

Supreme Court of Florida

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2008

CASE NOS.: SC07-80 and SC07-354

Lower Tribunal No(s): 2005-

70,305(11F), 2005-71,125(11F), 2006-70,570(11F), 2006-70,766(11F), 2006-70,909(11F), 2007-30,805(11F)

THE FLORIDA BAR vs. JOHN BRUCE THOMPSON

Complainant(s)

Respondent(s)

WHEREAS, John Bruce Thompson currently has two Florida Bar disciplinary proceedings pending against him. Fla. Bar v. Thompson, Case No. SC07-80; Fla. Bar v. Thompson, Case No. SC07-354. By order dated April 12, 2007, after submitting inappropriate and pornographic materials to this Court, Mr. Thompson was specifically warned that should he continue to submit inappropriate filings, this Court may consider imposing a sanction limiting Mr. Thompson's ability to submit further filings without the signature of an attorney other than himself. Mr. Thompson has failed to heed the Court's warning, and we now pursue sanctions.

In these cases, Mr. Thompson has submitted over forty-six filings directly with this Court, all of which have either been forwarded to the referee, dismissed, or denied. Additionally, Mr. Thompson's most recent filings are repetitive, frivolous, and insult the integrity of the Court. Further, one of Mr. Thompson's recent filings contains what Mr. Thompson refers to as a "children's picture book for adults" that rehashes his previous arguments in illustrated form that he believes was necessary due to "the Court's inability to comprehend" his arguments. Between the text of the motion, Thompson has pasted images depicting swastikas, kangaroos in court, a reproduced dollar bill, cartoon squirrels, Paul Simon, Paul Newman, Ray Charles, a handprint with the word "SLAP!" written under it, Bar Governor Benedict P. Kuehne, a baby, Ed Bradley, Jack Nicholson, Justice Clarence Thomas, Julius Caesar, monkeys, a house of cards, and the motion concludes with the cover of Thompson's book, Out of Harm's Way.

The Court also notes that during the Bar's investigatory process, in Thompson v. Florida Bar, Case No. SC06-1113, Mr. Thompson filed a petition for writ of mandamus, one motion, thirteen notices of filing, six supplements to the petition (two of which were filed after the Court's disposition order), and a "response" to the Court's disposition order in that case. In Case No. SC06-1113, Mr. Thompson engaged, to the point of abuse, as he has done in the instant proceedings, in a relentless and frivolous pursuit for vindication on his claim that he is being victimized by The Florida Bar. Case No. SC06-1113 was dismissed for lack of jurisdiction in part, and denied in part.

Because Mr. Thompson has abused the processes of this Court with his numerous meritless filings, the Court finds that a limitation on his ability to submit any further filings in this Court may be necessary at this time in order to further the constitutional right of access of other litigants in that it would permit this Court to devote its finite resources to the consideration of legitimate claims filed by others. See In re McDonald, 489 U.S. 180, 184 (1989) (noting that "[e]very paper filed with the Clerk of this Court, no matter how repetitious or frivolous, requires some portion of the institution's limited resources"). On occasion, this Court has sanctioned individuals who have abused this Court's time and resources by filing multiple frivolous pro se petitions. See Sibley v. Florida Judicial Qualifications Comm'n, 31 Fla. L. Weekly S268 (Fla. April 27, 2006). In Sibley, After finding that an attorney had filed numerous meritless pro se filings related to his dissolution of marriage proceedings, the Court refused to accept any further filings from the attorney regarding his domestic disputes with his former wife unless signed by a member of The Florida Bar other than himself. In Jackson v. Fla. Dep't of Corrs., 790 So. 2d 398, 401 (Fla. 2001), the Court noted that such action did not violate the constitutional right of access to the courts:

While on the one hand, we would like to say that the courts should never limit a person's ability to access the courts, on the other hand, there are a handful of petitioners who have so abused the system that failure to restrain them could deny or delay the right of access to courts for the rest of the populace.

Id. at 401. Like the petitioner in Sibley, Mr. Thompson has abused the processes of this Court with his constant abusive filings. This Court is now forced to limit Mr. Thompson's ability to monopolize this Court's time. Accordingly, this Court hereby issues the following order to show cause:

TO: JOHN BRUCE THOMPSON

It appears to the Court that you have abused the legal system by submitting numerous frivolous and inappropriate filings in this Court. Therefore, it is ordered that you shall show cause on or before March 5, 2008, why this Court should not find that you have abused the legal system process and impose upon you a sanction for abusing the legal system, including, but not limited to directing the Clerk of this Court to reject for filing any future pleadings, petitions, motions, letters, documents, or other filings submitted to this Court by you unless signed by a member of The Florida Bar other than yourself.

LEWIS, C.J., and WELLS, ANSTEAD, PARIENTE, QUINCE, CANTERO,
and BELL, JJ., concur.

A True Copy
Test:

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Served:

HON. DAVA J. TUNIS, JUDGE
KENNETH LAWRENCE MARVIN
BARRY S. RICHARD
SHEILA MARIE TUMA
JOHN BRUCE THOMPSON