



Supreme Court of Florida

500 South Duval Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1925

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JUSTICES

THOMAS D. HALL
CLERK OF COURT

KEVIN WHITE
ACTING MARSHAL

September 28, 2010

The Honorable Alan Grayson
Member of Congress
455 North Garland Avenue, Suite 402
Orlando, Florida 32801

Dear Congressman Grayson:

This is in response to your September 20 letter to Chief Justice Canady, stating concern about reports of predatory practices by certain law firms in Florida and the possible use of fraudulent and forged documents in foreclosure cases by these law firms. You have requested the Chief Justice to abate all foreclosure cases involving these firms until Attorney General Bill McCollum completes his investigation into these reported practices.

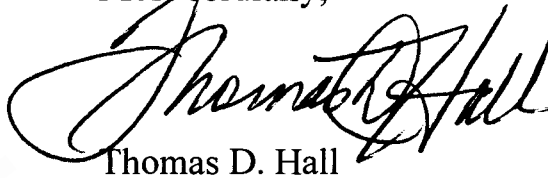
While the Chief Justice has the authority to issue orders suspending or tolling time deadlines in cases under circumstances that involve natural disasters, he has no authority under the Florida Constitution or court rules to intercede in pending cases on the basis of allegations of attorney misconduct, and he has no authority to investigate allegations of fraud or misconduct in foreclosure cases.

Allegations of fraud in particular foreclosure actions must be raised and adjudicated at the trial court level. Trial court errors are subject to appellate review.

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The Supreme Court does have jurisdiction with respect to the imposition of attorney discipline, but the investigation of allegations of attorney misconduct is the responsibility of The Florida Bar. A justice is precluded from commenting on or intervening in matters that may come before the Supreme Court in a case. It is therefore inappropriate for a justice to intervene in or comment on the investigation of lawyer misconduct in particular cases. I therefore recommend that you communicate your concerns to the Executive Director of The Florida Bar at 651 East Jefferson Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2300, with a request that the Bar take appropriate action to address these allegations.

Most cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas D. Hall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "T".

Thomas D. Hall

TDH/ps