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| 7 | SUPREME COURT RULES COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING |
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| 9 | ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE/TASK FORCE |
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| 11 | Report of proceedings had at the public hearing |
| 12 | held at the Michael A. Bilandic Building, 160 North |
| 13 | LaSalle Street, Room C-500, Chicago, Illinois 60601 in |
| 14 | the above-entitled cause before James Hansen, |
| 15 | Committee Chairman, commencing at 10:27 a.m. on the 29th |
| 16 | day of March, A.D., 2023 |
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| 1 | CHAIRMAN HANSEN: Good morning, everyone. |
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| 2 | Welcome to our Illinois Supreme Court Rules Committee |
| 3 | meeting and public hearing. This is the first hearing |
| 4 | we've had in person in a very long time, and it's nice |
| 5 | to get together and be able to do that. |
| 6 | My name is Jim Hansen. I'm the chair of the |
| 7 | committee. Larry Rogers, to my right, is the vice |
| 8 | chair. These are the members of our Committee up here. |
| 9 | And Justice O'Brien is down in front, our Supreme Court |
| 10 | liaison. |
| 11 | So with that being said, we will begin the |
| 12 | hearing. We have six speakers this morning. |
| 13 | Those of you that are here and have signed up, |
| 14 | you each have a 10-minute allotment of time. You don't |
| 15 | need to use the full 10 minutes if you feel you don't |
| 16 | need to. That's okay with us. If you are going long on |
| 17 | the 10 minutes, I certainly will let you know. And then |
| 18 | if there's any questions from the Committee members, we |
| 19 | will ask that when you finish with your comments. |
| 20 | So with that being said, our first speaker from |
| 21 | the ISBA, Nancy Shafer, and this is regarding proposal |
| 22 | 22-04 creating the New Rule 909 regarding parenting |
| 23 | coordinators. |
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| 1 | MS. NANCY SHAFER: Thank you. |
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| 2 | Good morning, Chair and the members of the |
| 3 | Committee. I appreciate the time you're allotting for |
| 4 | this rule today. |
| 5 | This is a proposed rule on something called |
| 6 | parenting coordination. Parenting coordination is an |
| 7 | out of court process for the resolution of minor |
| 8 | disputes in family law cases, generally related to |
| 9 | parenting and the details of implementation and |
| 10 | enforcing a parenting plan that the parties have already |
| 11 | agreed to or that the Court has already ordered. |
| 12 | The Illinois State Bar is proposing this rule to |
| 13 | address areas of conflict in families which tend to |
| 14 | utilize more court resources than other areas, with very |
| 15 | little benefit and a great deal of cost to the parties |
| 16 | and the system. Using parenting coordination helps to |
| 17 | conservative precious judicial resources while still |
| 18 | providing resolution to the parents. |
| 19 | High conflict family law cases are a great |
| 20 | example of something that's often called the 80/20 rule, |
| 21 | that is 20 percent of the cases take up 80 percent of |
| 22 | the time. In family law, it actually tends to be more |
| 23 | like 90/10 or 95/5. There are just some families where |
| 24 | the conflict level is extreme high for many reasons and |
| | |

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1 they're very difficult to resolve because it's like a
2 whac-a-mole. You resolve one problem and then the next
3 problem pops up.

So what we're looking at is throughout the state -- we have mediation programs which assist parents to reach agreement without direct judicial involvement, and they have been very successful.

8 However, there's a subset of cases where the 9 conflict between the parents is heightened that even 10 after a case is resolved, by agreement or trial, parents 11 continue to engage in conflict over even minor parenting 12 decisions and return to court over and over, seeking 13 support for their positions and a means to resolve each 14 conflict.

15 Parenting coordination is a process designed to 16 both resolve minor disputes without the need for expensive and time-consuming court actions, and to help 17 18 parents learn problem-solving skills that they will need 19 to coparent their children successfully. A good 20 parenting coordinator will help parents learn to resolve 21 their own conflict so that a parenting coordinator is no 22 longer needed. Our goal is is to work ourselves out of 23 a job.

24

Currently Cook County has a circuit court rule



which permits parenting coordination, and it is used frequently to great success. One other circuit -- one other county, McLean County, has a parenting coordination rule, but it is rarely used due primarily to an appellate court decision which suggested limitations to its use and sort of scared the bar in that area off from using it.

8 Other circuits have suggested to the bar that 9 without statutory or Supreme Court authority they 10 believe -- the Court believes they're unable to appoint 11 parenting coordinations, although some do allow 12 appointment of parenting coordinators by agreement.

There are no standards on -- or rules on how -statewide standards or rules on how parenting coordination should work, enforcement, payment of fees in most of the states; and this Supreme Court Rule addresses these issues.

I do -- can talk about the considerations in drafting the rule. It was based in part on the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts guidelines for parenting coordination. That organization, AFCC, is an interdisciplinary organization that is national in scope -- actually even international -- and is generally considered to be the lodestar, the cutting edge of



1 parenting issues in families in divorce. And they have 2 guidelines on that, a portion of which are literally 3 recited in this rule.

And then we also looked at states -- other state statutes such as Missouri and Supreme Court rules such as Arizona on parenting coordination. We also looked at the existing Illinois circuit court rules. We tried to anticipate and address identifiable problems and concerns which may be raised without making the proposal too long and too complex.

Generally, the highlights of the rule, we define 11 12 parenting coordination. The rule describes when it 13 should be used and the limitations on its use. Ιt 14 describes the process for implementing or objecting to 15 parenting coordinator recommendations, and they are 16 called recommendations, not rulings. We're not 17 advocating judicial authority to a parenting 18 coordinator. We are simply using an out of court 19 process to resolve things that often don't get resolved 20 in the court process.

The rule defines who may be a parenting coordinator and also how a parenting coordinator gets paid, remembering, of course, that there are sometimes objections to adding burdens to participants in the



1 | family law process.

2 This is not trying to add additional fees to any litigants. What this is doing is shifting how and when 3 and where they are paying their fees because if they're 4 5 going back to court, they're often paying two attorneys and a guardian ad litem or child representative as 6 7 opposed to one parenting coordinator who can help them not only resolve their dispute -- whether the pickup is 8 9 at 6 or 6:30, whether the child can go to the grandmother's 90th birthday party, all of the things 10 that come up in these post-judgement litigations -- but 11 12 also what we're looking at is teaching parents how to 13 problem solve, something that is sorely lacking, 14 especially in these families, and working ourselves out 15 of a job.

16 CHAIRMAN HANSEN: Thank you. I have some 17 follow-up.

18

MS. NANCY SHAFER: Sure.

19 CHAIRMAN HANSEN: I want to understand a little 20 bit on the background, because as I read the rule in 21 which you stated, currently only one county -- or maybe 22 two -- has parenting coordination local rules in effect. 23 MS. NANCY SHAFER: That's correct. 24 CHAIRMAN HANSEN: So if I'm in a county that



| 1 | doesn't have that, doesn't this presuppose then that my |
|----|--|
| 2 | local county has to adopt that first before they then |
| 3 | can impose this parenting coordinator role? |
| 4 | MS. NANCY SHAFER: Yes. And that is the way the |
| 5 | rule is set up. In large part because the thought was |
| б | that we don't want to supplant the counties' decision |
| 7 | making. Some counties believe that they have other |
| 8 | processes in place that could obviate the need for |
| 9 | parenting coordination. |
| 10 | THE COURT: And based on what you said then, |
| 11 | this currently would apply only so far in Cook County |
| 12 | because McLean County has, I guess, abandoned or is |
| 13 | not |
| 14 | MS. NANCY SHAFER: Well, they do have a rule, so |
| 15 | it may add additional support to the use of that rule |
| 16 | because now we have some standards in this Supreme Court |
| 17 | Rule that are going to govern what the counties can do. |
| 18 | CHAIRMAN HANSEN: And my last question and if |
| 19 | I missed it, I apologize. The fees, does it spell out |
| 20 | who pays for it? Is it split? Is it |
| 21 | MS. NANCY SHAFER: Well, it's up to the Court or |
| 22 | the parties' agreement because not all fees will be |
| 23 | split 50/50, for example, because people are not |
| 24 | necessarily in equal financial positions, but it would |
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Page 8



| 1 | be paid by the parties, I would imagine. |
|----|--|
| 2 | And I've certainly Judge Dickler who used to |
| 3 | be the presiding judge in Cook County was part of the |
| 4 | drafting of this. We already in place plans and I've |
| 5 | spoken with Judge Scannicchio about that as well to |
| 6 | create sort of a pro bono panel as well for those who |
| 7 | want to be on the list of approved parenting |
| 8 | coordinators, and I think that's how most counties would |
| 9 | do it similar to mediation. |
| 10 | CHAIRMAN HANSEN: Thank you. Any other |
| 11 | questions from the panel? |
| 12 | HON. DAVID R. NAVARRO: You mentioned a pro bono |
| 13 | panel or a panel of I'm assuming attorneys, but |
| 14 | the rule talks about it could be individuals with a |
| 15 | master's degree in social work or some related field in |
| 16 | addition or a JD. |
| 17 | MS. NANCY SHAFER: Absolutely. And the plan, |
| 18 | the idea is a lot of mental health professionals are |
| 19 | going into this kind of work and may be uniquely suited |
| 20 | for the certainly for the education about problem |
| 21 | solving and decision making as coparents. |
| 22 | Sometimes as lawyers we tend to go "Here's my |
| 23 | decision. This is it." We don't always take the time |
| 24 | to educate the parties. But the idea is this is an |
| | |



| 1 | interdisciplinary area of practice that's coming forth, |
|-----|--|
| 2 | so we do anticipate mental health professionals wanting |
| 3 | to be on that. And the idea would be if a county had an |
| 4 | approved list of parenting coordinators, similar to |
| 5 | mediation, if you want to be on this list, you have to |
| 6 | do one or two a year that are pro bono. |
| 7 | UNIDENTIFIED COMMITTEE MEMBER: I guess I have a |
| 8 | question. Why not just go to Cook County and say, |
| 9 | "Adopt this as a local rule," since they're the only |
| 10 | jurisdiction that currently is doing this? Why the need |
| 11 | for a Supreme Court Rule statewide? |
| 12 | MS. NANCY SHAFER: So that's a very good |
| 13 | question. |
| 14 | Cook County already has a Rule, but what we are |
| 15 | looking for is support to be able to take this to the |
| 16 | other counties. My primary county of practice is Lake |
| 17 | County, and take that to them and say, "Okay. Now, it's |
| 18 | time. The Supreme Court has blessed this, so to speak, |
| 19 | and let's do our own rule." And since this rule really |
| 20 | lays out all of the requirements, a local court rule can |
| 21 | simply say, "We're going to do that," and not have to be |
| 22 | a big, complex process. |
| ~ ~ | |

And my understanding from my work on the ISBAFamily Law section counsel is that many counties are



| 1 | interested in this. |
|----|--|
| 2 | HON. WILLIAM H. HOOKS: So can it be optional |
| 3 | for a county to buy into this or not and not be required |
| 4 | based upon a Supreme Court Rule? |
| 5 | MS. NANCY SHAFER: I believe that's the way the |
| 6 | Rule is written, and the reason for that is some |
| 7 | discussion in a couple of counties, not many, but a |
| 8 | couple of counties that they believe they already have |
| 9 | resources and don't need this rule. |
| 10 | My belief is that everybody will come around |
| 11 | because it is a really effective tool and I I know |
| 12 | there's a couple of judges here, some of whose names I |
| 13 | recognize, that, you know, family law court can be a |
| 14 | very difficult assignment and a lot of that difficulty |
| 15 | is these high conflict repeat cases. And this is going |
| 16 | to help that we hope. |
| 17 | VICE CHAIR ROGERS: Question. |
| 18 | MS. NANCY SHAFER: Yes. |
| 19 | VICE CHAIR ROGERS: Does this alter the system |
| 20 | currently used in Cook County? |
| 21 | MS. NANCY SHAFER: No. |
| 22 | VICE CHAIR ROGERS: So does it mirror it? |
| 23 | MS. NANCY SHAFER: It doesn't exactly mirror it. |
| 24 | One original draft was a mirror, but then we took out |





3 heartedly endorsed. They put in some language from the 4 AFCC model guidelines, which I think is great -- we as a 5 community thought was great.

6 MR. STEVE H. KIM: It says that on the basis of 7 appointment is agreement of the coparents.

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MS. NANCY SHAFER: Yes.

9 MR. STEVE H. KIM: So both parents have to agree 10 to this or --

> MS. NANCY SHAFER: No. It's an either/or. MR. STEVE H. KIM: It's an either/or. Okay.

MS. NANCY SHAFER: So there are times when it's not going to be coming from the Court, but it would be part of a settlement agreement. So the attorneys representing the parties are like, "Hey, I know it's been difficult. Why don't we put this into place?"

And they agree and select a parenting coordinator which may be from the list or may be somebody -- for example, just like with mediation, we don't always use people on the list. Sometimes there's a clergy member or a family member who is trusted by both parties and can serve in those roles.

24

MR. STEVE H. KIM: So on the selection process,



1 how does that work? Do the parents, coparents have to 2 agree or their lawyers have to agree? Or can it just be 3 random?

MS. NANCY SHAFER: It can be court appointed, and certainly we don't expect every litigant to know who these people are, whether there's a list or in a county where there may not be a list. But the Court can appoint people, but also the parties can select somebody. It's similar to how we do mediation now.

10

MR. STEVE H. KIM: Thank you.

11 VICE CHAIR ROGERS: One other thing. As I read 12 it, it requires that they comply with the recommendation 13 from the coordinator or seek court intervention.

MS. NANCY SHAFER: Yes. Exactly. And that's
the power of the parenting coordinator process.

16 So assuming that you haven't yet been successful 17 in teaching them how to make decisions on their own, 18 somebody needs to decide whether the kid is being picked 19 up at 6 or 6:30 or is going to go to grandma's 90th 20 birthday party or not, and so the parenting coordinator 21 would make a recommendation -- a decision, in a sense --22 and submit that in writing to the parties. And then 23 they can object to it and bring it to the court for a 24 couple of limited purposes, that it's not in the best



| 1 | interest or that it exceeds their authority. |
|----|---|
| 2 | So a parenting coordinator could not there |
| 3 | was the McLean County case, Perry, where the parenting |
| 4 | coordinator apparently exceeded his authority or the |
| 5 | court exceeded their authority to direct the parenting |
| 6 | coordinator to do something, and we want to avoid that |
| 7 | situation. |
| 8 | CHAIR HANSEN: Okay. |
| 9 | UNIDENTIFIED COMMITTEE MEMBER: I had one |
| 10 | question. |
| 11 | In Cook County where the program is working, do |
| 12 | you have an adequate supply of people to serve as these |
| 13 | coordinators? We do and we don't. We have many people |
| 14 | who are doing this, and more and more as the AFCC does |
| 15 | trainings. And they do a training in Chicago every |
| 16 | other year, I believe. And every training we've got |
| 17 | more people going through it. But we do still I |
| 18 | mean, there's a lot of cases in Cook County. |
| 19 | What we lack is low-cost parenting coordination |
| 20 | or pro bono coordination. By establishing this, we're |
| 21 | already working with Judge Scannicchio to create a list |
| 22 | and do all of those things. We have application forms |
| 23 | and everything that we've been working on for Cook |
| 24 | County. |





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| 1 | CHAIR HANSEN: Thank you very much. We |
| 2 | appreciate it. |
| 3 | MS. MARY SHAFER: Thank you. |
| 4 | CHAIR HANSEN: Next up in a first in the history |
| 5 | that I've been on this Committee, one of our Committee |
| 6 | members is stepping to take the podium, Professor |
| 7 | Beyler, for amending Supreme Court Rule 306, Proposal |
| 8 | 22-07, interlocutory appeals by permission. |
| 9 | Professor, the podium is yours. |
| 10 | PROFESSOR KEITH BEYLER: Thank you. |
| 11 | This deals by with the rule on interlocutory |
| 12 | appeals by permission. It makes two changes, one of |
| 13 | which I think is noncontroversial and the other which |
| 14 | is. |
| 15 | So I'm going to start with the noncontroversial, |
| 16 | and that deals with orders that grant or deny a motion |
| 17 | to transfer for improper venue, which is under paragraph |
| 18 | (a)(4). |
| 19 | And the problem there is that the language that |
| 20 | was used when that was put in the Rule kind of tracks |
| 21 | the general venue statute, and there are two appellate |
| 22 | court decisions that say because of that tracking of |
| 23 | language, you can use this if you're under the general |
| 24 | venue statute. |



| 1 | But if a special venue applies in your case, |
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| 2 | then you're out of luck. You can't use this |
| 3 | interlocutory appeal by permission. That came up in one |
| 4 | Fifth District case which I cited to you in the memo I |
| 5 | prepared, which involves the special venue statute that |
| 6 | lets the plaintiffs sue an insurance company in the |
| 7 | plaintiff's own county of residence, and someone wanted |
| 8 | interlocutory review with that order. And the Fifth |
| 9 | District said we just don't have jurisdiction to do |
| 10 | that. It would be desirable for us to be able to review |
| 11 | it, but we can't under the current rule. |
| 12 | The other is a Second District case. The |
| 13 | special venue statute, which is part of the Arbitration |
| 14 | Act, which basically says that if you're wanting to |
| 15 | bring on a case to vacate an arbitration award, you |

16 have to bring it in the county where the arbitration 17 hearing took place.

Again, the Second District said, "Well, that's not under the general venue statute, so there's no way to get interlocutory review by permission. We just don't have jurisdiction.

The proposal I've given you tries to fix this by simply saying in more general language that this is available where there is -- the basis for the motion is



the venue is improper. So that would not be tracking 1 2 the language of the general venue statute anymore. I don't know of any opposition to that, and I 3 would just comment that if you disagree with me on the 4 second part, what I'm about to get to, I hope you'd at 5 least be willing to recommend that technical change. 6 The second part of what I looked at is cases in 7 which there's an order with regard to forum selection 8 9 clauses, either an order denying the motion to dismiss on forum selection cause grounds or an order either 10 11 granting or denying a motion to transfer to another 12 county in Illinois on forum selection cause grounds. 13 Where we are right now is that those kind of orders 14 cannot be reviewed, and in -- at least not under this 15 rule.

The case that I looked at when I was looking at the others I told you about is one out of the First District where someone was seeking interlocutory review of a forum non conveniens motion -- or an order, and also interlocutory review of an order relating to the forum selection clause.

The First District said, "Well, we've got jurisdiction under the rule to look at the forum non conveniens question, but we have no jurisdiction at all



| 1 | to look at the forum selection clause question." |
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| 2 | And I think that most of the time the pattern |
| 3 | that's in that case is the pattern we would see, that is |
| 4 | someone would already be going up on a forum non |
| 5 | conveniens question and would like to add in the forum |
| 6 | selection cause question. And as we stand now, you |
| 7 | can't get review. If you adopt this proposal, you will |
| 8 | be able to get review, at least if the appellate court |
| 9 | decides in its wisdom that this is the time to look at |
| 10 | that question. |
| 11 | Let me just step back, and then I'll finish. |
| 12 | You know, we have a whole series of doctrines |
| 13 | personal jurisdiction, venue, forum non conveniens, |
| 14 | arbitration clauses, and forum selection clauses |
| 15 | which effect where this case really belongs. |
| 16 | And we can get review in all of those instances, |
| 17 | at least if you take the suggestion I made on venue, |
| 18 | except for forum selection clauses. That's the one |
| 19 | thing that stands out. I realize that they're not very |
| 20 | popular, especially with the plaintiffs bar, but this |
| 21 | proposal does not in any way change the law on whether |
| 22 | when they can be enforced or not, and it does not |
| 23 | is not in any way, I think, going to bring on more |
| 24 | motions of that kind. |



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| 1 | I really don't think it will add to the |
| 2 | appellate court's workload by very much because, as I |
| 3 | said before, these are typically going to come up when |
| 4 | someone's already going to the appellate court on a |
| 5 | forum non conveniens motion. |
| 6 | So, anyway, that's the gist of what I'm |
| 7 | proposing, and I'd be happy to answer any questions. |
| 8 | UNIDENTIFIED COMMITTEE MEMBER: I'll throw out |
| 9 | one. |
| 10 | So currently is anyone just out of luck on any |
| 11 | type of appeal on a forum selection clause? Is there no |
| 12 | other rule that addresses that at all? |
| 13 | PROFESSOR KEITH BEYLER: Well, if you could make |
| 14 | it a pure question of law, reviewable de novo, then you |
| 15 | could ask the trial court to certify the question for |
| 16 | interlocutory review. We then might get into a question |
| 17 | of whether that technically, you know, is a controlling |
| 18 | question in the case, but that would be your only other |
| 19 | option. |
| 20 | Otherwise, you simply are there for the |
| 21 | duration, and if it goes to final judgment and there's |
| 22 | an appeal, that's the point at which it can be reviewed. |
| 23 | So it you know, sort of stays there as a ticking time |
| 24 | bomb which might go off if we actually go to final |



1 judgement and go up on appeal. 2 This is kind of off the point, but the U.S. Supreme Court has got a case before it just this week on 3 the criminal side where it deals with, you know, venue, 4 which was determined to be improper and then what do we 5 do about it? 6 7 Well, in the criminal case, there's -- half the circuits are saying, "Well, we have to reverse and go to 8 9 a retrial," which is what we would be doing in a civil 10 The other half are saying, "Double jeopardy kicks case. 11 in and there can be no retrial." So, sort of, venue 12 being wrong probably vanishes most of the time because 13 of the fact that so many cases settle, but it is there 14 as a potential potential problem, which can't be dealt 15 with until after final judgment. 16 CHAIR HANSEN: Anybody else? This is our time for questioning. 17 Go ahead, Rich. 18 19 UNIDENTIFIED COMMITTEE MEMBER: Yeah. In 20 looking at paragraph four, you have stricken the 21 language about not being a resident -- in your proposal. 22 You have stricken the language about -- based on the 23 assertion that the defendant is not a resident of the 24 county. I wasn't quite able to divine from your



explanation about why you struck that sentence. 1 2 PROFESSOR KEITH BEYLER: Because that's the language that sort of tracks the general venue statute 3 and has caused the appellate court in those two cases to 4 say, "This is available only if the ground is a 5 6 violation of the general venue statute," meaning that 7 it's not available if you're relying on a special venue statute which happens to apply to your case. 8 9 UNIDENTIFIED COMMITTEE MEMBER: And so if I'm 10 understanding you correctly, you've sort of taken that 11 out to free the shackles from the Court, if you will --12 PROFESSOR KEITH BEYLER: Yes. 13 UNIDENTIFIED COMMITTEE MEMBER: -- and then 14 you've covered it by the adding the words, "On the 15 grounds that venue is improper." 16 PROFESSOR KEITH BEYLER: That's right. 17 UNIDENTIFIED COMMITTEE MEMBER: Okay. Thank 18 you. 19 Okay. Thank you, Professor. CHAIR HANSEN: 20 Next up on the same proposal, Kathy Byrne from 21 the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association. 22 MS. KATHY BYRNE: Good morning, Your Honor, 23 Judges, Mr. Chairman, Committee, Professor. 24 My name is Kathy Byrne, and I am the



president-elect of the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association. The Trial Lawyers are made up of more than 2,000 law firms. We represent victims of consumer injustice, injury, tragic injury. We oppose this amendment.

First of all, our thought is that it is too broad. It exceeds the venue statute. It unduly emphasizes one aspect of things that a court considers when looking at proper venue.

This could cause confusion. Is this a basis for 10 11 going up alone when it's a situation where a consumer 12 has entered into an electronic contract that is issued 13 to them at the little pay pad at Best Buy? It contains 14 40 pages. You can stand in the line and wait for the 15 people behind you to start shoving you as you try to read the contract, but if the forum selection clause is 16 17 buried on page 27 of the little pad, no one is going to 18 read it. And let's say you buy some televisions at Best 19 Buy and you hire the Geek Squad to come ad install them, 20 they do it improperly, and the television falls off the 21 wall and injures your toddler.

You come to Cooney & Conway and hire me to bring a lawsuit against Best Buy and the Geek Squad, and low and behold, in those pages and pages of electronic



1 documents, there's something that says this case has to
2 be -- any case coming from this contract has to be tried
3 in Woodford County.

Certainly the parties did not bargain for this. 4 It's a contract that only the supplier ever looked at. 5 It's not something that the salesperson or the clerk at 6 7 Best Buy negotiated with the purchaser, and it would be extraordinarily unfair that that would be the sole 8 9 reasons that someone's case could get transferred out of their place of residence and a place where the defendant 10 11 is resident to go to a choice of place where there's no 12 connection to the injury.

13 Remember, this is a -- this talks to the general 14 The legislature certainly knows well how venue statute. 15 to do special venue statutes. If the legislature had 16 wanted to do a special venue statute for contracts, they could have done so. I mean, we have them for libel; we 17 18 have them for insurance; we have them for real estate. 19 There are special venue statutes for those causes of 20 There's not a special venue statute for a action. 21 contract, and under our rules, we should try to follow 22 what the legislature has dictated.

I think this is going to cause a strain becauseI can assure you that out of the 200 or so cases that we



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| 1 | file a year, every single one is greeted with an |
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| 2 | affirmative offense of venue, whether it has anything to |
| 3 | do with the facts of the case. It's a boilerplate |
| 4 | affirmative offense in every case. |
| 5 | If suddenly people can start seizing on a |
| 6 | contract that was out there and no one knew about or, |
| 7 | worse, it could cause mischief and companies and vendors |
| 8 | could start putting forum selection contracts clauses |
| 9 | into their contracts willy-nilly. This gives them an |
| 10 | incentive. This is another basis for us to get this |
| 11 | case away from where it would be convenient and helpful |
| 12 | to a plaintiff. |
| 13 | Under 2-104(c), the court is should construe |
| 14 | should make its ruling on venue based on any |
| 15 | competent evidence, any. So why we need to unduly |
| 16 | emphasize a contract versus any other competent evidence |
| 17 | has not been explained. I don't understand why this |
| 18 | would would blast out as opposed to other elements of |
| 19 | venue. |
| 20 | And I would also point out that the legislature |

And I would also point out that the legislature is aware of these contracts. They are discussed in the Choice of Law and Forum Act, 735, 105/5-5 & 5-10. And in that, there are limitations on contracts, and they have to come under the Commercial Code.



You can state -- you can reach an agreement if 1 2 the parties are equally involved in the decision making. You can reach an agreement for your choice of law, and 3 you can reach an agreement for your venue. 4 But those 5 are limited. Those are limited to commercial contracts and they must exceed \$500,000. There's no such 6 7 restriction in this proposal.

8 There's also no reason to have the trial courts 9 and the appellate courts have to analyze and construe 10 these contracts in virtually every case where the 11 defendant has placed one of these contracts in a 12 boilerplate contract to see, "Well, is it more than --13 is the value of this more than 500,000? Is it a 14 commercial contract?"

15 Are we going to take testimony on who was there? 16 Was, you know, Mary standing at the counter when she 17 signed the Best Buy ticket or was it Joe? Who was the 18 clerk? Did they discuss it? Same thing with if you 19 rent a car and you're standing in the Davis line at the 20 airport and, you know, you are just clicking, clicking, 21 clicking, with electronic signatures and electronic 22 contracts, these clauses will be buried.

It will be extraordinarily difficult for such ahighlighted element to be held out and will cause



confusion and extra strain upon the courts. 1 Okay. I will start with a few 2 CHAIRMAN HANSEN: 3 questions. MS. KATHY BYRNE: 4 Okay. 5 Do you concede that the Second CHAIRMAN HANSEN: and Fifth Districts in the cases cited by Professor 6 7 Beyler call out the problem as it currently sits with the rule not addressing forum selection causes? 8 9 As a sole issue? MS. KATHY BYRNE: 10 CHAIRMAN HANSEN: Yeah. Just --11 MS. KATHY BYRNE: They do call it out as a sole 12 issue. 13 CHAIRMAN HANSEN: Right. So what we have 14 currently is if I'm defending a case and I want to bring 15 something like that, I got to bring it under a forum non 16 conveniens argument, and as Professor Beyler said, I have to wait, as the defendant, until final judgment to 17 18 take it up on appeal if I want to argue that because 19 it's not spelled out how I can do that in a 20 interlocutory fashion. 21 So is it the position that's being taken by you 22 and the trial lawyers that -- do not address it, just 23 leave it as it is and have everyone take it up after the 24 case is concluded with a final judgment?



| 1 | MS. KATHY BYRNE: That would be, or for the |
|----|--|
| 2 | plaintiff to, you know, ask for judgment on the |
| 3 | pleadings if the contract doesn't fall within the choice |
| 4 | of law and forum. |
| 5 | THE COURT: Okay. |
| 6 | VICE CHAIR ROGERS: I have a question. |
| 7 | The issue of a forum selection clause is one |
| 8 | that can be considered by the Court on a motion as the |
| 9 | law currently stands. |
| 10 | MS. KATHY BYRNE: If there is a motion for |
| 11 | improper venue, yes, they can consider any competent |
| 12 | evidence. |
| 13 | VICE CHAIR ROGERS: Sure. And the rule |
| 14 | references the denial of a motion, meaning that the |
| 15 | court would have considered all of the factors, |
| 16 | including a forum selection clause in rendering a |
| 17 | decision; and as I understand your issue, to expressly |
| 18 | reference forum selection clauses as the basis for an |
| 19 | interlocutory appeal unfairly highlights one element |
| 20 | that the court considered in |
| 21 | MS. KATHY BYRNE: Unfairly highlights and |
| 22 | emphasizes it, yeah. |
| 23 | VICE CHAIR ROGERS: And there are and that |
| 24 | particular clause is one that almost universally is |



| | rage 20 |
|----|--|
| 1 | independently drafted by a defendant in a contract |
| 2 | without input from a consumer; is that right? |
| 3 | MS. KATHY BYRNE: That's correct. |
| 4 | VICE CHAIR ROGERS: Who likely signed something |
| 5 | unknowingly that it unknowingly included a forum |
| 6 | selection clause. |
| 7 | MS. KATHY BYRNE: That is correct. |
| 8 | VICE CHAIR ROGERS: And unbeknownst to them |
| 9 | would be delaying justice potentially for them because |
| 10 | of a particular forum selection clause they did not |
| 11 | negotiate being dragged into the appellate court for a |
| 12 | decision and that that one element being considered by |
| 13 | the court being highlighted and almost controlling. |
| 14 | MS. KATHY BYRNE: That is correct. |
| 15 | I would also point out that the proposal as |
| 16 | drafted does not say "and a forum selection clause," it |
| 17 | says "or." So it could go on its own despite any of the |
| 18 | other competent evidence that the plaintiff has |
| 19 | marshaled, and that, I think, would be unduly delaying |
| 20 | the plaintiff's case and it would cause undue and |
| 21 | strain on the court. Because as I said, if this is |
| 22 | enacted, we are going to see, you know, a mushrooming of |
| 23 | these clauses, particularly now that so many contracts |
| 24 | are electronic and difficult to read. |



VICE CHAIR ROGERS: And even in instances where 1 2 the defendant has connections to multiple forums, a forum selection clause will allow them to independently 3 choose one favorable to them. 4 MS. KATHY BYRNE: Well, one favorable to them 5 whether they are a resident of that forum or not. 6 7 VICE CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. CHAIR HANSEN: But that's only if the forum is 8 9 outside the state of Illinois under the proposal. It's 10 only if the forum selection clause specifies a forum 11 other than Illinois courts. It doesn't apply to 12 anything in state; true? 13 MS. KATHY BYRNE: That's in part three. 14 CHAIR HANSEN: 3, correct. That's what it says. 15 MS. KATHY BYRNE: Correct. 16 CHAIR HANSEN: So how is that -- you said that's going to delay justice for somebody. How is it any 17 18 different than if I go up on an interlocutory appeal on 19 a forum non conveniens? Isn't it the same argument that 20 I'm delaying the case doing that? MS. KATHY BYRNE: Well, one would assume that 21 22 when the forum non conveniens motion order is appealed 23 there has been a mustering and all of the elements are 24 laid out and weighed by both the trial court and on



| 1 | appeal by the appellate court. |
|----|---|
| 2 | We don't have a forum rule that says, you know, |
| 3 | the congestion of the courts is the most important rule |
| 4 | when you are looking at the forum non conveniens |
| 5 | evaluation factors. This makes it gives special |
| 6 | weight to one factor. |
| 7 | MR. JOHN SPESIA: I have a question for you. |
| 8 | So Professor Beyler talked about the option of |
| 9 | ending subparagraph 4 where it would just say on the |
| 10 | grounds that venue is improper. Period. |
| 11 | MS. KATHY BYRNE: Period. |
| 12 | MR. JOHN SPESIA: So my question for you is: |
| 13 | Would that be acceptable to you, or is the finding that |
| 14 | venue is improper a finding that also includes one that |
| 15 | could be based on a forum selection clause? |
| 16 | MS. KATHY BYRNE: I think that that broadens the |
| 17 | rule. I think that it is this is based on the |
| 18 | defendant being a resident of the county or not being a |
| 19 | resident of the county. |
| 20 | If defendant comes in and says, "I don't do |
| 21 | anything in Cook County," I think that's a that's a |
| 22 | valuable factor for the court to consider, and it is a |
| 23 | factor set out in the venue statute. But it also gives |
| 24 | weight to the no other legitimate basis. If we're going |
| | |



to take out the ability for the plaintiff to show 1 2 another legitimate basis, you know, that's a different question than the forum selection. 3 MR. JOHN SPESIA: But isn't that -- if the rule 4 is rewritten to say "On the grounds that venue is 5 improper," doesn't that necessarily cover all decisions 6 and all factors? 7 MS. KATHY BYRNE: I think that it would. 8 9 Okay. So I think Professor MR. JOHN SPESIA: 10 Beyler conceded -- or the way he presented this -unless I misheard him -- is that, in fact, the proposal 11 12 is to broaden the interlocutory appeals so that they 13 will apply to all decisions that venue is improper and 14 not solely the venue, the particular venue statute that, 15 you know, the language parrots. 16 So I quess back to my question, is -- would it be acceptable to you if the rule -- if subsection 4 was 17 18 amended to end at the word improper. So it would say, 19 "On the grounds that venue is improper." Period. 20 I think that that would cover MS. KATHY BYRNE: 21 most situations. 22 MR. JOHN SPESIA: Okay. 23 MS. KATHY BYRNE: I do have to say I have not 24 discussed this with my organization because this wasn't

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an option that was discussed. 1 2 MR. JOHN SPESIA: Sure. One of the things that Professor Beyler said is 3 that if the rule was so amended to include the language 4 on the grounds that venue is improper that that would 5 include specific venue statutes. For example, I think 6 he gave one relating to arbitrations that that decision 7 could be appealed. So it certainly is broadening the 8 9 rule. 10 But, anyway, that -- I was wondering if that would be acceptable if we -- then it wouldn't unduly 11 12 highlight the forum election clause which seems like --13 MS. KATHY BYRNE: Which that is my main concern. 14 MR. JOHN SPESIA: Sure. 15 Okay. Thanks. MR. RICHARD HODYL: So for clarification then 16 with that amendment, putting a period after venue is 17 18 improper, would the addition of -- to paragraph three be 19 necessary even then? 20 MS. KATHY BYRNE: I would not think so. I think 21 that sort of undoes everything. 22 MR. RICHARD HODYL: That was my thought. I just 23 wanted to follow-up on that. 24 CHAIRMAN HANSEN: Any other questions? Okay.





| 1 | Thank you very much. |
|----|--|
| 2 | MS. KATHY BYRNE: If I could just take one point |
| 3 | of personal privilege. |
| 4 | CHAIRMAN HANSEN: Sure. |
| 5 | MS. KATHY BYRNE: I would like to thank my law |
| 6 | clerks from Cooney & Conway. They came over to help me |
| 7 | do some research on this. I wanted them to see how |
| 8 | procedures are made. Thank you. |
| 9 | CHAIRMAN HANSEN: Very good. Thank you. |
| 10 | Okay. Next up we have proposal 22-10, which |
| 11 | amends Supreme Court Rule 761, 759, 753, and Rule of |
| 12 | Professional Conduct 8.3. |
| 13 | First up, Scott Renfroe from the ARDC. |
| 14 | Good morning. |
| 15 | MR. SCOTT RENFROE: Good morning, Justice |
| 16 | O'Brien, members of the Committee. |
| 17 | On behalf of ARDC and its administrator Jerry |
| 18 | Larkin, who's seated to my right, thank you for the time |
| 19 | you're giving to our proposals to amend certain |
| 20 | disciplinary rules affecting attorneys in Illinois. |
| 21 | The cover letter that Mr. Larkin submitted |
| 22 | included an explanation for the changes as well as |
| 23 | memorandum that addressed the proposed changes in |
| 24 | additional detail, and that information I know is posted |
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| 1 | to the Committee's website. And I'll direct your |
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| 2 | attention to that if you're not familiar with it. |
| 3 | But my purpose today is not to provide a |
| 4 | detailed explanation for the rationale behind it, since |
| 5 | the letter and the memo addressed those points, but to |
| 6 | provide some additional context since most lawyers in |
| 7 | Illinois are happy if their exposure to the ARDC is |
| 8 | limited to the annual registration process and also to |
| 9 | respond to some of the comments that were made by |
| 10 | opponents to some of the suggested amendments. |
| 11 | As you know, the ARDC is an agency of the state |
| 12 | Supreme Court. It acts under the court's authority to |
| 13 | administer the disciplinary process affecting Illinois |
| 14 | lawyers. We also act under the direction of the |
| 15 | commission, which is four lawyers and three members of |
| 16 | the public appointed by the court to oversee the |
| 17 | administrator's work. |
| 18 | In making disciplinary decisions affecting |
| 19 | attorneys in Illinois, the administrator and its staff |
| 20 | are mindful of the court's rules, including the Rules of |
| 21 | Professional Conduct, as well as the rules including |

22 those that are before you this morning, as well as over 23 100 years of disciplinary precedent.

24

Among the considerations that we take into



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| 1 | account in determining whether to bring a case is |
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| 2 | Comment 19 to the preamble and scope section of the |
| 3 | Rules of Professional Conduct, which provides that |
| 4 | whether or not discipline should be imposed for a |
| 5 | violation of the rules and the severity of the sanction |
| 6 | depends on all the circumstances, such as the |
| 7 | willfulness and seriousness of the violation, |
| 8 | extenuating factors, and whether there have been |
| 9 | previous violations of the rules. |
| 10 | The goal of attorney discipline is not to punish |
| 11 | an individual attorney, but to promote the protection of |
| 12 | the public reputation of the bar and the administration |
| 13 | of justice in the state. |
| 14 | So the ARDC and its administrator recognize the |
| 15 | importance of a number of factors, including mediation, |
| 16 | so addressing deficiencies in attorney's practice, as |
| 17 | well as education of an attorney and look for |
| 18 | opportunities to avoid discipline wherever appropriate, |
| 19 | including making referrals, where appropriate, to the |
| 20 | Lawyers' Assistance Program. ARDC and the Lawyers' |
| 21 | Assistance Program have had a relationship going back |
| 22 | almost 50 years that dates back to the Commission's |
| 23 | first administrator, Carl Rolewick. |
| | |

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Among the remediation efforts that the ARDC can



| 1 | recommend or impose as part of an inquiry panel |
|---|---|
| 2 | disposition are attorneys taking law office management |
| 3 | courses, obtaining mentors to assist them in their |
| 4 | practice, to be regularly monitored for substance abuse |
| 5 | issues, or to take additional education, including |
| 6 | online education as available through the ARDC's |
| 7 | website. |

8 I'd like to talk next about the proposal to 9 amend Rule 761, which is the rule dealing with 10 convictions or a crime by an attorney. The rule as it 11 exists already requires lawyers in Illinois who are 12 convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor to report that 13 fact to the ARDC.

14 Serious cases involving moral turpitude are 15 referred directly to the Supreme Court by way of a 16 petition seeking an attorney's interim suspension. That 17 would include, for example, things like bank or mail fraud convictions. But less serious cases cases, where 18 19 it's not clear that the conduct involves moral turpitude 20 are referred to an inquiry board for its review and 21 consideration.

The proposed change here doesn't affect the felony or misdemeanor section of the rule. It adds context for what circumstances would require a report to


the ARDC, and the amendment we argue is consistent with the court's existing precedent. So the proposed change would require lawyers to report anything that results in a finding or a factual basis being established, since it's the fact of the conduct, not the criminal court's reaction to it that is the basis for the imposition of discipline.

8 So this would -- the proposed amendment would 9 require lawyers to report events that do not result in the formal entry of a judgement and conviction. 10 And as I said, this is a already consistent with the court's 11 12 existing precedent. So rather than, you know, 13 increasing the ARDC's workload or setting a trap for the 14 unwary, the goal here is actually to provide notice to 15 Illinois attorneys of what circumstances require a 16 report to the ARDC.

Now, the Robinson firm, which consists of the 17 18 ARDC's former administrator Mary Robinson and three of 19 her partners, all of whom have substantial ARDC 20 experience, wrote in response to the ARDC's proposal, 21 recognizing this existing precedent. Their suggested 22 change was to modify some of the language to -- they 23 proposed make it more clear or provide additional 24 quidance to attorneys who might be affected by the



1 proposed change.

We are not opposing that suggested language. In fact, we'd like to continue a dialogue. If you think that additional language or different language would be appropriate, the ARDC is willing to work with you and eager to work with you to take into account any proposed changes that you might make and take those back to our board for the board's review.

9 Now, the Rule 761, since people may not be familiar with the inquiry board, requires a review by an 10 inquiry panel, which is made up of two lawyers and one 11 12 nonlawyer who are appointed by the commission. They 13 decide whether to defer consideration pending, as I said, monitoring or some other remedial action. 14 Thev 15 can also close a matter, including closing with a 16 caution, which in some cases is referred to as an informal admonition. 17

And it's important, I think, for you to recognize that prior to a referral to an inquiry board, the ARDC staff attorneys meet with the administrator and the senior staff to determine what action to recommend that the inquiry panel take.

23 So the commission deals, as I said, with serious 24 charges but also relatively minor charges. That's not



1 to say that those charges can't be indicative of a 2 larger issue that needs to be addressed by the 3 commission.

For example, most people recognize that even a single driving under the influence charge may not represent the first time a lawyer has driven while impaired, and it may be an indication of a substance abuse issue that needs to be addressed in order to protect the lawyer's clients and to make sure that they're receiving appropriate services.

As part of the inquiry panel process, the inquiry panel will oftentimes review the disposition of, for example, a DUI case to see at what level of risk the lawyer's been assessed in the course of that prosecution.

16 The next Rule I'd like to highlight is Rule 763, 17 which is the rule that deals with reciprocal discipline. 18 Unlike proceedings before the hearing board at the ARDC, 19 which can be contested or resolved by consent, 20 reciprocal discipline cases are filed directly with the 21 state supreme court, where we bring to the court's attention the fact that an Illinois lawyer has been 22 23 disciplined in another jurisdiction, so the other 50 24 states and the District of Columbia, for example.



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| 1 | The proposed amendment would give similar effect |
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| 2 | to federal court findings or findings imposing |
| 3 | discipline by three specific federal agencies. This |
| 4 | proposal is consistent with the actions taken by 36 |
| 5 | other jurisdictions with recognized federal court |
| 6 | dispositions as forming a basis for reciprocal |
| 7 | discipline, including states with substantial lawyer |
| 8 | population, including California, New York, and Florida. |
| 9 | It's also consistent with the American Bar |
| 10 | Association's model rule for disciplinary enforcement, |
| 11 | and this proposal to amend Rule 763 also has the support |
| 12 | of the Illinois State Bar Association. |
| 13 | Now, some of the objections that have been made |
| 14 | include that lawyers who are practicing before some of |
| 15 | these federal agencies or in federal court may not be |
| 16 | given due process or may not have a legitimate interest |
| 17 | in defending their license before these courts because |
| 18 | they have a limited license or maybe a minimal |
| 19 | connection to the entity or the tribunal. |
| 20 | This though overlooks the fact that judges, |
| 21 | especially federal Article 3 judges who have lifetime |
| 22 | appointments, are familiar with making decisions of this |

24 judgments. They rule on motions for dismissal of a

sort all of the time. They rule on motions for summary

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| 1 | case. So they are familiar with the rules, and the |
|----|--|
| 2 | rules in the district courts tend to be based on the |
| 3 | American Bar Association's rules, just as Illinois's |
| 4 | rules are. So they're familiar with the issues. |
| 5 | They're familiar with the rules. And they're qualified |
| 6 | to make decisions of this sort all of the time. |
| 7 | The federal agencies that we've identified |
| 8 | and its only three of them are also familiar with the |
| 9 | rules of professional conduct. They're familiar with |
| 10 | the issues that affect the representation of clients in |
| 11 | proceedings before those agencies. |
| 12 | So the objection that lawyers might not be |
| 13 | motivated to defend in, for example, an immigration case |
| 14 | or patent law case, which are the only two types of |
| 15 | agency dispositions we're recommending in the revised |
| 16 | rule, overlooks the fact that practitioners in those |
| 17 | areas tend to concentrate in those areas at a certain |
| 18 | level of expertise and familiarity with the proceedings |
| 19 | is assumed. So the idea that they would not necessarily |
| 20 | defend I think is inconsistent with the actual |
| 21 | circumstances of those limited types of practices. |

22 Objections to the fairness or sufficiency of a 23 proceeding, whether it affords due process, are allowed 24 under the existing rule and would be allowed under the



proposed amendment the court -- or that the Committee,
rather, has before it.

Finally, I would note that the court has already imposed reciprocal discipline in cases where other jurisdictions have given full faith and credit to an agency finding, so this is not a radical extension or something that is out of the ordinary. The reciprocal rule for federal court action has already been endorsed and accepted by 36 other jurisdictions.

10 So as I said, we're happy to work with the 11 Committee if you have comments or suggested revisions 12 for any proposals that we've made. I do not address all 13 them because some of them have not been objected to. 14 I'm happy to answer my questions that you have about the 15 work of the ARDC or about any of these specific 16 proposals.

17 I'm not a criminal lawyer, but as CHAIR HANSEN: 18 I read 761(a), I'm going to give an example. If I get 19 my third speeding ticket within 18 months and my 20 prosecuting attorney in my county says, "Jim, you know, 21 I got to put you down as a misdemeanor, but I'll give 22 you a deferred judgment or court supervision," do I now 23 come under Rule 761(a) that I got to notify the ARDC 24 that I had my third speeding ticket and technically I've



been -- it's been a disposition. It wasn't a conviction 1 2 -- maybe it was a conviction or it wasn't. But does 3 that apply to that section? MR. SCOTT RENFROE: It would under the Court's 4 5 precedent and the cases -- there are a number of cases, and they're discussed at length in the Robinson firm's 6 7 letter. The Rolley case, R-o-l-l-e-y, would stand for the proposition that, yes, it should be reported. 8 And 9 that's -- behind the request for amendment is to clarify that so that lawyers who are not familiar with 10 11 disciplinary precedent can look to the rule and 12 determine what their reporting obligation is.

13 Now, a case like that, of course, would be referred to the inquiry panel, and the inquiry panel 14 15 would look at it and recognize it for what it is, see 16 that there's not a client interest implicated and it's unlikely that the attorney has a problem that's going to 17 18 require a regulatory response from the ARDC. So that 19 would be extraordinarily unlikely to result in any 20 further action beyond an inquiry panel closure.

21 VICE CHAIR ROGERS: Just a question to follow-up22 on that.

If, for lack of clarity, you didn't report that,are you now in violation of an ARDC rule because you



| 1 | didn't report a third speeding ticket that |
|----|--|
| 2 | MR. SCOTT RENFROE: Theoretically, yes. That |
| 3 | could form a basis for an additional line of inquiry. |
| 4 | Yes. |
| 5 | MR. RICHARD A. HODYL: Does that create a Himmel |
| 6 | problem for the person in the office next to that lawyer |
| 7 | if they know? |
| 8 | MR. SCOTT RENFROE: I would say no since the |
| 9 | reporting requirement is for conduct involving criminal |
| 10 | conduct that affects a lawyer's fitness to practice |
| 11 | their profession which I don't think most reasonable |
| 12 | people would consider a third speeding ticket to do that |
| 13 | or conduct that involves dishonesty, fraud, deceit, |
| 14 | or misrepresentation, which this does not. |
| 15 | MR. RICHARD A. HODYL: Okay. |
| 16 | MR. JEFFREY GREEN: If that's the case, then why |
| 17 | report misdemeanors that are not related to client |
| 18 | service or relationships? Why not just say felonies and |
| 19 | any misdemeanor involving moral turpitude? |
| 20 | MR. SCOTT RENFROE: That would be one |
| 21 | alternative. But as I said, the fact of a conviction |
| 22 | may be an indication of a larger problem. ARDC |
| 23 | attorneys are experienced in trying to recognize, for |
| 24 | example, substance abuse issues. |



There was a case in the 1980s where a lawyer was 1 2 censured because he had accumulated over 300 parking tickets, not even a misdemeanor. It was an ordinance 3 violation for 40 instances of refusing to buy a village 4 5 sticker to put on his windshield. The issue was not necessarily the conduct of parking without paying the 6 related charge, but the issue was the fact that 7 8 accumulating 300 tickets demonstrated a disrespect for 9 the law.

So I recognize there's a substantial difference 10 11 between 3 speeding tickets and 300 parking tickets. At 12 the same time, it's information that may be relevant to 13 an inquiry's panel decision. And, again, the goal is 14 not always to punish. It's never to punish. It's to 15 determine if appropriate remedial action would benefit 16 the lawyer and his or her clients.

MR. STEVEN KIM: Wouldn't this increase a lot of hearings for the inquiry board? And how is that going to be handled, I mean, if an attorney has to wait a longer period of time because of this process and the hearing process? I mean, how is that going to be coordinated?

23 MR. SCOTT RENFROE: The inquiry panel does not
24 conduct adversarial hearings or fact-finding



investigations. They rely on the written submission from the staff counsel, which typically includes the underlying criminal records, any risk assessment that was done in the circuit court, and the attorney's response so they can judge -- based on that submission, you know, that usually gives them enough information to make an informed decision.

8 And attorneys can ask to appear before the 9 inquiry panel. The panels seldom deem that necessary, 10 but they have an opportunity to make that request. But 11 it's not a full, drawn out hearing process.

12 You may be thinking of a hearing board where 13 that follows the filing of a formal complaint where it's 14 the administrator's burden to call witnesses. Unless 15 there's an agreement for discipline, which happens 16 frequently, the administrator would be required to call 17 witnesses, introduce exhibits, make arguments in support 18 of a finding that the rules have been violated. But it 19 would not meaningfully impact the work of the inquiry 20 board.

21 MR. JOHN SPESIA: So I guess I have a follow-up 22 question.

It sounds like what's happening here with the rule is that you're broadening the rule to redefine the



1 | word "conviction"?

2

MR. SCOTT RENFROE: Yes.

3 MR. JOHN SPESIA: Okay. And in doing so, it seems like the questions are related to now go back to 4 the word misdemeanor. And if you're going to broaden 5 the rule and change the definition of conviction, I 6 7 quess the question is: Does that also warrant confining the word misdemeanor to, as Jeff said, you know, crimes 8 9 of dishonesty or moral turpitude, you know, something similar to an evidentiary standard? Could you also add 10 to that, you know, things affecting the fitness to 11 12 practice law?

And I guess my question is: Are you saying that you would be amendable to further defining the word misdemeanor as you broaden, you know, conviction to include essentially deferred judgments and all sorts of things?

MR. SCOTT RENFROE: What I meant to say and what I hope I said was that the -- we recognize the benefit of some of the language proposed by the Robinson firm in their letter in terms of defining deferred prosecution and conditional discharge and things like that.

The word "misdemeanor" is in the existing rule,and the ARDC board has not considered recommending that



| 1 | that be modified or altered in any way. |
|----|--|
| 2 | MR. JOHN SPESIA: Right. I saw that, that |
| 3 | there's no the word misdemeanor is definitely in the |
| 4 | rule. It's just now when you redefine conviction it's |
| 5 | broadening, you know, the speeding ticket situation |
| 6 | where you get supervision is now a reportable where as |
| 7 | before it was not, and I guess I'm back to the question |
| 8 | of do you think that if the word conviction is going to |
| 9 | be broadened, there should also be an effort to further |
| 10 | define the word misdemeanor? |
| 11 | MR. SCOTT RENFROE: That has not been considered |
| 12 | by the board, so I don't have a position to make on |
| 13 | behalf of the ARDC. |
| 14 | I can see the benefit of that proposal though, |
| 15 | and some of the rules do limit for example, the rule |
| 16 | dealing with criminal conduct under Section 8.4 of the |
| 17 | Rules of Professional Conduct addresses criminal conduct |
| 18 | that adversely reflects upon a fitness to practice, |
| 19 | without making a distinction between felonies and |
| 20 | misdemeanors. |
| 21 | HON. DAVID R. NAVARRO: Because, I mean, we're |

HON. DAVID R. NAVARRO: Because, I mean, we're kind of focused on this traffic. I don't know if the concern is that lawyers are bad drivers --

UNIDENTIFIED COMMITTEE MEMBER: They're bad

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| 1 | parkers, apparently. |
|----|---|
| 2 | HON. DAVID R. NAVARRO: We're focused on this |
| 3 | traffic question, but really the it's not violations |
| 4 | of traffic offenses |
| 5 | MR. SCOTT RENFROE: Right. |
| 6 | HON. DAVID R. NAVARRO: it would be when |
| 7 | those traffic offenses rise to the level of |
| 8 | misdemeanors. So that's why the Chair brought the |
| 9 | example of the three speeders. Now you're talking |
| 10 | about now you're talking about a Class A or a |
| 11 | whatever, a misdemeanor offense rather than just the |
| 12 | normal local ordinance traffic offense. That's not what |
| 13 | this rule is looking at. |
| 14 | MR. SCOTT RENFROE: That's exactly correct. |
| 15 | VICE CHAIR ROGERS: I have a question. |
| 16 | I understood you to say that the modification of |
| 17 | the rule did not broaden was not an extension of |
| 18 | broadening because the example, for instance, was |
| 19 | something that would be required to be reported without |
| 20 | the amendment. Is that accurate, or is it broadening? |
| 21 | MR. SCOTT RENFROE: It's an attempt to codify |
| 22 | the court's existing precedent to avoid tripping up |
| 23 | lawyers who may not be aware of that precedent and |
| 24 | including language in the rule that would, yes, broaden |
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| 1 | the requirement from the existing rule but bring it into |
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| 2 | conformance with the court's existing precedent. |
| 3 | VICE CHAIR ROGERS: Right. Because as I read |
| 4 | the rule currently, if I don't have a conviction and |
| 5 | I don't know with that means without going and reading |
| 6 | caselaw I could say, "Well, I have a court |
| 7 | supervision or a deferred judgment. That's not a |
| 8 | conviction." |
| 9 | MR. SCOTT RENFROE: That's exactly true. |
| 10 | VICE CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. All right. |
| 11 | HON. WILLIAM HOOKS: Will this put lawyers in a |
| 12 | different position than other persons appearing before |
| 13 | misdemeanor courts? |
| 14 | For example, our misdemeanor courts in Cook |
| 15 | County are very busy. I remember them. Does that mean |
| 16 | that a lawyer in a misdemeanor court who has a charge |
| 17 | has to probably make a big deal out of it and fight it |
| 18 | rather than resolve it because there's more on the line |
| 19 | for him or her than there would be on another citizen |
| 20 | who has such matters? Does that put our lawyers in a |
| 21 | different position than the other citizens, the doctors, |
| 22 | the politicians, the elected officials, that type of |
| 23 | thing? Will it actually put them in a separate category |
| 24 | |

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of the United States? 1 2 The question of what -- how MR. SCOTT RENFROE: aggressively they defend the charge, of course, is up to 3 them and depends on the facts and circumstances and the 4 5 nature of the charge. So for a speeding ticket, I don't think that that distinction exists. 6 But the court's precedent -- not just the 7 Illinois Supreme Court's, even the United States Supreme 8 9 Court's -- recognizes that inherent among the obligation 10 that attorneys accept are limitations on, for example, 11 the right to communicate certain ideas under certain 12 context or in certain tribunals. So there are 13 limitations that are placed on attorneys as a result of 14 the fact that they are attorneys, but I don't think that 15 a misdemeanor traffic court rises to that level of 16 interference. But thank you for your question.

MR. JOHN SPESIA: I have one more question.

So if we go to your proposal for Rule 63, federal agency, you define federal agency as the Patent and Trademark Office, Board of Immigration Appeals, or the Executive Office for Immigration Review. Is there something that's unique about the process at those three agencies that caused you to limit their decisions and to give only the decision of those federal agencies --

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It's partly because of the 1 MR. SCOTT RENFROE: 2 fact that practitioners in those areas tend to be specialists and to concentrate their practice or limit 3 their practice to that area. Not always, but generally 4 5 immigration attorneys concentrate in immigration Patent lawyers certainly tend to concentrate 6 matters. 7 in patent matters as well.

8 So it recognizes that those boards, those 9 agencies have familiarity with these issues and are 10 dealing with experienced practitioners who are likely to 11 be motivated to defend themselves from an accusation of 12 wrongdoing in those forums.

MR. JOHN SPESIA: But even in those forums we're talking about some kind of an ALJ who would be making a decision about an disciplinary issue?

MR. SCOTT RENFROE: I'm not sure the exact mechanism of those agencies, but my understanding is it's more than that. There's a level of sophistication that's beyond that.

20 MR. JOHN SPESIA: Right. But something that's 21 not an Article 3?

MR. SCOTT RENFROE: It would be short of that,yes.

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MR. ANDRE GRANT: One question.



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| 1 | MR. SCOTT RENFROE: Yes. |
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| 2 | MR. ANDRE GRANT: I'm a lawyer who does practice |
| 3 | criminal defense, and I'm looking at the proposed |
| 4 | language. It says, "For purposes of this rule, a |
| 5 | conviction is any disposition, including a finding of |
| 6 | guilty, an order of court supervision, or deferred |
| 7 | judgment." |
| 8 | One of the things we inform our clients is that |
| 9 | if you're given court supervision, under the law, it is |
| 10 | not a conviction. Even judges inform a defendant that |
| 11 | supervision is not a conviction. How do we reconcile |
| 12 | that under this rule it will, in fact, be a conviction, |
| 13 | at least for the lawyer? |
| 14 | MR. SCOTT RENFROE: In the disciplinary context, |
| 15 | it's the conduct of the lawyer rather than how the court |
| 16 | system labels it that can form the basis for |
| 17 | disciplinary proceedings. |
| 18 | So what this proposed amendment does is |
| 19 | recognize that there can be different dispositions that |
| 20 | result in some finding of a factual basis to establish |
| 21 | the attorney's conduct, even if the court system elects |
| 22 | not to impose a judgement of conviction at the |
| 23 | conclusion of the case. |
| 24 | On the the new dust that should be buy the to |

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So it's the conduct that should be brought to



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| 1 | the commission's attention without regard to how the |
| 2 | under this proposal, without regard to how the court |
| 3 | system eventually labels that conduct. |
| 4 | HON. WILLIAM H. HOOKS: Under 761(c) where you |
| 5 | say, "If a lawyer is convicted of a crime that does not |
| 6 | involve fraud or moral turpitude, the administrator |
| 7 | shall refer the matter to an inquiry board," do you need |
| 8 | the word "shall" or can you leave it as "may"? What's |
| 9 | the reason for shall? |
| 10 | MR. SCOTT RENFROE: That is the existing rule. |
| 11 | HON. WILLIAM H. HOOKS: Okay. |
| 12 | MR. SCOTT RENFROE: So we're not proposing that |
| 13 | that language be changed. The court might elect to give |
| 14 | the administrator more discretion to resolve these low |
| 15 | level type cases short of a referral to the inquiry |
| 16 | board, but that's not |
| 17 | HON. WILLIAM H. HOOKS: That's the existing |
| 18 | language. Okay. |
| 19 | VICE CHAIR ROGERS: One point of clarification. |
| 20 | If it's the conduct that is the issue, it seems |
| 21 | to be the allegation alone. So a finding of not guilty |
| 22 | is still an issue relating to conduct. |
| 23 | MR. SCOTT RENFROE: We're trying to limit this |
| 24 | to cases where there's been either an admission of |
| | |



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| 1 | responsibility that could have formed the basis for a |
| 2 | guilty finding, but instead results in one of these |
| 3 | other types of dispositions. So, no, an acquittal would |
| 4 | not be reported. |
| 5 | VICE CHAIR ROGERS: I guess I have an issue |
| 6 | because somewhat of an issue because it seems that |
| 7 | sometimes resolutions are reached short of a guilty |
| 8 | finding for other reasons and this may prevent them in |
| 9 | some instances. |
| 10 | MR. SCOTT RENFROE: It could. It could. But |
| 11 | certainly there was a recent case that went through the |
| 12 | disciplinary system, the hearing review and Supreme |
| 13 | Court level, where an attorney was given a deferred |
| 14 | prosecution by the federal criminal authorities in |
| 15 | California, but that deferred prosecution was sufficient |
| 16 | to result in his disbarment because of the underlying |
| 17 | conduct. |
| 18 | MR. STEVE H. KIM: How is this going to be |
| 19 | logistically handled? I mean, this is going to impact |
| 20 | all of the attorneys, of course. And so it's a bit I |
| 21 | still kind of read it as it's a bit confusing because |
| 22 | the sentence, "For purposes of this rule, convictions |

23 and any disposition, including an order of court

24 supervision," if you just read that -- I mean, really



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| 1 | any attorney that goes to traffic court or wherever may |
| 2 | just look at that or and just, you know, will need to |
| 3 | process how to move this thing forward. I mean, isn't |
| 4 | there going to be quite a logistical nightmare in trying |
| 5 | to get this thing implemented? |
| 6 | MR. SCOTT RENFROE: We're hoping not. We're |
| 7 | hoping that this change actually adds some clarification |
| 8 | to what is now a confusing issue because most attorneys |
| 9 | aren't familiar with the court's precedent. So we're |
| 10 | hoping to provide additional guidance. |
| 11 | In terms of the number of cases, we're talking a |
| 12 | lot about traffic court cases. Most traffic court cases |
| 13 | would not fall under this rule because they'd be |
| 14 | ordinance violations rather than felonies or |
| 15 | misdemeanors, although the Chair, of course, pointed out |
| 16 | that sometimes they can rise to a level of misdemeanors. |
| 17 | MR. STEVE H. KIM: I just think it needs to be a |
| 18 | bit clarified then |
| 19 | MR. SCOTT RENFROE: And certainly as I said the |
| 20 | Robinson firm I'm sorry I interrupted you. The |
| 21 | Robinson firm had some proposed language that we looked |
| 22 | at and do not disagree with. We're willing to work with |
| 23 | the Committee. If you think that other language would |
| 24 | be more appropriate, we'd be happy to consider any |
| | |



recommendations or suggestions that you have, take them
back to the ARDC board, and continue the dialogue that
we've started morning.

4 MR. ANDRE GRANT: I just wanted to revisit one 5 thing, especially in light of what Mr. Kim pointed out.

6 It's real troubling, even an order of court 7 supervision. It's troubling because it is such a common 8 disposition, supervision. It's almost like "Go and sin 9 no more." But under this provision, for a lawyer, it's 10 not go and sin no more. It's like contact the ARDC. I 11 mean, that's what's troubling.

12 Society sees this as a nonissue. And I 13 understand that we're held to a different standard. Ι 14 get that. But court supervision is routinely given. I 15 mean, it's like one of the main dispositions. But now 16 for a lawyer it's a trigger. It's a possible triggering 17 factor for something that's -- you know, you're 10 miles 18 over the speed limit. And I know we're using traffic, 19 but it still triggers. It's a trigger.

20 MR. SCOTT RENFROE: It does, and that's why I 21 hoped to provide guidance or context in terms of how the 22 ARDC responds to these reports. And we're mindful of 23 the court's guidance in terms of remediation and 24 education rather than punishment. And I referred to



| 1 | comment 19 from the preamble because that deals with |
|----|--|
| 2 | issues such as willfulness, repeated violations. |
| 3 | And the inquiry panel and the administrator |
| 4 | staff will, of course, look at all of the circumstances, |
| 5 | so we would recognize that if the court system one of |
| 6 | the factors we would take into account would be if the |
| 7 | court system though a judgement of conviction was not |
| 8 | necessary based on this conduct, that would be something |
| 9 | the panel could determine in assessing the seriousness |
| 10 | of the charge or the wilfulness of the conduct. |
| 11 | CHAIR HANSEN: Okay. As the chair, I have to |
| 12 | move us along. We're getting behind. I appreciate it. |
| 13 | We've got two more speakers. |
| 14 | Thank you, Mr. Renfroe. |
| 15 | MR. SCOTT RENFROE: Thank you. |
| 16 | CHAIR HANSEN: Stephen Komie is up to talk about |
| 17 | the proposals as well. |
| 18 | MR. STEPHEN M. KOMIE: Good morning. My name is |
| 19 | Stephen, S-t-e-p-h-e-n, last name Komie. |
| 20 | I'm a trial lawyer for 47 years in this state, |
| 21 | and I have sped up and down I-80 from courthouses from |
| 22 | Princeton to Joliet. Right now if you're traveling on |
| 23 | I-90 and you're going to Rolling Meadows, the traffic is |
| 24 | moving over 80 miles per hour on a given day, and |
| | |



lawyers are on their way to court. That's a misdemeanor
if you're arrested and charged traveling on the highway
at that high speed.

I wrote this letter because I became concerned 4 5 that this is overcriminalization a la ARDC. In other words, every crime in our book now went from 47 pages 6 when Mike Holet [phonetic] to go to law school, a 7 47-page criminal code, and this is our current criminal 8 9 code now. When I opened the box yesterday, it was five 10 pounds. The other book you could hold in your hand. Ιt 11 was light.

12 Every conceivable misdeed in society has been 13 now criminalized one way or another. Just take our City 14 code here in Chicago, and I didn't even bother to bring 15 the fish and game code. Okay? If I had brought the 16 fish and game code, can you imagine a lawyer who has too 17 many shells in the shotgun coming to the ARDC or didn't 18 get the fishing license and has been cited by a game 19 warden and have to self report?

It's way overreaching to the point where most reasonable lawyers would think, "Wait a minute. I didn't join the profession to report on myself every time I burn leaves in the front yard and the village comes out and sanctions me for that." And each one of



1 these village codes have misdemeanors. How many 2 municipalities do we have in Illinois? How many forest 3 preserve districts?

I mean, if you go through everything we have in 4 5 government Illinois, every one of them has misdemeanors buried in their codes. And I represent people at 6 7 village halls, and I know, as was pointed out by a distinguished member of this panel, that supervision is 8 9 given out almost like chicken soup for a cold, to resolve an issue without finding somebody quilty because 10 they don't think it rises to the level where there 11 12 should be a sanctions. Whoever is the person hearing 13 the facts doesn't believe that they heard facts that 14 caused them to have to impose something.

15 But then there's the revenue side of the game 16 which nobody brought up here because these guys don't 17 deal with revenue. But every single one of these 18 villages are looking for revenue. So how do they get 19 They give everybody supervision. their revenue? That 20 was the great thing Richard Daley did when he was a 21 center. He created supervision in Illinois in the 22 criminal code, and that allowed everybody to never find 23 anyone guilty but to collect revenue to advance the 24 village budget. Okay?



Now, these are all things that, you know, maybe you guys are younger than I am, and you don't remember. It didn't happen on your watch. It didn't happen with you. But I'm looking at two distinguished trial judges I'm sitting here with, and they know trials get quite heated from time to time.

7 And we know sometimes we get found in contempt of court. And the judge says, "Okay. Mr. Komie, that's 8 Pay the clerk." Well, that's a conviction; right? 9 \$50. And then when the verdict's coming in, we're sitting in 10 11 the back having a drink together and all of a sudden, 12 and, you know, all of a sudden, "I'm going to forgive 13 you for that. We'll vacate it." Do I have to report 14 that because I asked a wrong question at the wrong time?

In other words, this is way too broad, and you 15 16 should give substantial consideration to just saying no to this because no one has come here and said it's not 17 18 working, that there's a failure of the system as it's 19 now written to work. There's no statistics to tell you 20 that someone escaped who should have not escaped. But 21 as pointed out by a distinguished member of this panel, 22 C requires the administrator under this rule every time 23 to refer to a disciplinary panel.

24

Now, you know, life is something that you get a



1 lot of experience in, and when I went down to Washington 2 representing the Illinois Bar, I was talking about the 3 Internal Revenue Code 6050(i), which is we have to 4 report the clients whenever they pay us \$10,000 or more; 5 right? It's a simple requirement.

Well, the IRS did not contemplate the flood that 6 was going to happen of everybody in the United States 7 reporting on their clients or people doing business with 8 9 They have an entire warehouse in Detroit where them. you can send 6050(i) to when your client pays you, and 10 11 there's no one there to process it. If just goes in 12 there and it just sits in there, and maybe 10 years from 13 now someone might know it's there.

But the majority of issues involving those 6050(i)s are payments under \$25,000. Buying a used car. Stop and think of all of the things that your parents had to buy with cash. Well, there's some people who have no bank accounts, and so those people buy in cash and it gets reported to the IRS.

20 So I would ask you to reject what the 21 administrator is proposing here, and although my good 22 friend Jerry is sitting here, I disagree with the idea 23 that you should have expanded jurisdiction to deal with 24 misdemeanors when so many of our lawyers -- we have



100,000 lawyers now in this case. Can you imagine the 1 2 volume of paperwork that would create with misdemeanors? Turning to the question that was asked about 3 federal agencies. That was a good question. Federal 4 5 agencies administrative ALJs, they fine people all of the time. Does that make the lawyer incompetent? Does 6 7 the lawyer get due process within the content of the 8 agency's activities? No.

9 And many of those ALJs are not lawyers. I have 10 a case in the Department of Transportation right now 11 where my guy has cowboy boots that he puts up on the 12 desk, and when we're him -- he's from Louisiana -- and 13 he has no law degree. He's deciding a trucking issue, whether or not the tires on the truck are safe. 14 What 15 competence does he have to know whether a lawyer is a 16 good lawyer or whether a lawyer deserves to be 17 disciplined or arguing with him? And many times people 18 are sanctioned for arguing.

And if you stop to think about this other proposed rule, 761, Dr. King got arrested how many times demonstrating for free speech and change in America? And every time he got arrested for disorderly conduct, if he had been a member of the bar under this rule, he'd have to turn himself in and a judge could fine him for



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disorderly conduct, a Class A misdemeanor. 2 What if I want to go demonstrate in Springfield 3 about some political issue and I get arrested by the Springfield police or the capitol police? 4 I'm 5 exercising First Amendment rights. Should I be subject to another visit to my good friend here? The answer is 6 So I would ask you to reject that. 7 no. With respect to the other rules, there seems to 8 9 be also an expansion suggested as to when discipline's been given in one place, there should be a second bite 10 11 at the apple here in Illinois. 12 Now, I've been held in contempt of court in 13 other states when I've had an argument with a judge, and 14 they fine me some amount of money and it's over. It's 15 literally over. We say good-bye to each other. We 16 shake hands at the close of the trial. We walk out the 17 But yet that would require me door. It's what we do. 18 to report that, and then they would have an opportunity 19 to refer that to a board and the whole thing would have 20 to be relitigated here in Illinois when I walked out the 21 door and shook hands with the judge who did that.

22 It's not realistic, what's being proposed here, 23 and I would ask you to reject it. And I would like to 24 explain to the noncriminal members who don't have





criminal practices here in a criminal context you can 1 2 have a deferred prosecution where you sign an agreement 3 that they'll be no prosecution because the government involved doesn't believe there has been a real offense 4 and that all they want to do is get your client as a 5 6 witness, so they have your client sign a deferred 7 prosecution agreement. That gets them a reporting 8 requirement.

9 If I have a lawyer who saw a transaction somewhere and he has a deferred prosecution agreement, 10 it's not a conviction of a crime. 11 The U.S. attorney has 12 decided it shouldn't be a conviction of a crime. Τt 13 could be the state's attorney of Cook County gives me a 14 deferred prosecution agreement for a lawyer. None of 15 those things involve moral turpitude.

And the real gravamen of being a lawyer is no moral turpitude is tolerated. And the real gravamen is don't steal from the clients. And that's the core principle of our profession.

And so consequently we shouldn't have to be in a position where we do good works for our client, and then is it a Himmel violation if I don't notify you because he's got a deferred prosecution?

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And then there's court supervision, and I'm



| 1 | going to explain that to all of you. And, you know, |
|----|---|
| 2 | it's a wonderful given for revenue. And if you stop to |
| 3 | think about it, city budgets, county budgets, forest |
| 4 | preserve budgets, every budget in the state would be |
| 5 | crippled if you guys redefined what is a conviction |
| 6 | because every one of my lawyer clients and even the |
| 7 | judges I represent will make me go in the courtroom and |
| 8 | fight it. It will be a war between me and the |
| 9 | prosecutor to avoid the consequences. |
| 10 | So I would ask you solemnly to reject it, and |
| 11 | while you're thinking about it, just remember how we |
| 12 | went over criminalized. And sometimes the demonstrative |
| 13 | aid says more than speech, and I think this really |
| 14 | represents what's happened to us since 1980 in terms of |
| 15 | expansion to cover everything in society that someone |
| 16 | perceives as wrong, when, in fact, it has nothing to do |
| 17 | with moral turpitude or stealing from our clients. |
| 18 | Questions, if any? |
| 19 | CHAIR HANSEN: I'll start. |
| 20 | I'm going to go to Rule 763 and your argument on |
| 21 | reporting discipline actions in reciprocal states. |
| 22 | The Rule already says you have to report that |
| 23 | anyway. It says, "If an attorney licensed to practice |
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24 law in Illinois and another jurisdiction is disciplined



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| 1 | in another jurisdiction" and then it goes on to state |
| 2 | that. |
| 3 | So don't we want to clarify that and bring into |
| 4 | reporting the changes made, such as a transfer to |
| 5 | disability, inactive status |
| 6 | (Outside interruption.) |
| 7 | MR. STEPHEN M. KOMIE: Excuse me just a second. |
| 8 | One of the clients doesn't realize I'm busy. |
| 9 | Thank you. |
| 10 | CHAIR HANSEN: Shouldn't we clarify that to |
| 11 | include these things because we I get your point on, |
| 12 | you know, you get fined in contempt of court, but we |
| 13 | don't want lawyers who are licensed across the river or |
| 14 | across in Indiana not reporting disciplinary actions not |
| 15 | taken against them. |
| 16 | MR. STEPHEN M. KOMIE: We already have that. |
| 17 | CHAIR HANSEN: Right. |
| 18 | MR. STEPHEN M. KOMIE: It's working very well. |
| 19 | That is not the issue. |
| 20 | The issue is the expansion to allow the |
| 21 | administrator then to come up with additional discipline |
| 22 | beyond what's happened in the other venue, so venue one |
| 23 | reports lawyer for filing a false pleading or something |
| 24 | and sanctions them one way or another. That comes back |
| | |



to Illinois, and then they get reciprocal discipline equal to the discipline that was imposed by the primary source of the complaint and where the adjudication took place.

5 The expansion is we're not not limited to what happened in jurisdiction A. We can now send you to the 6 7 inquiry board, and if they want to, they can send you to the hearing board, et cetera. Many of the infractions 8 9 lawyers commit are resolved right in the venue where they happen. Comprises are achieved. I mean, I've 10 11 shaken hands with people I've argued with my entire life 12 as part of our code to be argumentative but not 13 disagreeable.

CHAIR HANSEN: So you think it broadens it?

MR. STEPHEN M. KOMIE: It broadens it, and I've pointed that out in my writing to you that it's like -sort of like -- you've got the rule. It's working fine now. If the district court in San Francisco sanctions me, I'm going to get the same sanction in Illinois that I got there.

HON. DAVID R. NAVARRO: Wasn't Mr. Renfroe's point it doesn't broaden the discipline. It just broadens -- or clarifies -- I think that's what I heard Mr. Renfroe saying -- clarifies what the reporting

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| 1 | requirement is. It doesn't broaden the discipline or, |
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| 2 | rather, even say the discipline is increased in any of |
| 3 | these instances that you've brought up. |
| 4 | They've said what I heard Mr. Renfroe say is |
| 5 | where they've got recommendations for law office |
| 6 | management or additional education, that's where they |
| 7 | that's where the ARDC is looking to assist the Bar, but |
| 8 | not to increase penalties. I didn't hear that in any of |
| 9 | what the ARDC was referring to. |
| 10 | MR. STEPHEN M. KOMIE: First of all, the country |
| 11 | is founded on no double jeopardy. |
| 12 | Secondly, if San Francisco fines me \$500 for |
| 13 | whatever, bad pleading or, you know, didn't read a rule |
| 14 | right or whatever, wrong question at trial, that's the |
| 15 | limit under the current rule. So it comes back here, |
| 16 | and the same thing can be imposed by the identical. |
| 17 | But it's not identical when they have the power to |
| 18 | broaden it with no limitation on what the broadening can |
| 19 | be. |
| 20 | So obviously probation's a wonderful thing, |
| 21 | given to us by the ARDC when it happens, and it keeps |
| 22 | some lawyers functioning. But I don't read the rule |

24 think that's why also the Illinois Bar is opposing that.

that way. I read it as a much broader aspect, and I

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| 1 | I mean, you also have the Illinois Bar Association |
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| 2 | having filed against some of these rules and raising |
| 3 | some of these similar issues. |
| 4 | CHAIR HANSEN: The rule says so under (a)(1) |
| 5 | it says the attorney may be subjected to the same or |
| 6 | comparable discipline in Illinois, and that is staying |
| 7 | as is. I'm not reading a change. So I agree with the |
| 8 | Judge. I don't read it that it's expanding the |
| 9 | discipline that can be enforced. It's leaving it as is, |
| 10 | that you could be, under your example, subjected to the |
| 11 | \$500 fine or comparable as the rule reads now. |
| 12 | MR. STEPHEN M. KOMIE: I thought it was |
| 13 | paragraph F. If I'm mistaken |
| 14 | CHAIR HANSEN: So you're equating F then to an |
| 15 | expanding of independent proceedings? |
| 16 | MR. STEPHEN M. KOMIE: Right. I mean, I accept |
| 17 | reciprocal discipline. It's been there forever. |
| 18 | It's paragraph F that I considered an additional |
| 19 | item, and I think that was the objection of the Illinois |
| 20 | Bar Association when they wrote their letter. |
| 21 | HON. WILLIAM H. HOOKS: I have an additional |
| 22 | question if that's I don't know if that satisfies the |
| 23 | Chair's question or not. |
| 24 | CHAIR HANSEN: Yeah. I'm done. Thanks. |
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HON. WILLIAM H. HOOKS: So I did legal malpractice in my other life, and you always caution in legal malpractice for a lawyer not to get into an area that he or she is not familiar with. In your case, your do ARDC cases, I would imagine. I know you do criminal quite a bit. So any lawyer who represents somebody in a misdemeanor matter, at the time of the representation, the consultation should be not only with the lawyer handling the case before a misdemeanor court or some other tribunal, but that lawyer at the conclusion of the representation needs to contact or hook that client up with a lawyer that does disciplinary work before the ARDC because every criminal lawyer does not do that

So that creates an industry because I'm not going to give a legal opinion. I will represent you on the criminal case, but I'm not going to give you a legal opinion concerning my reading of this rule. I will then tell you, so the extent of my legal malpractice coverage, to go see -- here's a list of lawyers that do this work.

So a simple case could involve a person not onlyhiring somebody to handle the subject matter, the



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| 1 | criminal matter, but also in order to keep their be |
|----|--|
| 2 | compliant with their obligations as a lawyer, refer this |
| 3 | person to several names to deal with the ARDC. |
| 4 | And that decision-making as to what happens next |
| 5 | needs to be played into the strategic decision of the |
| 6 | little minor case somewhere because you're otherwise |
| 7 | leaving this to, what is it, two lawyers and a lay |
| 8 | person at the inquiry level. And we'll have a change in |
| 9 | administration at the ARDC in due course. These |
| 10 | administrators are doing things that are good, but the |
| 11 | next ones won't. The rule will be the same. |
| | |
| 12 | So if you did not do this work, would you feel |
| 13 | duty bound to refer this to a lawyer that would be a |
| 14 | specialist in disciplinary matters? |
| 15 | MR. STEPHEN M. KOMIE: Routinely when I get a |
| 16 | judge for a client or I get a lawyer for a client, I |
| 17 | make referrals to people who do nothing but that work. |
| 18 | HON. WILLIAM H. HOOKS: So now it goes all the |
| 19 | way down to a lower level. So in order to keep your |
| 20 | you can do both, but a lot of lawyers can't do both. |
| 21 | Would it be fair to say that a lot of criminal defense |
| 22 | lawyers don't do ARDC work? |
| 23 | MR. STEPHEN M. KOMIE: That's certainly true. I |
| | |

24 would say that the ARDC practice bar is a very small


1 bar. 2 HON. WILLIAM H. HOOKS: Okav. 3 MR. STEPHEN M. KOMIE: I think you could probably all fit them at this table. 4 5 What I'm struggling with is PROFESSOR BEYLER: 6 how do we define the reporting obligation in a way 7 that's a clear as possible to a lawyer so the lawyer knows do I have to report or not. 8 9 One very simple line would be: You don't have 10 to report any misdemeanors, just felonies. 11 Another simple line would be: You have to 12 report misdemeanors, period, and then we'll sort out 13 which ones matters or not. 14 What I'm -- but I hear you sort of saying there 15 are misdemeanors and misdemeanors, and it sounds as 16 though you would like to say something like, "Well, 17 these ought to be misdemeanors that involve moral 18 turpitude." And I'm sitting here sort of saying, "Well, 19 how is a lawyer going to know whether this misdemeanor 20 has to be reported or not with a sort of fuzzy line like 21 that?" 22 Can you give us any language that would define 23 which misdemeanors would have to be reported and which 24 would not?





MR. STEPHEN M. KOMIE: Well, moral turpitude is 1 2 pretty straightforward. I mean, it's generally the 3 theft statute. That's easy. You learn that in law school; right? You learn that was moral turpitude from 4 the start. 5 Operating a house of prostitution is clearly 6 7 moral turpitude. Prostitution by a lawyer would be 8 moral turpitude. 9 But at some point it's going to get fuzzy 10 because morals change. They're sort of shifting, sort of like the sands on a beach. And what's immoral in the 11 12 1900 -- my grandfather was a patron of the Everleigh's 13 House of Prostitution the night Marshall Fields was 14 So, you know, that was easy for everyone in that shot. 15 generation not to think of that as so bad, but yet 16 today, that would be a whole different way to look at that. 17 Okay? 18 So you have to know -- I mean, Americans'

attitude about moral issues shift, and it's also state related. Isn't it? You know, what's good in Alabama may not be the same in Illinois. And so it is hard to define, and I grant you that. But on the other hand, do we want every little misdeed that happens -- the advantage is you have all of this collective wisdom here

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| 1 | from trial courts to civil practice to criminal practice |
|----|--|
| 2 | all sitting here. You guys know what it's all about. |
| 3 | Aren't we overreaching here on the bottom line, |
| 4 | Professor? You don't have to answer the question, |
| 5 | but |
| 6 | PROFESSOR BEYLER: I'm just saying I see your |
| 7 | position, but then I try to say, how do you write the |
| 8 | language in that rule that is workable. |
| 9 | MR. STEPHEN M. KOMIE: It was pretty clear to me |
| 10 | when I read that rule and informing my clients of the |
| 11 | rule of what the rule. I print it out on the Xerox |
| 12 | machine, and I hand to the client so that there's in |
| 13 | my file I have proof that I notified the client. |
| 14 | CHAIR HANSEN: Okay. |
| 15 | MR. STEPHEN M. KOMIE: And, by the way, all of |
| 16 | my clients in this situation are graduates of law |
| 17 | school, so I'm not talking about somebody who is |
| 18 | mentally retarded or feeble-minded who doesn't |
| 19 | understand. Okay? |
| 20 | CHAIR HANSEN: Thank you. |
| 21 | MR. STEPHEN M. KOMIE: Thank you for hearing me |
| 22 | out. I appreciate the fact you guys got to be a hot |
| 23 | bench. |
| 24 | CHAIR HANSEN: We have one more speaker on this |
| | |



proposal, John Brayman from the Illinois Association of
 Criminal Defense Lawyers.

MR. JOHN BRAYMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Mr.
Vice Chairman, Justice O'Brien, Administrator Larkin,
Mr. Renfroe, Mr. Komie, and all members of this
Committee.

My name is John Brayman. I'm a criminal defense
lawyer in Chicago. I'm a partner in the firm of Breen &
Pugh. I currently serve on the board of directors for
the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers,
NACDL, and I am the president of the Illinois
Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, IACDL.

13 I appear here today in my capacity of IACDL to 14 oppose the proposal 22-10 submitted by the ARDC. Ι 15 think a lot of the questions this morning and the 16 discussion has gone to the existing rule in how broadly 17 it already sweeps in terms of Judge Hooks' question about the "shall" in Rule 761(c) maybe being better 18 19 suited to be a "may," and that actually under the 20 current state of the rule, it's my understanding that 21 the administrator and Mr. Renfroe are saying that 22 misdemeanor supervision on a speeding ticket would --23 there would be a mandatory duty to report that.

24

And so I think, you know, when we talk about the

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language that is being proposed, it is not a
 clarification of the rule. It is a broad expansion of
 the definition of convictions, and it's also a broad
 expansion of the administrator's authority to regulate
 attorneys in Illinois.

6 The precedent that is relied on by the 7 administrator and Mr. Renfroe deals with lawyers that 8 were accused of converting client funds. They were 9 criminally charged, and in those cases, there was either 10 admission of wrongdoing by the lawyer or there was a 11 finding by a jury of wrongdoing. We are dealing with 12 felony offenses of moral turpitude.

13 Under the current state of the rule, if you are 14 convicted of a misdemeanor, you have a duty to report. 15 Today -- today I heard something that I think is 16 somewhat in conflict with the -- what I would say is a 17 new rule because the new rule that is being proposed 18 talks about for the purposes of this rule -- and this is 19 in subsection A of the proposal -- "For purpose of this 20 rule, a conviction is any disposition, including a 21 finding of quilty, an order of court supervision, or a 22 deferred judgement."

23 So there's -- I think language problems with any 24 disposition including those things, but also a finding



Г

| 1 | of guilty. Mary Robinson's law firm points out that | |
|----|--|--|
| 2 | that would include a finding of guilty that's later | |
| 3 | vacated by the trial court. An order of court | |
| 4 | supervision, relatively minor offenses are resolved with | |
| 5 | court supervision. It is by state law, not a criminal | |
| б | conviction, and the precedent that talks about a | |
| 7 | conviction supervision being a conviction. | |
| 8 | The Rolley case, that's not a self reporting | |
| 9 | case. That is about whether that person, that lawyer, | |
| 10 | who is charged with converting client funds I think | |
| 11 | to the sum of \$70,000 whether he is subject to | |
| 12 | discipline, not whether that is a court supervision | |
| 13 | is an affirmative defense or a bar to the administrator | |
| 14 | bringing that person before the board. | |
| 15 | But the new rule that is proposed, it doesn't | |
| 16 | even confine itself to misdemeanors of moral turpitude. | |
| 17 | It doesn't even confine itself to misdemeanors that | |
| 18 | would be like a third speeder court supervision, it | |
| 19 | talks about deferred judgements. | |
| 20 | I practice in state and federal courts. That's | |
| 21 | what I primarily do. And deferred judgments can have | |
| 22 | all sorts of characters. So you can have dispositions | |

23 that include an admission of guilt, an adjudication of

guilt, and you can have ones that do not at all, a

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deferral or diversionary program where an accused person 1 2 We have it at 26th Street in Room 102. is diverted. No admission of quilt, no plea of quilty, you are diverted. 3 So a lawyer who is cited for speeding, 4 5 littering, disorderly conduct, is part of a public protest and gets arrested along with a bunch of other 6 people and incited for disorderly conduct, goes to 7 court; has counsel; and is concerned about their law 8 9 The prosecutor says, "Listen, if he does eight license. hours of community service, come back in two months and 10 11 we will dismiss the case against him."

Whether the lawyer was -- has an absolute defense to that charge, my advice is always going to be you have a dismissal in hand without an admission of guilt. You have got to go do the eight hours of community service. We'll come back in two months, and the case will be dismissed.

Now, under the proposed rule, you would have an affirmative duty to report that the judgement had been deferred. We're not talking about a judgement of conviction; we're talking about any judgement. A judgement of dismissal, that that had been deferred -because defer means basically put off, to withhold the judgement.

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And I think sometimes that means that you plead 1 2 quilty and a judgement maybe enters against you and is maybe vacated lawyer. That was the lawyer in the other 3 case cited by the administrator where he went to trial, 4 he was convicted by a jury, he was put on eight years of 5 probation, and at the end of it, the conviction was 6 That's a very different situation than the 7 vacated. 8 scenarios that we can envision this rule encompassing. 9 So this rule is not a clarification of the rule as it exists, which is like I said, guite broad. 10 Ιt does not amend the rule consistent with the caselaw. 11 12 Those cases are not self reporting cases. 13 And so when you talk about underlying conduct 14 and it being of a certain nature that has something to 15 say about the lawyer's moral turpitude or fitness to 16 practice, the conduct is always subject to Himmel obligations and it's always subject to discipline, 17 18 whether or not that lawyer is acquitted at trial, 19 whether or not that lawyer is pardoned. 20 But the conduct and the self reporting, we're 21 conflating those things, because this rule requires that 22 any time a lawyer is cited for some minor misdemeanor 23 and is given basically a dismissal after maybe doing

24 eight hours of community service, that that lawyer has

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| 1 | an affirmative duty now to report himself or herself to |
|----|--|
| 2 | the ARDC and shall be referred to the inquiry board. It |
| 3 | is a broad expansion of the word definition the |
| 4 | definition of conviction under the law, and it is |
| 5 | inconsistent with our state law. |
| 6 | So, Judge, I I'm sorry. I reverted like I'm |
| 7 | in a courtroom. |
| 8 | So, Chair and the Committee, I'm asking that |
| 9 | this rule be declined for all of the reasons that I've |
| 10 | put in writing and also that have been put in writing by |
| 11 | Ms. Robinson's firm, Mr. Komie, and also spoken to this |
| 12 | morning by Mr. Komie. |
| 13 | CHAIR HANSEN: Thank you. Any further |
| 14 | questions? |
| 15 | You spared the firing squad because everybody |
| 16 | went before you. I appreciate your presentation as does |
| 17 | the Committee. |
| 18 | If we have no further questions, that will be |
| 19 | the end of the public hearing section. We thank all of |
| 20 | our speakers this morning. We will now adjourn the |
| 21 | public hearing and reconvene for our Rules Committee |
| 22 | meeting. Thank you. |
| 23 | (12:11 p.m., proceedings concluded.) |
| 24 | |
| | |



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| 1 | STATE OF ILLINOIS) | | |
|--------|--|--|--|
| 2 |) SS. COUNTY OF COOK) | | |
| 3 | | | |
| 4 | CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER | | |
| 5 | Isaiah Roberts, being first duly sworn, on | | |
| 6 | oath says that he is a Certified Shorthand Reporter, | | |
| 7 | Registered Professional Reporter doing business in the | | |
| 8 | City of Chicago, County of Cook and the State of | | |
| 9 | Illinois; | | |
| 10 | That he reported in shorthand the proceedings | | |
| 11 | had at the foregoing Public Hearing; | | |
| 12 | And that the foregoing is a true and correct | | |
| 13 | transcript of his shorthand notes so taken as aforesaid | | |
| 14 | and contains, to the best of his ability, all the | | |
| 15 | proceedings had at the said Public Hearing. | | |
| 16 | Assial Bebo | | |
| 17 | Clear Debor | | |
| 18 | Isaiah Roberts, CSR, RPR Illinois CSR #084-004890 | | |
| 19 | 11111015 CSK #084-004890 | | |
| 20 | SUBSTRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this day of | | |
| 21 | April A.D., 2021. | | |
| 22 | | | |
| 23 | | | |
| 24 | NOTARY PUBLIC | | |
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