

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA
(Before a Referee)

THE FLORIDA BAR,

Complainant

v.

No. 70,419
TFB #06C8713

GEORGE N. MEROS,

Respondent.

REPORT OF REFEREE

FILED
SID WHITE
DEC 4 1987
CLERK, SUPREME COURT

I. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS: Pursuant to the undersigned, appointed as Referee to conduct disciplinary proceedings herein pursuant to Rule 3-7.4, Rules Regulating The Florida Bar, final hearing was held on November 25, 1987. Thomas E. DeBerg, Esq. appeared in behalf of The Florida Bar. George N. Meros, Jr., Esq., representing Respondent, did not appear although given due notice, but did provide the Referee with a letter dated November 23, 1987 which is made part of the Record. After the hearing on November 25, 1987, the Referee personally telephoned Respondent's counsel at his Tallahassee office and left a message due to Mr. Meros' absence, that any argument which he desired to make with regard to the penalty phase must be in writing and delivered to the undersigned no later than Wednesday, December 2, 1987. On said last date, a letter from George N. Meros, Jr., Esq. was received, the same being part of the Record, and after consideration, the Referee declines to bifurcate or further protract the proceeding.

II. Findings of Fact: After considering all of the pleadings and evidence submitted at final hearing, I find that the allegations of the Complaint of The Florida Bar have been sustained and were not contested. The findings are:

1. Respondent is and at all times material herein was a member of The Florida Bar subject to the jurisdiction and disciplinary rules of the Supreme Court of Florida.

2. On August 17, 1987, Respondent was found guilty in the United States Court for the Middle District of Florida, Case No. 84-0076-CR-T-08 of the following counts:

- Count 1 -Conspiring to violate RICO (Tit.18,Sec.1962(d))
- Count 2 -Conspiring to violate RICO (Tit.18,Sec.1962(c))
- Count 3 -Conspiring to possess with intent to distribute a Schedule I controlled substance (marijuana, in excess of 1,000 pounds)
- Count 4 -Conspiring to import a Schedule I controlled substance (marijuana)
- Count 5 -Possession with intent to distribute a Schedule I controlled substance (marijuana)
- Count 11-Use of wire transfer in foreign commerce in aid of racketeering enterprise

- Count 12-Conspiring to use a wire transfer in interstate and foreign commerce in aid of racketeering enterprise
- Count 13-Interstate and foreign travel in aid of racketeering enterprise
- Count 14 & 15 Defrauding an agency of the United States by trick, scheme or device
- Counts 16 22 & 25 Causing bank to fail to file currency transaction report with IRS

3. On September 16, 1985, Respondent was adjudicated guilty of all counts referenced in the preceding paragraph and described in Florida Bar Exhibit 2 received in evidence on November 25, 1987.

4. As a result of his adjudication referred to hereinabove, Respondent was sentenced to a total of forty (40) years in prison, with specific terms of confinement with reference to each of the counts of which he was convicted as is shown by Florida Bar Exhibit 2.

5. Respondent does not contest the authenticity of the record of conviction of said offenses, and the adjudication of guilt by the sentencing tribunal is conclusive proof thereof for purposes of this disciplinary proceeding.

III. Recommendation as to Whether or Not the Respondent Should be Found Guilty:

I recommend that the Respondent be found guilty and specifically that he be found guilty of the following violations of his oath as an attorney, Disciplinary Rules, and Rules Regulating the Florida Bar to-wit: Article XI, Rule 11.02(3)(a), for conduct contrary to honesty, justice and good morals; DR Rule 1-102(A)(4) for engaging in dishonest conduct, fraud, corruption and racketeering in violation of federal law, and DR 1-102(A)(6) for engaging in other misconduct that reflects adversely on his fitness to practice law.

IV. Recommendation as to Disciplinary Measures to be Applied:

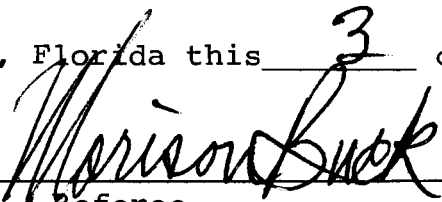
I recommend that the Respondent, due to the magnitude and enormity of his crimes, be disbarred. There is more than ample authority for that drastic penalty. The Florida Bar v. Ludwig, 465 So.2d 528. The Florida Bar v. Price, 478 So.2d 812.

Consideration has been given to the fact that the Respondent is a mature individual having been born in 1923, admitted to The Florida Bar on January 31, 1953, and has no known previous disciplinary history. These data were supplied by The Florida Bar Tampa Office.

V. Statement of Costs:

An itemized statement of costs reasonably incurred by The Florida Bar is hereto attached. Those and any costs or charges not yet billed should be charged to the Respondent.

Respectfully submitted at Tampa, Florida this 3 day of December, 1987.


Referee

I hereby certify that copy of the foregoing Report of Referee was provided by regular mail to: Thomas E. DeBerg, Assistant Staff Counsel and George N. Meros, Jr., Attorney for Respondent on the date last above written.

Winston L. ...

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA
(Before a Referee)

THE FLORIDA BAR,
Complainant,

CASE NO. 70,419
TFB NO. 8727948-06C
(Formerly 06C87137)

v.

GEORGE N. MEROS,
Respondent.

STATEMENT OF COSTS

Grievance Committee Level:

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 1. Administrative costs at the Grievance Committee Level, Rule 3-7.5(k) | \$150.00 |
|---|----------|

Referee Level:


- | | |
|--|--------|
| 1. Administrative costs at the Referee Level, Rule 3-7.5(k) | 150.00 |
| 2. Staff Counsel Expenses: (Thomas E. DeBerg - Motion 11/3/87) | |
| a. Transportation and Parking | 7.00 |
| 3. Court Reporter Costs: (Betty Lauria - Motion 11/3/87) | |
| a. Appearance Fee..... | 30.00 |
| b. Transcript | 47.00 |
| c. Postage | .73 |
| TOTAL | 77.73 |
| 4. Court Reporter Costs: (Betty Lauria - Final Hearing 11/25/87) * | |

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE TO DATE: 384.73

* AMOUNT DOES NOT INCLUDE COURT REPORTER COSTS RELATED TO THE FINAL HEARING, COSTS WILL BE SUBMITTED UPON RECEIPT.


The foregoing costs have been incurred in the above-styled cause at the Grievance Committee and Referee level by The Florida Bar.

Respectfully submitted,


THOMAS E. DEBERG
Assistant Staff Counsel
The Florida Bar, Suite C-49
Tampa Airport, Marriott Hotel
Tampa, Florida 33607
(813) 875-9821

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing STATEMENT OF COSTS has been furnished to GEORGE MEROS, JR., Attorney for Respondent, 101 North Monroe Street, Monroe Park Tower, Suite 900, Tallahassee, Florida 32301; by Regular U.S. Mail; and to JOHN T. BERRY, Staff Counsel, The Florida Bar, 600 Apalachee Parkway, Tallahassee, Florida 32301; this 30 day of November, 1987.


THOMAS E. DEBERG