

# Supreme Court of Florida

WHEREAS, it officially has been made known to me that it is necessary to appoint a referee for the Court pursuant to rule 3-7.6(a), Rules Regulating the Florida Bar, to preside in proceedings to be held upon a petition for reinstatement pursuant to rule 3-7.10 in the matter of:

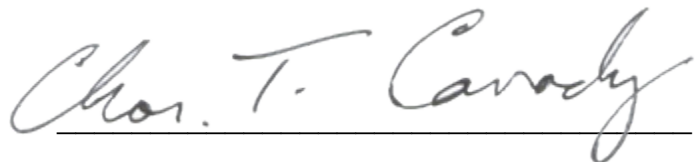
The Florida Bar Re: Lance John Ruffe ,  
Supreme Court Case No. SC20-187;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Charles T. Canady, under authority vested in me as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Florida, do hereby designate the Honorable Bertila Soto, Chief Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court of Florida, to appoint a referee for the Court in the above matter and, within fourteen days of this order, to notify the Clerk of the Florida Supreme Court and the parties as to the judge appointed as referee. The referee shall conduct a case management conference, to be held no later than sixty days from the date of appointment, at which the schedule for the proceedings, including the final hearing date, shall be set. The referee shall have the option of holding the required case management conference either in person or telephonically. The referee shall thereafter hear, conduct, try, and determine matters which shall be presented at the final hearing, and thereafter shall submit findings of fact and recommendations to the Supreme

counsel shall assist the referee in the preparation of the index and record in this cause. The referee shall also act on all motions forwarded to the referee from this Court. Pursuant to rule 3-7.10(h), any order by the referee regarding disposition of the case shall be merely a recommendation to this Court. Such an order shall not dispose of the proceedings. This Court shall review and, if appropriate, approve the referee's recommended disposition order.

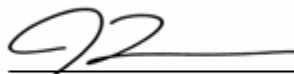
The referee's report shall be filed within 180 days of the date of his or her appointment, unless there are substantial reasons requiring delay.

DONE AND ORDERED at Tallahassee, Florida, on February 10, 2020.



CHIEF JUSTICE  
SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA

ATTEST:



John A. Tomasino  
Clerk, Supreme Court



Enclosed: Petition for Reinstatement.

A previous case involving this respondent was assigned to the Honorable Joseph I. Davis.