

FLORIDA THIRD DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL

Raziel Ofer v. Metropolitan Mortgage Company, LLC, et al.

Ofer · No. 3D24-1845 · Decided December 17, 2025

SUMMARY

The Florida Third District Court of Appeal adopted a commissioner’s report finding that Raziel Ofer likely fabricated an email and related metadata and made unsupported allegations against opposing counsel and a judge. The court sanctioned Ofer by barring any future filings before the court without review and signature by a Florida Bar member in good standing. The court dismissed the appeal and denied pending motions as moot.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Florida Third District Court of Appeal
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Chief Judge SCALES; Judge LINDSEY; Judge BOKOR
JURISDICTION	Florida Third District Court of Appeal
DECIDED	December 17, 2025
DOCKET	3D24-1845
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	After dismissing the appeal for ongoing failure to comply with and contempt of a lower tribunal discovery order, the court retained jurisdiction to determine whether the appellant fabricated an email and committed fraud on the court. Following an evidentiary hearing by an appointed commissioner and an order to show cause, the court adopted the commissioner's report, imposed filing restrictions as a sanction, dismissed the appeal, and denied pending motions as moot.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court reviewed the commissioner's factual findings based on the evidentiary hearing and determined that the appellant failed to show cause why the report should not be adopted. The opinion does not state a separate formal standard of review.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published
PARTIES	Raziel Ofer v. Metropolitan Mortgage Company, LLC, et al.

TOPICS

sanctions

appellate procedure

contempt

evidence

civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

appellate procedure

civil procedure

sanctions

evidence

commercial litigation

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the court should adopt the commissioner's findings concerning the origin and authenticity of the purported email.
2. Whether the appellant should be sanctioned for filing unsupported allegations and allegedly fraudulent materials in the appellate court.
3. Whether the appeal should be dismissed after the court imposed sanctions.

HOLDINGS

1. The court adopted and approved the commissioner's report because the appellant failed to identify evidence undermining its findings or supporting an alternative conclusion.
2. Sanctions were warranted because the appellant failed to show cause why sanctions should not be imposed for filing unsubstantiated allegations and a purportedly fraudulent email in the appellate court.
3. The appellant was barred from filing anything before the Third District unless the filing was reviewed and signed by a member in good standing of the Florida Bar.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"[T]he court may impose sanctions for any violation of these rules, or for the filing of any proceeding, motion, brief, or other document that is frivolous or in bad faith. Such sanctions may include reprimand, contempt, striking of briefs or pleadings, dismissal of proceedings, costs, attorneys' fees, or other sanctions."
(4)

"Raziel Ofer is barred from any filing before this Court absent the review and signature of a member in good standing of the Florida Bar." (4)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The appellant filed in the appellate court a purported email accusing counsel for Drexel Financial Services, LLC, and a judge of bribery. Despite repeated requests and court orders, he did not provide a native-format copy of the email. An appointed commissioner found no credible evidence that appellee or its counsel created or sent the email, determined that the purported metadata did not establish its origin, and found discrepancies indicating that the document was likely fabricated. The commissioner also found the appellant's testimony not credible.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The appeal arose from the Circuit Court for Miami-Dade County, case number 22-3487-CA-01. On August 22, 2025, the Third District dismissed the appeal for ongoing noncompliance with and contempt of a discovery order but retained jurisdiction concerning the authenticity of an email attached to an appellate filing. An appointed

commissioner conducted an evidentiary hearing and found that the appellant failed to substantiate his allegations and likely fabricated the email and metadata. After the appellant responded to an order to show cause, the appellate court adopted and approved the report, imposed sanctions, dismissed the appeal, and denied pending motions as moot.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- Azran Miami 2, LLC v. US Bank Tr., N.A., 343 So. 3d 673, 682 (Fla. 3d DCA 2022)

OPINION

Raz Ofer v. Metropolitan Mortgage Company, LLC

PER CURIAM.

Third District Court of Appeal State of Florida Opinion filed December 17, 2025. Not final until disposition of timely filed motion for rehearing. _____ No. 3D24-1845 Lower Tribunal No. 22-3487-CA-01 _____ Raziel Ofer, Appellant, vs. Metropolitan Mortgage Company, LLC, et al., Appellee. An Appeal from the Circuit Court for Miami-Dade County, Carlos Guzman, and Mavel Ruiz, Judges. Raziel Ofer, in proper person. Roniel Rodriguez IV, P.A., and Roniel Rodriguez IV, for appellee Drexel Financial Services, LLC. Before SCALES, C.J., and LINDSEY and BOKOR, JJ. PER CURIAM.

ON ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE

On August 22, 2025, this Court dismissed the above-named appeal for “ongoing failure to comply with and contempt of the lower tribunal’s discovery order.” This Court retained jurisdiction to determine the veracity of self- represented appellant Raziel Ofer’s attachment of a purported email attached to a filing in this Court and related allegations incriminating both appellee’s counsel and the trial judge.¹ We directed the chief judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit to appoint a circuit judge, other than the trial judge below, as commissioner to conduct an evidentiary hearing “to determine the origin and veracity” of the purported email and submit a written report thereon. We explained that “[b]ased on the commissioner’s findings, this Court may impose sanctions as appropriate.” By subsequent order, we held the dismissal in abeyance pending review of the commissioner’s findings. On October 21, 2025, the duly appointed commissioner, after an evidentiary hearing, issued a report containing factual findings concerning the above-referenced email. After a detailed summary of the evidence presented, the commissioner found, in pertinent part, that: i. Appellant has provided no credible evidence that Appellee [or Appellee’s counsel] created, or otherwise sent, the original email of April 18, 2025 Moreover, Appellant failed to provide any evidence to contradict fabrication. ii. The alleged metadata contained in the meta word document provided does not support the allegation, or 1 Raziel Ofer is also known as Raz

Ofer. 2 otherwise prove, that the email originated from any of Appellee's email accounts. iii. Numerous discrepancies between the meta word document and the original email show that the meta word document is also likely fabricated. The commissioner supported each finding with detailed evidentiary or testimonial support from the hearing. The commissioner further found Ofer's testimony conclusory, contradicted by the evidence, or, at times, contradicted by Ofer himself. In sum, the commissioner did not find Ofer credible and found appellee Drexel Financial Services, LLC's counsel's argument credible and compelling. The commissioner concluded that Ofer failed to provide any evidence that Drexel's counsel created the email and that instead, it is likely that Ofer fabricated or caused the email to be fabricated. Based on the findings contained in the report, this Court then ordered Ofer to show cause why this Court should not sanction him "for committing fraud on this Court through unsubstantiated and unsupported allegations and the fraudulent creation of emails that [Ofer] alleged in court filings were created by counsel for [Drexel]." We further directed Ofer to "address, at a minimum, the failure to supply the commissioner with a native format copy of the email(s) at issue as well as any other record evidence or applicable case law that would mitigate against imposing sanctions." And we explained 3 that possible "[s]anctions may include barring [Ofer] from any future filings before this Court without the review and signature of a member in good standing of the Florida Bar." On November 24, 2025, Ofer responded to the order to show cause. The response contains a series of conclusory allegations, complaints about the evidentiary hearing, and unsubstantiated ad hominem attacks on the commissioner and the judiciary. The response fails to point to any fact adduced at the evidentiary hearing (other than a repetition of the initial conclusory allegations themselves) that would call the commissioner's findings into question, much less support any other conclusion. At its core, this starts and ends with the copy of the purported email Ofer attached to a court filing in this Court, accusing Drexel's counsel and a judge of bribery. Ofer never, despite repeated requests and court orders, provided a native format copy of that email or provided any basis to question the commissioner's findings and detailed report. Ofer provides no factual support for an alternative conclusion to that reached by the commissioner. Instead, the weight of the evidence points to the fact that Ofer created the original email and the purported metadata. Ofer has failed to show cause why this Court should not adopt the report and impose appropriate sanctions. See Fla. R. App. P. 9.410(a) 4 ("[T]he court may impose sanctions for any violation of these rules, or for the filing of any proceeding, motion, brief, or other document that is frivolous or in bad faith. Such sanctions may include reprimand, contempt, striking of briefs or pleadings, dismissal of proceedings, costs, attorneys' fees, or other sanctions."); *Azran Miami 2, LLC v. US Bank Tr., N.A.*, 343 So. 3d 673, 682 (Fla. 3d DCA 2022) (imposing sanctions for "filing frivolous and bad-faith motions and leveling false, malicious and meritless accusations against adverse parties, opposing counsel and judges alike, after a trial court or an appellate court has rejected [the lawyer's] claims and arguments"). Accordingly, the report is adopted and approved. The Court imposes the following sanction: Raziel Ofer is barred from any filing before this Court absent the

review and signature of a member in good standing of the Florida Bar. The appeal is dismissed. All pending motions are denied as moot. 5

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