

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA
(Before a Referee)

THE FLORIDA BAR,
Complainant,
vs.
JOSEPH C. HOOPER,
Respondent.

FILED
SID J. WHITE
SEP 28 1989
CLERK, SUPREME COURT
By Deputy Clerk
Case No. 73,979
TFB No. 88-10,611(12C)

REPORT OF REFEREE

THIS CAUSE came on for hearing before the undersigned referee. The respondent did not participate in the proceedings before the final hearing except to write letters dealing with matters extraneous to the complaint. Indeed, it was a surprise to the undersigned that the respondent appeared at the final hearing.

The transcript of the hearing shows that the respondent was disorganized and totally unprepared for this important event. There is no question but that the respondent committed all of the acts specified in the charges against him. Not only were these facts established by an order granting the Complainant's Demand for Admission, but said transgressions are manifestly proved from the evidence presented.

It is, therefore, the findings of this referee that the Respondent, Joseph C. Hooper, committed each and every act contained in the complaint filed by the Florida Bar, it being noted that Paragraph 5 of the complainant's First Request for Admission is amended so that the term "convictions" is

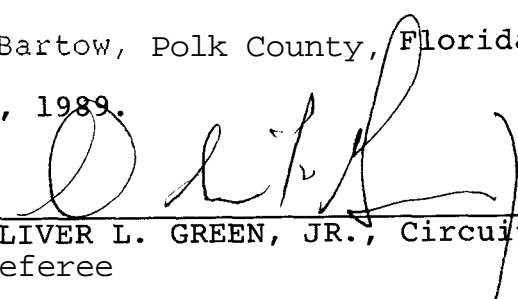
designated "findings of guilt".

It is the impression of this referee that the Respondent, Joseph C. Hooper, is basically not a dangerous person, or even an evil person. There is a disturbing contrast between the polite - almost servile - personal appearance of the respondent as contrasted to his aggressive, albeit pointless, writings. He does have a penchant for a type of misbehavior which causes him to be unable to effectively perform his duties as an attorney and which brings discredit upon the profession. It is possible that with adequate treatment, he may overcome whatever demonic affliction caused him to sink to this depth.

This referee, therefore, endorses and adopts the recommendations of Bonnie L. Mahon, Assistant Staff Counsel for The Florida Bar, that the Respondent, Joseph C. Hooper, be suspended from the practice of law for no less than one (1) year from the date of the completion of these proceedings before the Florida Supreme Court, and that he bear the responsibility of undertaking treatment as may enable him to resume the practice of law.

The respondent's improvidently filed Motion for a New Trial or Rehearing is denied. The respondent shall pay the expenses incident to these proceedings.

DONE AND ORDERED at Bartow, Polk County, Florida,
this 25th day of September, 1989.


OLIVER L. GREEN, JR., Circuit Judge,
Referee

Copies to:
Bonnie L. Mahon, Esquire
Joseph C. Hooper

THE FLORIDA BAR

VS.

JOSEPH C. HOOPER

ADDENDUM

A notice that Mr. Hooper intended to appear at the final hearing was received on August 14th, which was the date of the hearing.