

SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2024

THE COURT MADE THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENTS:

MISCELLANEOUS RECORD

M.R.032343 - In re: Jennifer Michelle George. Disciplinary Commission.

Petition by the Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission to impose reciprocal discipline pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 763. Allowed. Respondent Jennifer Michelle George, who has been disciplined in the State of California, is disbarred in the State of Illinois.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.032354 - In re: Sophia Juliana Johnson. Disciplinary Commission.

Petition by the Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission to impose reciprocal discipline pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 763. Allowed. Respondent Sophia Juliana Johnson, who has been disciplined in the states of Louisiana, Colorado, and Texas, is suspended from the practice of law in the State of Illinois for one (1) year and until she is reinstated to the practice of law in the states of Louisiana and Colorado.

Suspension effective December 10, 2024.

Respondent Sophia Juliana Johnson shall reimburse the Client Protection Program Trust Fund for any Client Protection payments arising from her conduct prior to the termination of the period of suspension.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.032355 - In re: Joseph Ryan Riegerix. Disciplinary Commission.

Petition by the Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission to impose reciprocal discipline pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 763. Allowed. Respondent Joseph Ryan Riegerix, who has been disciplined in the State of Colorado, is suspended from the practice of law in the State of Illinois for six (6) months and until he is reinstated to the practice of law in the State of Colorado.

Suspension effective December 10, 2024.

Respondent Joseph Ryan Riegerix shall reimburse the Client Protection Program Trust Fund for any Client Protection payments arising from his conduct prior to the termination of the period of suspension.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.032362 - In re: Jarred James Rahar. Disciplinary Commission.

Petition by the Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission to impose discipline on consent pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 762(b). Allowed. Respondent Jarred James Rahar is suspended from the practice of law for six (6) months and until further order of the Court, with the suspension stayed after thirty (30) days by a one (1) year period of probation, subject to the following conditions:

- a. Respondent shall engage in regular and continuous treatment with a mental health provider, as agreed to by the Administrator, and he shall comply with any and all treatment, medication and continuing care recommendations by the counselor and his primary care physician;
- b. Respondent shall provide the Administrator and his counselor with an appropriate release, authorizing his treating professionals to: (1) disclose to the Administrator information pertaining to the nature of respondent's compliance with any treatment plan established with respect to respondent's condition; (2) to promptly report to the Administrator respondent's failure to comply with any part of an established treatment plan; and (3) to respond to any inquiries by the Administrator regarding respondent's treatment and compliance with any established treatment plan;
- c. Respondent shall attend meetings as scheduled by the Commission probation officer. Respondent shall submit quarterly written reports to the Commission probation officer concerning the status of his practice of law and the nature and extent of his compliance with the conditions of probation;

- d. Respondent shall comply with the provisions of Article VII of the Illinois Supreme Court Rules on Admission and Discipline of Attorneys and the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct and shall timely cooperate with the Administrator in providing information regarding any investigations relating to his conduct;
- e. Respondent shall reimburse the Commission for the costs of this proceeding, as defined in Supreme Court Rule 773, and shall reimburse the Commission for any further costs incurred during the period of probation;
- f. At least thirty (30) days prior to the termination of the period of probation, respondent shall reimburse the Client Protection Program Trust Fund for any Client Protection payments arising from his conduct;
- g. Respondent shall notify the Administrator within fourteen (14) days of any change of address; and
- h. Probation shall be revoked if respondent is found to have violated any of the terms of probation. The remaining portion of the six (6) month period of suspension shall commence from the date of the determination that any term of probation has been violated and shall continue until further order of the Court.

Suspension effective December 10, 2024.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.032369 - In re: Javaron Darnell Buckley. Disciplinary Commission.  
M.R.031826

(032369) Motion by the Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission to approve and confirm the report and recommendation of the Hearing Board. Allowed. Respondent Javaron Darnell Buckley is suspended from the practice of law for nine (9) months.

Suspension effective December 10, 2024.

Respondent Javaron Darnell Buckley shall reimburse the Client Protection Program Trust Fund for any Client Protection payments arising from his conduct prior to the termination of the period of suspension.

(031826) The rule to show cause issued to respondent Javaron Darnell Buckley on June 13, 2023, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 761 and continued until further order of the Court on July 21, 2023. Discharged.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.032373 - In re: Robert Edward Lewin. Disciplinary Commission.

Petition by the Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission for leave to file exceptions to the report and recommendation of the Review Board. Allowed. Respondent Robert Edward Lewin is suspended from the practice of law for two (2) years and until further order of the Court, with the suspension stayed after one (1) year by a one (1) year period of probation, subject to the following conditions:

- a. Respondent shall attend and successfully complete the ARDC Professionalism Seminar before the end of the first six (6) months of his probation. Respondent shall provide proof of his attendance to the Administrator;
- b. Respondent shall attend and successfully complete twenty-five (25) hours of training concerning the issue of sexual harassment, to be determined in consultation with the Administrator, and subject to the approval of the Administrator, before the end of the first six (6) months of his probation. Respondent shall provide proof of his attendance to the Administrator;
- c. During his probation, respondent's practice of law shall be supervised by a licensed attorney, with a primary focus on respondent's communications; his professionalism; and his ability to use technology or obtain help in doing so. Respondent shall arrange a relationship with a supervising attorney, approved by the Administrator, to act as a mentor throughout the period of probation. Respondent shall meet with the supervising attorney within the first thirty (30) days of probation, and at least once a month thereafter. Respondent shall authorize, direct, and arrange for the supervising attorney to provide a report in writing to the Administrator, no less than once every quarter, regarding respondent's cooperation with the supervising attorney, and the supervising attorney's general appraisal of respondent's communications, professionalism, and ability to use technology or obtain help in doing so. Respondent shall notify the Administrator of the name and address of the

supervising attorney. Respondent shall provide notice to the Administrator of any change in supervising attorney within fourteen (14) days of the change;

- d. During his probation, respondent shall attend meetings with the ARDC's probation officer, as scheduled by the probation officer, and respondent shall submit quarterly written reports to the probation officer concerning respondent's cooperation with the supervising attorney, and the nature and extent of respondent's compliance with the conditions of probation;
- e. Respondent shall comply with the provisions of Article VII of the Illinois Supreme Court Rules on Admission and Discipline of Attorneys and the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct, specifically including, but not limited to, Rule 764, and Rule 8.4(d), and respondent shall refrain from any sexual harassment and any other harassing behavior that is in violation of Rule 8.4(d);
- f. Respondent shall reimburse the Commission for the costs of this proceeding as defined in Supreme Court Rule 773, and shall reimburse the Commission, at least thirty (30) days prior to the termination of probation, for any further costs incurred during the period of probation;
- g. Probation shall be revoked if respondent is found to have violated any of the terms of probation. The remaining period of suspension shall commence from the date of determination that any term of probation has been violated, and the suspension shall continue until further order of the Court; and
- h. Probation shall terminate without further order of the Court provided respondent complies with the above conditions.

Suspension effective December 10, 2024.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.032376 - In re: Frank John Zangara. Disciplinary Commission.

Petition by the Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission to impose discipline on consent pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 762(b). Allowed. Respondent Frank John Zangara is suspended from the practice of law for one (1) year, with the suspension stayed after four (4) months by a two (2) year period of probation, subject to the following conditions which are to be satisfied prior to the termination of probation:

- a. Respondent shall comply with the provisions of Article VII of the Illinois Supreme Court Rules on Admission and Discipline of Attorneys and the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct and shall timely cooperate with the Administrator in providing information regarding any investigations relating to his conduct;
- b. Respondent shall reimburse the Commission for the costs of this proceeding, as defined in Supreme Court Rule 773 and, at least thirty (30) days prior to the termination of the period of probation, shall reimburse the Commission for any further costs incurred during the period of probation;
- c. At least thirty (30) days prior to the termination of the period of probation, respondent shall reimburse the Client Protection Program Trust Fund for any Client Protection payments arising from his conduct;
- d. Respondent shall notify the Administrator within seven (7) days of any arrest or charge alleging his violation of any criminal or quasi-criminal statute or ordinance;
- e. Respondent shall attend meetings as scheduled by the Commission probation officer. Respondent shall disclose to the Administrator on a quarterly basis, by way of signed reports, information pertaining to the nature and extent of respondent's compliance with the conditions of probation, including providing any and all requested trust account records and journals;
- f. Respondent shall notify the Administrator within fourteen (14) days of any change of address;
- g. Respondent shall successfully complete the ARDC Professionalism Seminar within the first six (6) months of probation;

- h. Respondent shall submit to an independent audit of his client trust account, conducted by an auditor approved by the Administrator, at respondent's expense, one year after the commencement of probation. Respondent and the Administrator shall each receive copies of the audit. The audit shall establish respondent's maintenance of complete records of client trust accounts, required by Rule 1.15A of the Rules of Professional Conduct, including the following:
- i. the preparation and maintenance of receipt and disbursement journals for all client trust accounts, containing a record of deposits and withdrawals from client trust accounts specifically identifying the date, source, and description of each item deposited, and the date, payee and purpose of each disbursement;
  - ii. the preparation and maintenance of contemporaneous ledger records for all client accounts showing, for each separate trust client or beneficiary, the source of all funds deposited, the date of each deposit, the names of all persons for whom the funds are or were held, the amount of such funds, the dates, descriptions and amounts of charges or withdrawals, and the names of all persons to whom such funds were disbursed;
  - iii. the maintenance of copies of all accountings to clients or third persons showing the disbursement of funds to them or on their behalf, along with copies of those portions of clients' files that are reasonably necessary for a complete understanding of the financial transactions pertaining to them;
  - iv. the maintenance of all client trust account checkbook registers, check stubs, bank statements, records of deposit, and checks or other records of debits;
  - v. the maintenance of copies of all retainer and compensation agreements with clients;
  - vi. the maintenance of copies of all bills rendered to clients for legal fees and expenses;

- vii. the preparation and maintenance of reconciliation reports of all client trust accounts, on at least a quarterly basis, including reconciliations of ledger balances with client trust account balances; and
- viii. appropriate arrangements for the maintenance of the records in the event of the closing, sale, dissolution, or merger of a law practice;
- i. Probation shall be revoked if respondent is found to have violated any of the terms of probation. The remaining portion of the eight (8) month period of suspension shall commence from the date of the determination that any term of probation has been violated; and
- j. Probation shall terminate without further order of court provided respondent complies with the above conditions.

Suspension effective December 10, 2024.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.032390 - In re: Jason Paul Young. Disciplinary Commission.

Petition by the Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission to impose discipline on consent pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 762(b). Allowed. Respondent Jason Paul Young is suspended from the practice of law for ninety (90) days.

Suspension effective December 10, 2024.

Respondent Jason Paul Young shall reimburse the Client Protection Program Trust Fund for any Client Protection payments arising from his conduct prior to the termination of the period of suspension.

Order entered by the Court.



M.R.032404 - In re: Jacob Joel Swanson. Disciplinary Commission.

Motion by the Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission to approve and confirm the report and recommendation of the Hearing Board. Allowed. Respondent Jacob Joel Swanson is suspended from the practice of law for two (2) years and until further order of the Court.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.032406 - In re: John F. Cloutier. Disciplinary Commission.

Petition by the Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission to impose reciprocal discipline pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 763. Allowed. Respondent John F. Cloutier, who has been disciplined in the State of Florida, is reprimanded in the State of Illinois.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.032409 - In re: Leroy U. Ekechukwu. Disciplinary Commission.

Petition by the Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission to impose discipline on consent pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 762(b). Allowed. Respondent Leroy U. Ekechukwu is suspended from the practice of law for eighteen (18) months and until further order of the Court, with the suspension stayed after five (5) months by a two (2) year period of probation subject to the following conditions which are to be satisfied prior to the termination of probation, with conditions (a) through (q) to commence upon the effective date of the Court's order:

- a. Respondent shall comply with the provisions of Article VII of the Illinois Supreme Court Rules on Admission and Discipline of Attorneys and the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct and shall timely cooperate with the Administrator in providing information regarding any investigations relating to his conduct;
- b. Respondent shall reimburse the Commission for the costs of this proceeding as defined in Supreme Court Rule 773 and, at least thirty (30) days prior to the termination of the period of probation, respondent shall reimburse the Commission for any further costs incurred during the period of probation;

- c. At least thirty (30) days prior to the termination of the period of probation, respondent shall reimburse the Client Protection Program Trust Fund for any Client Protection payments arising from his conduct;
- d. Respondent shall notify the Administrator within seven (7) days of any arrest or charge alleging his violation of any criminal or quasi-criminal statute or ordinance;
- e. Respondent shall abstain from the usage of alcohol and any unprescribed controlled substances;
- f. Respondent shall report to the Administrator any lapse in his sobriety or usage of any unprescribed controlled substances within seventy-two (72) hours of that usage;
- g. Respondent shall continue his course of treatment with a Lawyers' Assistance Program ("LAP") clinician, or such other qualified mental health professional acceptable to the Administrator and shall report to the LAP clinician or such other qualified mental health professional on a regular basis with the Administrator advised of any change in attendance deemed warranted by such professional;
- h. Respondent shall comply with all treatment and continuing care recommendations of the LAP clinician or other qualified mental health professional, including the taking of medications as prescribed;
- i. Respondent shall provide the Administrator and the LAP clinician or other qualified mental health professional with an appropriate release authorizing the treating professionals to:  
(1) disclose to the Administrator on at least a quarterly basis information pertaining to the nature of respondent's compliance with any treatment plan established with respect to respondent's condition; (2) promptly report to the Administrator respondent's failure to comply with any part of an established treatment plan; and (3) respond to any inquiries by the Administrator regarding respondent's mental or emotional state or compliance with any established treatment plans;
- j. Respondent shall, as required by the Administrator, submit to random substance testing by a qualified mental health professional or facility approved by the Administrator, within eight (8) hours of receiving notice by the Administrator to

submit to the testing or with daily breath testing with an Administrator approved testing device. The results of the tests shall be reported to the Administrator. Respondent shall pay any and all costs of such testing;

- k. Respondent shall notify the Administrator within fourteen (14) days of any change in treatment professionals;
- l. Respondent shall, during the first thirty (30) days of his suspension, establish a relationship with an attorney, acceptable to the Administrator, who will monitor, assess and implement appropriate law office management practices in respondent's practice of law. Respondent shall receive approval from the Administrator of any change in attorney monitor. Respondent shall meet with the attorney monitor at least once per month concerning respondent's practice of law. Respondent shall successfully complete the law office management program at least thirty (30) days prior to the end of the probation term. Through respondent's participation in the law office management program, respondent shall establish and utilize the following:
  - i. a system for maintaining records as required by Supreme Court Rule 769;
  - ii. a diary and docketing system in accordance with the requirements established by the law office management program, including a mechanism by which approaching statues of limitations and other filing deadlines are noted;
  - iii. a system by which telephone messages are recorded and telephone calls are returned in a timely manner;
  - iv. a system by which written requests by clients for the status of their legal matters are answered, either orally or in writing, in a timely manner;
  - v. a system whereby clients are apprised at the outset of representation of the basis upon which fees will be calculated and costs paid;
  - vi. for cases in which the fee is to be calculated on an hourly basis, a system by which clients are provided with regular itemized billing statements provided at least quarterly, setting forth the services performed by respondent, the date upon which each service was performed, the time

spent by respondent on each service and the amount to be charged to the client;

- vii. for cases in which a retainer is paid, a system by which clients are provided with fee agreements that clearly identify and define the kind of general retainer, security retainer, or advanced payment retainer being paid;
- viii. a system for all fee agreements to state whether the funds paid remain the property of the client until used to pay for services rendered or expenses incurred and will be deposited into a client trust account or whether the funds are earned when paid and immediately become property of the lawyer; and
- ix. a system for the handling of funds belonging to clients and third parties that conforms to the requirements of Rule 1.15 of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct and instructions provided to respondent by the Administrator, including the following Trust Account Procedures:

Basic accounting records that must be maintained daily and accurately:

Account Check Register – list sequentially all trust account deposits and trust account disbursements and maintain a current and accurate daily balance on the trust account;

Account Receipts Journal – list chronologically all deposits into the trust account, each deposit to list the date of the deposit, the source of each deposit, the client matter, the deposit number and the amount of the deposit. Maintain a copy of each item deposited;

Account Disbursement Journal – list chronologically all trust account disbursements and identify each disbursement with the date of the disbursement check, the trust account check number, the payee, the purpose of the disbursement, the client matter and the amount of the disbursement check. Maintain a copy of each canceled check or other evidence of disbursement;

Client Ledger Journal – list chronologically for each client matter all receipts, disbursements and remaining balances, preparing a separate page for each client matter and listing chronologically all receipts and disbursements and remaining balances for each client matter; and

Reconciliation reports – maintain a running balance for all ledgers and account books. The balances in the client ledger journal must be reconciled each month with the balances in the receipt and disbursement journals, the account checkbook register and the bank statements. Copies of each reconciliation report and supporting records and journals, demonstrating respondent’s compliance with Rule 1.15, shall be provided to the Administrator [monthly/quarterly];

Source documents which must be preserved for seven years:

Bank statements;

Deposit slips;

Canceled checks – all trust account checks must have a named payee (no checks written to “cash”) and the memo portion of the check must contain a reference to a client matter;

Reconciliation reports and records;

Time and billing records; and

Copies of records from client files that are necessary for a full understanding of the lawyer’s financial transactions with the client: *e.g.*, retainer and engagement agreements; settlement statements to clients showing the disbursement of the settlement proceeds; bills sent to clients and records of payments to other lawyers or non-employees for services rendered;

- m. Respondent shall authorize the attorney monitor assigned to work with him in the law office management program to:

- i. Disclose to the Administrator on a quarterly basis, by way of signed reports, information pertaining to the nature of respondent's compliance with the law office management program and the above-described conditions;
  - ii. Promptly report to the Administrator respondent's failure to comply with any part of the above-described conditions; and
  - iii. Respond to any inquiries by the Administrator regarding respondent's compliance with the above-described conditions;
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- n. Respondent shall attend meetings as scheduled by the Commission probation officer. Respondent shall submit quarterly written reports to the Commission probation officer concerning the status of his practice of law and the nature and extent of his compliance with the conditions of probation;
  - o. Respondent shall notify the Administrator within fourteen (14) days of any change of address;
  - p. Probation shall be revoked if respondent is found to have violated any of the terms of probation. The remaining portion of the eighteen (18) month suspension shall commence from the date of the determination that any term of probation has been violated and shall continue until further order of the Court; and
  - q. Probation shall terminate without further order of the Court provided respondent complies with the above conditions.

Suspension effective December 10, 2024.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.032419 - In re: John Russell Wienold. Disciplinary Commission.

Petition by the Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission to impose discipline on consent pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 762(b). Allowed. Respondent John Russell Wienold is censured.

Order entered by the Court.