

**RULES REGULATING THE FLORIDA BAR**  
**CHAPTER 1 GENERAL**  
**INTRODUCTION**

The Supreme Court of Florida by these rules establishes the authority and responsibilities of The Florida Bar, an official arm of the court.

Amended July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252).

**1-1. NAME**

The name of the body regulated by these rules shall be THE FLORIDA BAR.

**1-2. PURPOSE**

The purpose of The Florida Bar shall be to inculcate in its members the principles of duty and service to the public, to improve the administration of justice, and to advance the science of jurisprudence.

**1-3. MEMBERSHIP**  
**RULE 1-3.1 COMPOSITION**

The membership of The Florida Bar shall be composed of all persons who are admitted by the Supreme Court of Florida to the practice of law in this state and who maintain their membership pursuant to these rules.

Amended March 30, 1989, effective March 31, 1989 (541 So.2d 110); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252).

**RULE 1-3.2 MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS**

**(a) Members in Good Standing.**

(1) Members of The Florida Bar in good standing means only those persons licensed to practice law in Florida who have paid annual membership fees for the current year and who are not

retired, resigned, revoked, disbarred, delinquent, on the inactive list for incapacity, or suspended.

(2) Members of The Florida Bar who have elected inactive status, who have paid annual membership fees for the current year, and who are not retired, resigned, revoked, disbarred, delinquent, suspended, or on the inactive list for incapacity, are considered to be in good standing only for purposes of obtaining a certificate of good standing and for no other purpose. A certificate of good standing issued to an inactive member will reflect the member's inactive status.

**(b) Inactive Members.** Inactive members of The Florida Bar means only those members who have properly elected to be classified as inactive in the manner elsewhere provided. A member may elect inactive status only if the member is currently in good standing.

Inactive members will:

- (1) pay annual membership fees as set forth in rule 1-7.3;
- (2) be exempt from continuing legal education requirements;
- (3) affirmatively represent their membership status as inactive members of The Florida Bar when any statement of Florida Bar membership is made;
- (4) not hold themselves out as being able to practice law in Florida or render advice on matters of Florida law unless certified as an emeritus lawyer under chapter 12 of these rules;
- (5) not hold any position that requires the person to be a licensed Florida lawyer;
- (6) not be eligible for certification under the Florida certification plan;
- (7) not vote in Florida Bar elections or be counted for purposes of apportionment of the board of governors;

(8) certify on election of inactive status that they will comply with all applicable restrictions and limitations imposed on inactive members of The Florida Bar, unless certified as an emeritus lawyer under chapter 12 of these rules.

Failure of an inactive member to comply with all these requirements is cause for disciplinary action.

An inactive member may, at any time, apply for reinstatement to active membership in good standing to become eligible to practice law in Florida in the manner provided in rule 1-3.7.

Amended Dec. 4, 1986 (498 So.2d 914); March 30, 1989, effective March 31, 1989 (541 So.2d 110); Nov. 29, 1990, effective Jan. 1, 1991 (570 So.2d 940); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252); July 17, 1997 (697 So.2d 115); Sept. 24, 1998, effective Oct. 1, 1998 (718 So.2d 1179); Feb. 8, 2001 (795 So.2d 1); April 25, 2002 (820 So.2d 210), amended November 9, 2017, effective February 1, 2018 (234 So. 3d 577); amended September 3, 2020 (301 So.3d 857); amended March 3, 2022, effective May 2, 2022 (SC20-1467); amended May 9, 2024, effective July 8, 2024 (SC2024-0030).

### **RULE 1-3.3 OFFICIAL BAR NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

**(a) Designation.** Each member of The Florida Bar must designate an official bar name, mailing address, business telephone number, and business e-mail address. The official bar name may not be a fictitious name. If the physical location or street address is not the principal place of employment, the member must also provide an address for the principal place of employment. The Florida Bar may excuse a bar member from the requirement of providing an e-mail address if the bar member has been excused by the court from e-service.

**(b) Notice of Admission to Other Jurisdictions.** Each member of The Florida Bar must notify The Florida Bar of all other states, including the District of Columbia, in which that member is licensed to practice law.

**(c) Practice Under Official Bar Name.** A member must practice only under the member's official bar name. This rule does

not prohibit a lawyer from using a law firm name that does not include the lawyer's official bar name in compliance with other Rules Regulating The Florida Bar.

**(d) Changes.** Each member must promptly notify the executive director of any changes in any information required by this rule. Members may change their official bar name only by sending a request to the Supreme Court of Florida. The court must approve all official bar name changes.

Amended Oct. 20, 1994 (644 So.2d 282). Amended April 12, 2012, effective July 1, 2012 (101 So.3d 807). Amended June 11, 2015, effective October 1, 2015 (167 So.3d 412); amended May 9, 2024, effective July 8, 2024 (SC2024-0030); amended July 3, 2024, effective July 8, 2024 (SC2024-0493).

### **RULE 1-3.4 CLER DELINQUENT MEMBERS AND CLER EXEMPT MEMBERS**

**(a) CLER Delinquent Members.** Any member who is suspended by reason of failure to complete continuing legal education requirements shall be deemed a delinquent member. A delinquent member shall not engage in the practice of law in this state and shall not be entitled to any privileges and benefits accorded to members of The Florida Bar in good standing. Any member suspended for failure to complete continuing legal education requirements may be reinstated as elsewhere provided in these rules.

**(b) CLER Exempt Members.** Any member who is exempt from continuing legal education requirements (see rule 6-10.3(c)) shall not engage in the practice of law in this state; provided, however, that a member exempt from continuing legal education requirements by reason of active military service may practice law in Florida if required to do so as a part of assigned military duties.

Amended Oct. 10, 1991, effective Jan. 1, 1992 (587 So.2d 1121); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252).

## **RULE 1-3.5 RETIREMENT**

**(a) Eligibility.** Any member of The Florida Bar may retire from The Florida Bar on petition or other written request to, and approval of, the executive director.

**(b) Practice of Law Prohibited.**

(1) A retired member must not practice law in this state unless reinstated to active membership in good standing by the executive director or unless certified as an emeritus lawyer under chapter 12 of these rules, but only for those activities permitted under chapter 12 of these rules.

(2) Retired members must affirmatively represent their retired status when any statement of Florida Bar membership is made, e.g., when in writing, Esquire (Ret.) or Member, Florida Bar (Ret.).

(3) Retired members must not hold themselves out as being able to practice law in Florida or render advice on matters of Florida law unless certified as an emeritus lawyer under chapter 12 of these rules.

**(c) Reinstatement.** To be reinstated to active membership in good standing, a retired member must:

(1) complete the reinstatement application;

(2) pay all membership fees, costs, or other amounts owed to The Florida Bar;

(3) complete all outstanding continuing legal education or basic skills course requirements as stated elsewhere in these rules; and

(4) be approved for reinstatement by the executive director.

**(d) Permanent Retirement.** A member who is approved to permanently retire is not eligible for reinstatement or readmission.

A retired member is entitled to receive other privileges as the board of governors authorizes.

**(e) Discipline.** A retired member remains subject to disciplinary action for acts committed before the effective date of retirement. Acts committed after retirement may be considered in evaluating the member's fitness for reinstatement to the practice of law in Florida as elsewhere stated in these rules.

**(f) Referral to Board of Governors.** If the executive director is in doubt as to disposition of a petition, the executive director may refer the petition to the board of governors for its action.

**(g) Review of Disposition.** Action of the executive director or board of governors denying a petition for retirement or reinstatement from retirement may be reviewed on petition to the Supreme Court of Florida.

Amended Oct. 10, 1991, effective Jan. 1, 1992 (587 So.2d 1121); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252); June 27, 1996, effective July 1, 1996 (677 So.2d 272); Sept. 24, 1998, effective Oct. 1, 1998 (718 So.2d 1179); Feb. 8, 2001 (795 So.2d 1); Oct. 6, 2005, effective Jan. 1, 2006 (916 So.2d 655); amended April 12, 2012, effective July 1, 2012 (101 So.3d 807); amended March 16, 2023, effective May 15, 2023 (SC22-1292).

### **RULE 1-3.6 DELINQUENT MEMBERS**

Any person licensed to practice law in Florida is deemed a delinquent member if the member fails to:

- (a)** pay membership fees;
- (b)** comply with continuing legal education or basic skills course requirements;
- (c)** pay the costs assessed in diversion or disciplinary cases within 30 days after the disciplinary decision or diversion recommendation becomes final, unless the time is extended by the board of governors for good cause shown;

(d) make restitution imposed in diversion cases or disciplinary proceedings within the time specified in the order in those cases or proceedings;

(e) pay fees imposed as part of diversion for more than 30 days after the diversion recommendation became final, unless the time is extended by the board of governors for good cause shown; or

(f) pay an award entered in fee arbitration proceedings conducted under the authority stated elsewhere in these rules and 30 days or more have elapsed since the date on which the award became final; or

(g) file the trust account certificate required in chapter 5 of these rules.

Delinquent members are not members of The Florida Bar in good standing and therefore are prohibited from engaging in the practice of law in Florida and are not entitled to any privileges and benefits accorded to members of The Florida Bar in good standing.

Amended Oct. 10, 1991, effective Jan. 1, 1992 (587 So.2d 1121); Sept. 24, 1998, effective Oct. 1, 1998 (718 So.2d 1179); May 20, 2004 (875 So.2d 448); Oct. 6, 2005, effective Jan. 1, 2006 (916 So.2d 655); Nov. 19, 2009, effective February 1, 2010 (24 So.3d 63); April 12, 2012, effective July 1, 2012 (101 So.3d 807); amended March 3, 2022, effective May 2, 2022 (SC20-1467).

### **RULE 1-3.7 REINSTATEMENT TO MEMBERSHIP**

**(a) Eligibility for Reinstatement.** Members who have retired or been delinquent for less than 5 years are eligible for reinstatement under this rule. Time will be calculated from the date of the retirement or delinquency.

Inactive members may also seek reinstatement under this rule.

**(b) Petitions Required.** A member seeking reinstatement must file a petition with the executive director setting forth the reason for inactive status, retirement, or delinquency and showing

good cause why the petition for reinstatement should be granted. The petitioner must include all required information on a form approved by the board of governors. The petition must be accompanied by a nonrefundable reinstatement fee of \$150 and payment of all arrearages unless adjusted by the executive director with concurrence of the executive committee for good cause shown. Inactive members are not required to pay the reinstatement fee. No member will be reinstated if, from the petition or from investigation conducted, the petitioner is not of good moral character and morally fit to practice law or if the member is delinquent with the continuing legal education or basic skills course requirements, except that the executive director has discretion to waive or extend the time period to complete continuing legal education or basic skills course requirements on a showing of undue hardship.

If the executive director is in doubt as to approval of a petition, the executive director may refer the petition to the board of governors for its action. Action of the executive director or board of governors denying a petition for reinstatement may be reviewed on petition to the Supreme Court of Florida.

**(c) Members Who Have Retired or Been Delinquent for Less Than 5 Years, But More Than 3 Years.** Members who have retired or been delinquent for less than 5 years, but more than 3 years, must complete 10 hours of continuing legal education courses for each year or portion of a year that the member had retired or was deemed delinquent.

**(d) Members Who Have Retired or Been Delinquent for 5 Years or More.** Members who have retired or have been deemed delinquent for 5 years or more will not be reinstated under this rule and must be readmitted upon application to the Florida Board of Bar Examiners and approval by the Supreme Court of Florida.

**(e) Members Who Have Permanently Retired.** Members who have permanently retired will not be reinstated under this rule.

**(f) Members Delinquent 60 Days or Less.** Any member reinstated from delinquency for payment of membership fees, trust account compliance certification, or completion of continuing legal



education or basic skills course requirements approved within 60 days from the date of delinquency is not considered in violation of these rules and is not subject to disciplinary sanction for practicing law in Florida during that time.

**(g) Inactive Members.** Inactive members may be reinstated to active membership in good standing and become eligible to practice law in Florida by petition filed with the executive director, in the form and as provided in (b) subject to the following conditions:

(1) If the member has been inactive for more than 5 years, has been authorized to practice law in another jurisdiction, and either actively practiced law in that jurisdiction or held a position that requires a license as a lawyer for the entire period of time, the member will be required to complete the Florida Law Update continuing legal education course as part of continuing legal education requirements.

(2) If the member has been inactive for more than 5 years and does not meet the requirements of subdivision (1), the member will be required to complete the basic skills course requirement and the 30-hour continuing legal education requirement.

(3) An inactive member is not eligible for reinstatement until all applicable continuing legal education requirements have been completed and the remaining portion of membership fees for members in good standing for the current fiscal year have been paid.

Amended March 30, 1989, effective March 31, 1989 (541 So.2d 110); Oct. 10, 1991, effective Jan. 1, 1992 (587 So.2d 1121); Nov. 14, 1991, effective Jan. 1, 1992 (593 So.2d 1035); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252); Sept. 24, 1998, effective Oct. 1, 1998 (718 So.2d 1179); Feb. 8, 2001 (795 So.2d 1); Nov. 19, 2009, effective February 1, 2010 (24 So.3d 63); April 12, 2012, effective July 1, 2012 (101 So.3d 80); May 29, 2014, effective June 1, 2014 (140 So.3d 541); June 11, 2015, effective October 1, 2015 (167 So.3d 412), November 9, 2017, effective February 1, 2018 (234 So.3d 632); Jan. 4, 2019, effective March 5, 2019 (267 So.3d 891); amended March 16, 2023, effective May 15, 2023 (SC22-1292); amended

February 29, 2024, effective January 8, 2024 (SC23-1412); amended May 9, 2024, effective July 8, 2024 (SC2024-0030).

### **RULE 1-3.8 RIGHT TO INVENTORY**

**(a) Appointment; Grounds; Authority.** Whenever a lawyer is suspended, disbarred, becomes a delinquent member, abandons a practice, disappears, dies, or suffers an involuntary leave of absence due to military service, catastrophic illness, or injury, and no partner, personal representative, or other responsible party capable of conducting the lawyer's affairs is known to exist, the appropriate circuit court, on proper proof of the fact, may appoint a lawyer or lawyers to inventory the files of that lawyer ("the subject lawyer") and to act as necessary to protect the interests of the subject lawyer's clients.

**(b) Maintenance of Confidentiality.** Any lawyer appointed to inventory a subject lawyer's files must not disclose any information contained in the inventoried files without the consent of the client to whom the files relate except as necessary to carry out the order of the court that appointed the lawyer to make the inventory. Lawyers appointed to inventory files may seek a protective order from the appropriate court or take other action necessary to protect confidential information of the subject lawyer's clients.

**(c) Status and Purpose of Inventory Lawyer.** Nothing in this rule creates the duties or obligations of a lawyer-client, fiduciary, or other relationship between a lawyer appointed to inventory a subject lawyer's files and the subject lawyer's clients except for those duties and obligations specifically set forth in this rule and those duties and obligations inherent in the specific tasks undertaken by the inventory lawyer. The purpose of appointing an inventory lawyer is to avoid prejudice to the subject lawyer's clients and, as a secondary result, prevent or reduce claims against the subject lawyer.

**(d) Designation of Inventory Lawyer.** Each member of the bar who practices law in Florida must designate another member of The Florida Bar who has agreed to serve as inventory lawyer under this rule except that no designation is required with respect to any

portion of the member's practice as an employee of a governmental entity. When the services of an inventory lawyer become necessary, an authorized representative of The Florida Bar will contact the designated member and determine the member's current willingness to serve. The designated member is not under any obligation to serve as inventory lawyer.

**(e) Payment of Inventory Lawyer.** The Florida Bar may pay a reasonable fee set by the bar's executive director as approved by the board of governors and within the bar's annual budget for that year to a lawyer who agrees to conduct an inventory under this rule. Payment by The Florida Bar to an inventory lawyer will be made only with prior approval by the bar, on an application approved by the bar, and under parameters set by the bar.

Amended July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252); July 17, 1997 (697 So.2d 115); Sept. 24, 1998, effective Oct. 1, 1998 (718 So.2d 1179); May 20, 2004 (875 So.2d 448); Oct. 6, 2005, effective Jan. 1, 2006 (916 So.2d 655); amended Nov. 19, 2009, effective February 1, 2010 (24 So.3d 63); amended March 3, 2022, effective May 2, 2022 (SC20-1467).

### **RULE 1-3.9 LAW FACULTY AFFILIATES**

Full-time faculty members in the employment of law schools in Florida approved by the American Bar Association who are admitted to practice and who are in good standing before a court of any state may become "law faculty affiliates" of The Florida Bar. Law faculty affiliates may participate in such activities of The Florida Bar as may be authorized by the board of governors, but shall not be entitled to engage in the practice of law, appear as attorneys before the courts of the state, or hold themselves out as possessing such entitlements.

No history provided as of 2009.

### **RULE 1-3.10 APPEARANCE BY NON-FLORIDA LAWYER IN A FLORIDA COURT**

**(a) Non-Florida Lawyer Appearing in a Florida Court.** A practicing lawyer of another state may be permitted to practice as

allowed by the Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration regarding foreign attorneys. That lawyer must also comply with this rule.

(1) *Application of Rules Regulating The Florida Bar.*

Lawyers permitted to appear by this rule are subject to these Rules Regulating The Florida Bar while engaged in the permitted representation.

(2) *General Practice Prohibited.* Non-Florida lawyers are not permitted to engage in a general practice before Florida courts. For purposes of this rule more than 3 appearances within a 365-day period in separate representations is presumed to be a “general practice.”

(3) *Effect of Professional Discipline or Contempt.* Non-Florida lawyers who have been disciplined or held in contempt or misconduct committed while engaged in representation that is permitted by this rule will afterwards be denied admission under this rule and the applicable provisions of the Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration.

**(b) Lawyer Prohibited From Appearing.** No lawyer is authorized to appear under this rule or the Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration if the lawyer is prohibited by or fails to comply with any requirement imposed by the Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration regarding foreign attorneys.

**(c) Content of Verified Motion for Leave to Appear.** Any motion filed under the Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration relating to foreign attorneys must comply with all requirements set forth in those rules.

**(d) Nonrefundable Fee.** The pro hac vice motion filed and served on The Florida Bar must be accompanied by a nonrefundable fee made payable to The Florida Bar. The lawyer granted pro hac vice admission before any court in Florida must pay an annual nonrefundable renewal fee each year after the initial filing for each year that lawyer is admitted pro hac vice before any court in Florida. The initial nonrefundable pro hac vice fee, the

annual nonrefundable renewal fee, and the date on which the annual renewal fee must be paid will be set by the bar's executive director as approved by the Board of Governors. The Florida Bar will provide the Florida Supreme Court with 30 days' notice prior to the effectiveness of any increase in the amount of a nonrefundable fee or of the imposition of any new fee.

### **Comment**

Subdivision (a)(2) defines and prohibits the general practice before Florida courts by non-Florida lawyers. For purposes of this rule, an "appearance" means the initial or first appearance by that non-Florida lawyer in a case pending in a Florida court, and includes appearing in person or by telephone in court or filing a pleading, motion or other document with the court. A non-Florida lawyer making an appearance in a Florida court is required to comply with Fla. R. Gen. Prac. & Jud. Admin. 2.510.

This rule does not prohibit a non-Florida lawyer from participating in more than 3 cases during any 365-day period; instead, it prohibits a non-Florida lawyer from making an initial or first appearance in more than 3 cases during any 365-day period.

*Example:* The following example illustrates the application of this rule to a non-Florida lawyer's appearances. Assume for this example that a lawyer licensed to practice in Georgia only has been admitted pro hac vice under with Fla. R. Gen. Prac. & Jud. Admin. 2.510 in 3 separate Florida cases on the following dates: January 10, 2008; February 3, 2008; and February 20, 2008.

(1) In this example, the lawyer would be prohibited from seeking to appear pro hac vice under with Fla. R. Gen. Prac. & Jud. Admin. 2.510 in another separate representation until the expiration of the 365-day period from the oldest of the 3 appearances (i.e., until January 10, 2009).

(2) In this example, the lawyer would be permitted under this rule to seek to appear pro hac vice in a new case on January

10, 2009 even if the 3 cases in which that lawyer made an appearance are still active.

(3) In this example, the lawyer could seek to appear pro hac vice in yet another new case on February 3, 2009. The fact that the lawyer's cases in which that lawyer appeared on January 10, 2008, February 3, 2008, February 20, 2008, and January 1, 2009 are still active would not prohibit that lawyer from seeking to appear in the new case on February 3, 2009, because, as of that date, the lawyer would have only made an initial appearance in 2 prior cases within that preceding 365-day period (i.e., on February 20, 2008 and January 1, 2009). Thus, under this rule, a non-Florida lawyer could have pending more than 3 cases for which that lawyer has appeared at any given time, as the restriction on general practice relates to the making of an initial appearance within a 365-day period and not to whether any case is still active following the expiration of 365 days.

(4) Similarly, in the above example, if the non-Florida lawyer's 3 cases are all resolved by April 1, 2008, that lawyer would still be prohibited from seeking to make a new appearance until the expiration of the oldest of the 3 prior appearances (i.e., until January 10, 2009).

This comment's purpose is to explain what constitutes an "appearance" under this rule and how to calculate the number of appearances in any 365-day period. This comment and the rule itself do not require a Florida court to grant any specific request to appear under with Fla. R. Gen. Prac. & Jud. Admin. 2.510 if the non-Florida lawyer meets the requirements of subdivision (a)(2). Whether a non-Florida lawyer may appear in a case under with Fla. R. Gen. Prac. & Jud. Admin. 2.510 is within the discretion of the court.

This rule does not apply to appearances in federal courts sitting in Florida, as appearances before each of those courts are regulated by the rules applicable to those courts. Further, an appearance in a federal court sitting in Florida does not constitute an "appearance" as contemplated by subdivision (a)(2), because

subdivision (a)(2) applies only to appearances before Florida state courts.

Amended Feb. 8, 2001 (795 So.2d 1); May 12, 2005, effective Jan. 1, 2006 (907 So.2d 1138); amended Nov. 19, 2009, effective February 1, 2010 (24 So.3d 63); April 12, 2012, effective July 1, 2012 (101 So.3d 807); amended December 9, 2021, effective February 7, 2022 (SC21-722).

### **RULE 1-3.11 APPEARANCE BY NON-FLORIDA LAWYER IN AN ARBITRATION PROCEEDING IN FLORIDA**

**(a) Non-Florida Lawyer Appearing in an Arbitration Proceeding in Florida.** A lawyer currently eligible to practice law in another United States jurisdiction or a non-United States jurisdiction may appear in an arbitration proceeding in this jurisdiction if the appearance is:

- (1) for a client who resides in or has an office in the lawyer's home state; or
- (2) where the appearance arises out of or is reasonably related to the lawyer's practice in a jurisdiction in which the lawyer is admitted to practice; and
- (3) the appearance is not one that requires pro hac vice admission.

Such lawyer shall comply with the applicable portions of this rule and of rule 4-5.5.

**(b) Lawyer Prohibited from Appearing.** No lawyer is authorized to appear pursuant to this rule if the lawyer:

- (1) is disbarred or suspended from practice in any jurisdiction;
- (2) is a Florida resident;
- (3) is a member of The Florida Bar but ineligible to practice law;

(4) has previously been disciplined or held in contempt by reason of misconduct committed while engaged in representation permitted pursuant to this rule;

(5) has failed to provide notice to The Florida Bar or pay the filing fee as required by this rule, except that neither notice to The Florida Bar nor a fee shall be required for lawyers appearing in international arbitrations; or

(6) is engaged in a “general practice” as defined elsewhere in these rules.

**(c) Application of Rules Regulating the Florida Bar.**

Lawyers permitted to appear by this rule shall be subject to these Rules Regulating the Florida Bar while engaged in the permitted representation, including, without limitation, rule 4-5.5.

**(d) General Practice Prohibited.** Non-Florida lawyers shall not be permitted to engage in a general practice pursuant to this rule. In all arbitration matters except international arbitration, a lawyer who is not admitted to practice law in this jurisdiction who files more than 3 demands for arbitration or responses to arbitration in separate arbitration proceedings in a 365-day period shall be presumed to be engaged in a “general practice.”

**(e) Content of Verified Statement for Leave to Appear.** In all arbitration proceedings except international arbitrations, prior to practicing pursuant to this rule, the non-Florida lawyer shall file a verified statement with The Florida Bar and serve a copy of the verified statement on opposing counsel, if known. If opposing counsel is not known at the time the verified statement is filed with The Florida Bar, the non-Florida lawyer shall serve a copy of the verified statement on opposing counsel within 10 days of learning the identity of opposing counsel. The verified statement shall include:

(1) a statement identifying all jurisdictions in which the lawyer is currently eligible to practice law including the attorney’s bar number(s) or attorney number(s);



(2) a statement identifying by date, case name, and case number all other arbitration proceedings in which the non-Florida lawyer has appeared in Florida in the preceding 5 years; however, if the case name and case number are confidential pursuant to an order, rule, or agreement of the parties, this information does not need to be provided and only the dates of prior proceedings must be disclosed;

(3) a statement identifying all jurisdictions in which the lawyer has been disciplined in any manner in the preceding 5 years and the sanction imposed, or in which the lawyer has pending any disciplinary proceeding, including the date of the disciplinary action and the nature of the violation, as appropriate;

(4) a statement identifying the date on which the legal representation at issue commenced and the party or parties represented; however, if the name of the party or parties is confidential pursuant to an order, rule, or agreement of the parties, this information does not need to be provided and only the date on which the representation commenced must be disclosed;

(5) a statement that all applicable provisions of this rule have been read and that the verified statement complies with this rule;

(6) a certificate indicating service of the verified statement upon all counsel of record in the matter and upon The Florida Bar at its Tallahassee office accompanied by a nonrefundable \$250.00 filing fee made payable to The Florida Bar; however, such fee may be waived in cases involving indigent clients; and

(7) a verification by the lawyer seeking to appear pursuant to this rule.

### **Comment**

This rule applies to arbitration proceedings held in Florida where 1 or both parties are being represented by a lawyer admitted in another United States jurisdiction or a non-United States jurisdiction. For the most part, the rule applies to any type of

arbitration proceeding and any matter being arbitrated. However, entire portions of subdivision (d) and subdivision (e) do not apply to international arbitrations. For the purposes of this rule, an international arbitration is defined as the arbitration of disputes between 2 or more persons at least 1 of whom is a nonresident of the United States or between 2 or more persons all of whom are residents of the United States if the dispute (1) involves property located outside the United States, (2) relates to a contract or other agreement which envisages performance or enforcement in whole or in part outside the United States, (3) involves an investment outside the United States or the ownership, management, or operation of a business entity through which such an investment is effected or any agreement pertaining to any interest in such an entity, (4) bears some other relation to 1 or more foreign countries, or (5) involves 2 or more persons at least 1 of whom is a foreign state as defined in 28 U.S.C. §1603. International arbitration does not include the arbitration of any dispute pertaining to the ownership, use, development, or possession of, or a lien of record upon, real property located in Florida or any dispute involving domestic relations.

The exceptions provided in this rule for international arbitrations in no way exempt lawyers not admitted to The Florida Bar and appearing in Florida courts from compliance with the provisions of rule 1-3.10 and any applicable rules of judicial administration, regardless of whether the court proceeding arises out of or is related to the subject of a dispute in an international arbitration. For example, a lawyer not a member of The Florida Bar could not appear in a Florida court or confirm or vacate an award resulting from an international arbitration without being authorized to appear *pro hac vice* and without complying with all requirements contained in rule 1-3.10 and the applicable rules of judicial administration.

Added May 12, 2005, effective Jan. 1, 2006 (907 So.2d 1138); amended Sept. 11, 2008, effective Jan. 1, 2009 (991 So.2d 842).

**1-4. BOARD OF GOVERNORS**  
**RULE 1-4.1 COMPOSITION OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

The board of governors shall be the governing body of The Florida Bar. It shall have 52 members, 51 of whom shall be voting members, and shall consist of the president and the president-elect of The Florida Bar, president and president-elect (who shall vote only in the absence of the president) of the young lawyers division, representatives elected by and from the members of The Florida Bar in good standing, and 2 residents of the state of Florida who are not members of The Florida Bar. There shall be at least 1 representative from each judicial circuit and at least 1 representative from among the members in good standing residing outside of the state of Florida, all of whom shall be apportioned among and elected from the judicial circuits and the nonresident membership, on the basis of the number of members in good standing residing in each circuit and outside of the state. The formula for determining the number of representatives apportioned to and elected from each judicial circuit and the nonresident membership, and all other matters concerning election and term of office for members of the board of governors, shall be prescribed in chapter 2.

Amended Dec. 10, 1987, effective Jan. 1, 1988 (518 So.2d 251); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252); July 17, 1997 (697 So.2d 115); Sept. 24, 1998, effective Oct. 1, 1998 (718 So.2d 1179).

**RULE 1-4.2 AUTHORITY; SUPERVISION**

**(a) Authority and Responsibility.** The board of governors shall have the authority and responsibility to govern and administer The Florida Bar and to take such action as it may consider necessary to accomplish the purposes of The Florida Bar, subject always to the direction and supervision of the Supreme Court of Florida.

**(b) Duty to Furnish Information to Court.** The board of governors shall furnish to each member of the Supreme Court of Florida the following:

(1) The minutes of each meeting of the board of governors of The Florida Bar and each meeting of its executive committee except when acting in a prosecutorial role in a disciplinary or unlicensed practice of law matter.

(2) Any written report of any section, committee, or division of The Florida Bar submitted to the board of governors that is either accepted or adopted by the board.

(3) All rules, policies, or procedures adopted by the board of governors under the authority granted to the board by the court.

(4) Such additional information and material as may be requested by any member of the court.

**(c) Powers of Court.** The Supreme Court of Florida may at any time ratify or amend action taken by the board of governors under these rules, order that actions previously taken be rescinded, or otherwise direct the actions and activities of The Florida Bar and its board of governors.

Amended July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252).

### **RULE 1-4.3 COMMITTEES**

The board of governors will create an executive committee composed of the president, president-elect, chairs of the budget, communications, disciplinary review, program evaluation and legislation committees, president of the young lawyers division, 2 members of the board appointed by the president, and 3 members of the board elected by the board to act on matters that arise and require disposition between meetings of the board; a budget committee composed of 9 members with 3-year staggered terms; grievance committees as provided for in chapter 3; unlicensed practice of law committees as provided for in chapter 10; and a professional ethics committee.

Amended May 12, 1988 (525 So.2d 868); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252); June 27, 1996, effective July 1, 1996 (677 So.2d 272); amended November 19, 2009, effective February 1, 2010 (24 So.3d

63); amended May 21, 2015, corrected June 25, 2015, effective October 1, 2015 (164 So.3d 1217).

#### **RULE 1-4.4 BOARD COMMITTEES**

The board may create and abolish additional committees as it may consider necessary to accomplish the purposes of The Florida Bar.

#### **RULE 1-4.5 SECTIONS**

The board of governors may create and abolish sections as it may consider necessary or desirable to accomplish the purposes and serve the interests of The Florida Bar and of the sections and shall prescribe the powers and duties of such sections. The bylaws of any section shall be subject to approval of the board of governors.

#### **1-5. OFFICERS** **RULE 1-5.1 OFFICERS**

The officers of The Florida Bar shall be a president, a president-elect, and an executive director.

#### **RULE 1-5.2 DUTIES**

Chapter 2 shall prescribe the duties, terms of office, qualifications, and manner of election or selection of officers of The Florida Bar.

#### **1-6. MEETINGS OF THE FLORIDA BAR** **RULE 1-6.1 ANNUAL MEETING**

An annual meeting of The Florida Bar shall be held each fiscal year at such time as may be designated by the board of governors.

#### **RULE 1-6.2 SPECIAL MEETINGS**

Special meetings of The Florida Bar may be held at such times and places as may be determined by the board of governors or upon petition of 5 percent of the membership of The Florida Bar.

Amended July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252)

## **RULE 1-6.3 NOTICE; RULES OF PROCEDURE**

The manner of notice and rules of procedure for all meetings of The Florida Bar shall be prescribed in chapter 2.

### **1-7. MEMBERSHIP FEES AND FISCAL CONTROL** **RULE 1-7.1 BUDGET**

The board of governors shall adopt a proposed budget for The Florida Bar in advance of each fiscal year, publish such proposed budget in a publication of The Florida Bar generally circulated to members, and thereafter adopt a budget for the succeeding fiscal year. The budget adopted by the board of governors shall be filed with the Supreme Court of Florida 30 days prior to the beginning of each fiscal year and shall be deemed approved and become the budget of The Florida Bar unless rejected by the Supreme Court of Florida within said 30-day period or until amended by the board of governors in accordance with rule 2-6.12.

Amended July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252)

### **RULE 1-7.2 OFFICERS' SALARY**

No member of the board of governors and no officer of The Florida Bar other than the executive director shall receive a fee or salary from The Florida Bar.

### **RULE 1-7.3 MEMBERSHIP FEES**

**(a) Membership Fees Requirement.** On or before July 1 of each year, every member of The Florida Bar must pay annual membership fees to The Florida Bar in the amount of \$265 per annum, except those members who have retired, resigned, been revoked or disbarred, or been classified as inactive members due to incapacity under chapter 3. Every member of The Florida Bar must pay the membership fee and concurrently file a fee statement with any information the board of governors requires.

**(b) Prorated Membership Fees.** Membership fees will be prorated for anyone admitted to The Florida Bar after July 1 of any fiscal year. The prorated amount will be based on the number of full

calendar months remaining in the fiscal year at the time of admission.

Unpaid prorated membership fees will be added to the next annual membership fees bill with no penalty to the member. The Florida Bar must receive the combined prorated and annual membership fees payment on or before August 15 of the first full year fees are due unless the member elects to pay by installment.

**(c) Installment Payment of Membership Fees.** Members of The Florida Bar may elect to pay annual membership fees in 3 equal installments as follows:

(1) in the second and third year of their admission to The Florida Bar;

(2) if the member is employed by a federal, state, or local government in a non-elected position that requires the individual to maintain membership in good standing within The Florida Bar; or

(3) if the member is experiencing an undue hardship.

A member must notify The Florida Bar of the intention to pay membership fees in installments. The first installment payment must be postmarked no later than August 15. The second and third installment payments must be postmarked no later than November 1 and February 1, respectively.

Second and third installment payments postmarked after their respective due dates are subject to a one-time late charge of \$50. The late charge must accompany the final payment. The executive director, with concurrence of the executive committee, may adjust the late charge.

The Florida Bar will send written notice to the last official bar address of each member who has not paid membership fees and late fees by February 1. Written notice may be by registered or certified mail, or by return receipt electronic mail. The member will be a delinquent member if membership fees and late charges are not paid by March 15. The executive director, with concurrence of

the executive committee, may adjust these fees or due date for good cause.

Each member who elects to pay annual membership fees in installments may be charged an additional administrative fee set by the board of governors to defray the costs of this activity.

**(d) Election of Inactive Membership.** A member in good standing may elect to be classified as an inactive member. This election must be indicated on the annual membership fees statement and received by The Florida Bar by August 15. If the annual membership fees statement is received after August 15, the member's right to inactive status is waived until the next fiscal year. Inactive classification will continue from fiscal year to fiscal year until the member is reinstated as a member in good standing who is eligible to practice law in Florida. The election of inactive status is subject to the restrictions and limitations provided elsewhere in these rules.

Membership fees for inactive members are \$175 per annum.

**(e) Late Payment of Membership Fees.** Payment of annual membership fees must be postmarked no later than August 15. Membership fees payments postmarked after August 15 must be accompanied by a late charge of \$50. The Florida Bar will send written notice to the last official bar address of each member whose membership fees have not been paid by August 15. Written notice may be by registered or certified mail, or by return receipt electronic mail. The member is considered a delinquent member on failure to pay membership fees and any late charges by September 30, unless adjusted by the executive director with concurrence of the executive committee.

**(f) Membership Fees Exemption for Activated Reserve Members of the Armed Services.** Members of The Florida Bar engaged in reserve military service in the Armed Forces of the United States who are called to active duty for 30 days or more during the bar's fiscal year are exempt from the payment of membership fees. The Armed Forces of the United States includes the United States Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast



Guard, as well as the Army National Guard, Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, the Air National Guard of the United States, the Air Force Reserve, and the Coast Guard Reserve. Requests for an exemption must be made within 15 days before the date that membership fees are due each year or within 15 days of activation to duty of a reserve member. To the extent membership fees were paid despite qualifying for this exemption, the membership fee will be reimbursed by The Florida Bar within 30 days of receipt of a member's request for exemption. Within 30 days of leaving active duty status, the member must report to The Florida Bar that the member is no longer on active duty status in the United States Armed Forces.

Amended March 30, 1989, effective March 31, 1989 (541 So.2d 110); June 8, 1989 (544 So.2d 193); June 14, 1990 (562 So.2d 343); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252); Feb. 17, 1994 (632 So.2d 597); June 27, 1996, effective July 1, 1996 (677 So.2d 272); July 17, 1997 (697 So.2d 115); Sept. 24, 1998, effective Oct. 1, 1998 (718 So.2d 1179); Feb. 8, 2001 (795 So.2d 1); June 4, 2001 (797 So.2d 550); May 20, 2004 (875 So.2d 448), October 6, 2005, effective January 1, 2006 (916 So.2d 655); December 20, 2007, effective March 1, 2008 (978 So.2d 91); amended May 29, 2014, effective June 1, 2014 (140 So.3d 541); amended March 3, 2022, effective May 2, 2022 (SC20-1467); amended May 9, 2024, effective July 8, 2024 (SC2024-0030).

### **RULE 1-7.4 PROCEDURES**

Other matters relating to the budget and fiscal control shall be governed by chapter 2.

### **RULE 1-7.5 RETIRED, INACTIVE, DELINQUENT MEMBERS**

A member who is retired, inactive, or delinquent is prohibited from practicing law in this state until reinstated as provided in these rules, except retired or inactive members who are certified as emeritus lawyers under chapter 12 of these rules.

Amended March 30, 1989, effective March 31, 1989 (541 So.2d 110); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252); amended November 19, effective February 1, 2010 (24 So.3d 63); amended November 9, 2017, effective February 1, 2018 (234 So. 3d 577).

## **1-8. PROGRAMS AND FUNCTIONS**

### **RULE 1-8.1 RESPONSIBILITY OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

Among its other duties, the board of governors is charged with the responsibility of enforcing the Rules of Discipline and the Rules of Professional Conduct.

### **RULE 1-8.2 UNLICENSED PRACTICE OF LAW**

The board of governors shall act as an arm of the Supreme Court of Florida for the purpose of seeking to prohibit the unlicensed practice of law by investigating, prosecuting, and reporting to this court and to appropriate authorities incidents involving the unlicensed practice of law in accordance with chapter 10.

Amended July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252).

### **RULE 1-8.3 BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION AND EDUCATION**

The board of governors shall establish the board of legal specialization and education to function as a central administrative board to oversee specialization regulation in Florida in accordance with chapter 6.

Amended July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252).

### **RULE 1-8.4 CLIENTS' SECURITY FUND**

The board of governors may provide monetary relief to persons who suffer reimbursable losses as a result of misappropriation, embezzlement, or other wrongful taking or conversion of money or other property in accordance with chapter 7.

Amended April 12, 2012, effective July 1, 2012 (101 So.3d 807).

**1-9. YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION**  
**RULE 1-9.1 CREATION**

There shall be a division of The Florida Bar known as the Young Lawyers Division composed of all members in good standing under the age of 36 and all members in good standing who have not been admitted to the practice of law in any jurisdiction for more than 5 years.

Amended July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252).

**RULE 1-9.2 POWERS AND DUTIES**

The division shall have such powers and duties as shall be prescribed by the board of governors of The Florida Bar.

**RULE 1-9.3 BYLAWS**

The bylaws of the division shall be subject to approval of the board of governors.

**1-10. RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**  
**RULE 1-10.1 COMPLIANCE**

All members of The Florida Bar shall comply with the terms and the intent of the Rules of Professional Conduct as established and amended by this court.

Amended July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252).

**1-11. BYLAWS**  
**RULE 1-11.1 GENERALLY**

Bylaws, contained in chapter 2, not inconsistent with these rules shall govern the method and manner by which the requirements of these Rules Regulating The Florida Bar are met.

**RULE 1-11.2 NOTICE OF AMENDMENT**

Notice of consideration of proposed amendments to chapter 2 by the board of governors of The Florida Bar shall be given to the

members of The Florida Bar. Amendments to chapter 2 adopted by the board of governors shall become effective 50 days after the amendment and proof of the prescribed publication are filed with the Supreme Court of Florida unless a later effective date is provided for by the board of governors or unless otherwise ordered by the court. The court will consider objections to amendments to chapter 2 adopted by the board of governors that are filed with the court before the effective date of the amendment.

Former Rule 1-11.3. Renumbered and amended July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252).

### **RULE 1-11.3 SUPERVISION BY COURT**

This court may at any time amend chapter 2 or modify amendments to chapter 2 adopted by the board of governors or order that amendments to chapter 2 not become effective or become effective at some date other than provided for in this rule.

Former Rule 1-11.4. Renumbered and amended July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252).

## **1-12. AMENDMENTS**

### **RULE 1-12.1 AMENDMENT TO RULES; AUTHORITY; NOTICE; PROCEDURES; COMMENTS**

**(a) Authority to Amend.** The Board of Governors of The Florida Bar has the authority to amend chapters 7 and 9, as well as standards for the individual areas of certification within chapter 6 of these Rules Regulating The Florida Bar, consistent with the notice, publication, and comments requirements provided below. Only the Supreme Court of Florida has the authority to amend all other chapters of these Rules Regulating The Florida Bar.

**(b) Proposed Amendments.** Any member of The Florida Bar in good standing or a section or committee of The Florida Bar may request the board of governors to consider an amendment to these Rules Regulating The Florida Bar.

**(c) Board Review of Proposed Amendments.** The board of governors will review proposed amendments by referral of the proposal to an appropriate board committee for substantive review. After substantive review, an appropriate committee of the board will review the proposal for consistency with these rules and the policies of The Florida Bar. After completion of review, a recommendation concerning the proposal will be made to the board.

**(d) Notice of Proposed Board Action.** The Florida Bar will give notice of the proposed board of governors action on a proposed amendment in an edition of *The Florida Bar News* and on The Florida Bar website prior to the meeting of the board at which the board action is taken. The notice will identify the rule(s) to be amended and state in general terms the nature of the proposed amendments.

**(e) Comments by Members.** Any member may request a copy of the proposed amendments and may file written comments concerning them. The comments must be filed with the executive director sufficiently in advance of the board meeting to allow for distribution to the members of the board.

**(f) Approval of Amendments.** Amendments to these rules other than chapters 7 and 9 and the standards for existing individual areas of certification within chapter 6 of these Rules Regulating The Florida Bar must be by petition to the Supreme Court of Florida. Petitions to amend these Rules Regulating The Florida Bar may be filed by the board of governors or by 50 members in good standing. Amendments proposed by bar members must be filed with The Florida Bar's executive director at least 90 days before the petition is filed with the Supreme Court of Florida.

**(g) Notice of Intent to File Petition.** Notice of intent to file a petition to amend these Rules Regulating The Florida Bar will be published in *The Florida Bar News* and on The Florida Bar website at least 30 days before the filing of the petition. The notice will identify the rule(s) to be amended, state in general terms the nature of the proposed amendments, state the date the petition will be filed, and state that any comments or objections must be filed within 30 days of filing the petition. The full text of the proposed

amendment(s) will be published on The Florida Bar website. A copy of all comments or objections must be served on the executive director of The Florida Bar and any persons who may have made an appearance in the matter.

**(h) Action by the Supreme Court of Florida.** The court will review all proposed amendments filed under this rule and any amendments will not become effective until an order is issued approving them. A summary of final action of the court will be reported in *The Florida Bar News* and on The Florida Bar website.

**(i) Waiver.** On good cause shown, the court may waive any or all of the provisions of this rule.

**(j) Action by the Chief Justice.** Upon request of The Florida Bar, or sua sponte, in the event of a public health emergency or other emergency situation that requires mitigation of the effects of the emergency on The Florida Bar and other participants under the Rules Regulating the Florida Bar, the chief justice may enter such order or orders as may be appropriate to: suspend, extend, toll, or otherwise change time periods, deadlines, or standards imposed by the Rules Regulating the Florida Bar, orders, or opinions; suspend the application of or modify other requirements or limitations imposed by rules, orders, or opinions, including, without limitation, those governing the use of communication equipment and proceedings conducted by remote electronic means; and require or authorize temporary implementation of procedures and other measures, which may be inconsistent with applicable requirements, to address the emergency situation.

Amended Oct. 10, 1991, effective January 1, 1992 (587 So.2d 1121); July 23, 1992, effective January 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252); July 1, 1993 (621 So.2d 1032); July 20, 1995 (658 So.2d 930); November 19, 2009, effective February 1, 2010 (24 So.3d 63); April 12, 2012, effective July 1, 2012 (101 So.3d 807); November 9, 2017, effective February 1, 2018 (234 So. 3d 577); April 9, 2020, effective immediately (SC20-392); amended March 3, 2022, effective May 2, 2022 (SC20-1467).

**1-13. TIME**  
**RULE 1-13.1 TIME**

**(a) Computation.** In computing any period of time prescribed or allowed by the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar, the day of the act, event, or default from which the designated period of time begins to run will not be included. The last day of the period so computed will be included unless it is a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, in which event the period will run until the end of the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday.

**(b) Additional Time after Service by Mail.** When a person may or must act within a prescribed period after service of a notice or other document and the notice or other document is served by mail, 5 days will be added to the prescribed period.

Added Oct. 10, 1991, effective Jan. 1, 1992 (587 So.2d 1121); July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252); May 21, 2015, corrected June 25, 2015, effective October 1, 2015 (164 So.3d 1217); amended March 3, 2022, effective May 2, 2022 (SC20-1467).

**1-14. RECORDS**  
**RULE 1-14.1 ACCESS TO RECORDS**

**(a) Confidential Records.** All records specifically designated confidential by court rules, the Florida or United States Constitution, statutes, attorney work product, and attorney-client communications shall be confidential. In the event that The Florida Bar objects to production, these records shall not be produced without order of the Supreme Court of Florida or some person designated by the supreme court to decide whether the records should be disclosed.

**(b) Records Confidential under Applicable Law.** All records in the possession of The Florida Bar that are confidential under applicable rule or law when made or received shall remain confidential and shall not be produced by the bar, except as authorized by rule or law or pursuant to order of the Supreme Court of Florida.

**(c) Rules of Procedure and Florida Evidence Code; Applicability.** Except as otherwise provided in these Rules Regulating The Florida Bar, any restrictions to production of records contained in the Florida Evidence Code (chapter 90, Florida Statutes, as amended), Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, or Florida Rules of Criminal Procedure shall apply to requests for access to the records of The Florida Bar.

**(d) Access to Records; Notice; Costs of Production.** Any records of The Florida Bar that are not designated confidential by these Rules Regulating The Florida Bar shall be available for inspection or production to any person upon reasonable notice and upon payment of the cost of reproduction of the records.

Added effective October 29, 1992 (608 So.2d 472).