adopted in full with the thanks of the Court to the Committee for its diligent work.

Accordingly, it is **ORDERED AND ADJUDGED**:

1. The Committee's R&R (Doc. 75) is **ADOPTED AND CONFIRMED** and made a part of this Order in its entirety.
2. Based on the Committee's R&R, the Court **FINDS** that the behavior of Respondent Paul Gerard Wersant, Esq. violated Bar Rules 4-1.3, 4-3.2, 4-3.4, and Local Rule 3.01(g).

3. Respondent is **SUSPENDED** from the Bar of the Middle District of Florida for a period of six (6) months, effective thirty (30) days from the date of this Order, which time is intended to permit Respondent to address any existing caseload and to protect the interest of his clients during his suspension, and lasting until the reinstatement conditions set forth below are met.
4. Respondent is **PROHIBITED** from taking on new cases in the Middle District of Florida, effective as of the date of this Order and lasting until he is reinstated in the Bar of the Middle District of Florida pursuant to the reinstatement conditions set forth below.
5. The following reinstatement conditions are **SET**, which must be met before Respondent is permitted to petition the Bar of the Middle District of Florida for reinstatement:
  - a. During the period of suspension, the Respondent must:
    - i. Attend and complete the Florida Bar's Professionalism Workshop;
    - ii. Attend and complete the Florida Bar's Ethics School;
    - iii. Attend and complete all aspects of a Law Practice Management CLE;

- iv. Re-read the Florida Rules of Professional Conduct and the Local Rules of this Court in full and certify in writing to this Court that he has done so; and
  - v. Report to the Court the completion of subparagraphs (i)-(iv) of this paragraph on or before the last day of the suspension period.
6. If and when Respondent is reinstated to the Bar of the Middle District of Florida, Respondent is **ORDERED** to associate counsel from the Middle District of Florida in good standing as Lead Counsel for any new cases filed in the Middle District of Florida for a period of six (6) months following reinstatement.
7. The Clerk is **DIRECTED** to post a copy of this Order on the Middle District of Florida's website and forward a copy to the Florida Bar and to all judges in the Middle District of Florida..

**DONE AND ORDERED** in Chambers in Orlando, Florida, on July 17, 2024.

Copies:  
Nichole Mooney, Committee Chair



  
ROY B. DALTON, JR.  
United States District Judge