

SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS

THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2024

THE COURT MADE THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENTS:

MISCELLANEOUS RECORD

M.R.032054 - In re: Leila Louisa Hale. 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 Leila Louisa Hale, who has been disciplined in the State of Nevada, is suspended from the practice of law in the State of Illinois for thirty (30) days.

Suspension effective June 13, 2024.

Respondent Leila Louisa Hale 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.032068 - In re: Lewis Steven Goldblatt. 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 Lewis Steven Goldblatt, who has been disciplined in the State of California, is required to demonstrate successful completion of the conditions of probation imposed upon him by the Supreme Court of California prior to filing a petition for reinstatement in the State of Illinois.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.032102 - In re: Susan Marie Bryan. 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 Susan Marie Bryan, who has been disciplined in the State of Indiana, is suspended from the practice of law in the State of Illinois for six (6) months and until further order of the Court.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.032104 - In re: Jason Russel Caraway. 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 Jason Russel Caraway is disbarred.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.032112 - In re: Robby S. Fakhouri. Disciplinary Commission.

Petitions by the Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission and respondent Robby S. Fakhouri for leave to file exceptions to the report and recommendation of the Review Board. Denied. Respondent Robby S. Fakhouri is suspended from the practice of law for three (3) years and until further order of the Court, with the suspension stayed after two (2) years by a one (1) year period of probation subject to the following conditions, as recommended by the Review Board:

- 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 respondent shall timely cooperate with the Administrator in providing information regarding any investigation 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, who will supervise respondent's suspension and probation. Respondent shall submit quarterly written reports to the Commission

probation officer concerning the nature and extent of his compliance with the conditions, and the status of his law practice;

- f. Respondent shall notify the Administrator within fourteen (14) days of any change of address;
- g. At least sixty (60) days prior to the start of the probationary term, respondent shall arrange a mentoring relationship with a licensed attorney or attorneys approved by the Administrator. At least seven (7) days prior to the start of the probationary term, and throughout the period of probation, respondent's practice of law shall be supervised by the attorney(s). Respondent shall provide notice to the Administrator of any change in supervising attorney(s) within fourteen (14) days of the change, and any substitute supervising attorney must be a licensed attorney approved by the Administrator. Respondent shall authorize and direct the supervising attorney(s) to provide a report in writing to the Administrator no less than every three (3) months regarding the nature of respondent's work, the number of cases being handled by respondent, and the supervising attorney's general appraisal of respondent's continued fitness to practice law. This condition applies only during the period of probation;
- h. Respondent shall successfully complete the following courses in addition to the courses required by Rule 791 (MCLE Requirements): (1) the ARDC Professionalism Seminar, to be completed within the first six (6) months of suspension; (2) an ethics course approved by the Administrator, to be completed within the first twelve (12) months of suspension; and (3) a law office management program approved by the Administrator, to be completed within the first twenty (20) months of suspension;
- i. Respondent shall abstain from using any controlled substances unless prescribed by a physician. Respondent shall use prescribed controlled substances only as directed by the physician;
- j. Respondent shall report to the Administrator any lapse in his sobriety, and any usage of unprescribed controlled substances within seventy-two (72) hours of that usage;
- k. Respondent shall participate in a course of mental health treatment with a psychotherapist, who is a licensed M.D.

or Ph.D., such as a psychiatrist or a clinical psychologist (“the treating professional”), approved by the Administrator, at respondent’s expense, and respondent shall meet with the treating professional on a regular basis of not less than once per week, with the Administrator advised of any change in attendance deemed warranted by the treating professional;

- l. Respondent shall comply with all treatment recommendations of the treating professional;
- m. Respondent shall provide to each treating professional from whom he receives treatment an appropriate release authorizing and directing the treating professional to: (1) disclose to the Administrator, on at least a quarterly basis, information pertaining to the nature of and respondent’s compliance with any treatment plan established with respect to respondent’s condition; (2) promptly report to the Administrator any failure by respondent to comply with any part of an established treatment plan; and (3) respond to any inquiries by the Administrator regarding respondent’s treatment and compliance with any established treatment plan;
- n. Respondent shall notify the Administrator within fourteen (14) days of any change in the treating professional;
- o. 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 that he shall submit to the testing. Respondent shall provide to the professional or facility an appropriate release authorizing and directing that the results of the tests shall be reported to the Administrator. Respondent shall pay any and all costs of such testing;
- p. Respondent shall submit to an independent audit of his client trust account, conducted by an auditor approved by the Administrator, at respondent’s expense, six (6) months after the commencement of probation. Respondent and the Administrator shall each receive copies of the audit. This condition applies only during the period of probation. The audit shall also evaluate respondent’s maintenance of complete records of client trust accounts, required by Rule 1.15 of the Rules of Professional Conduct (2023), and respondent’s system for maintaining records, 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 date, payee, and purpose of each disbursement;
 - ii. the preparation and maintenance of contemporaneous ledger records for all client trust 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; and
 - 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
- q. At least thirty (30) days prior to the start of the probationary term, respondent shall hire a professional

individual or entity (“the bookkeeper”), approved by the Administrator, at respondent’s expense, to manage his law firm’s bookkeeping, including the bookkeeping relating to his client trust account and his business account. At least seven (7) days prior to the start of the probationary term, and throughout the period of probation, the bookkeeper shall manage the law firm’s bookkeeping. Respondent shall provide notice to the Administrator of any change in the bookkeeper within fourteen (14) days of the change, and any substitute bookkeeper must be approved by the Administrator. Respondent shall authorize and direct the bookkeeper to provide a report in writing to the Administrator no less than every three (3) months regarding the nature of respondent’s bookkeeping, the work being done by the bookkeeper, and the bookkeeper’s general appraisal of respondent’s bookkeeping practices and procedures. This condition applies only during the period of probation;

- r. During the one (1) year period of probation, respondent shall provide 150 hours of community service, without charge, through one or more organizations approved by the Administrator. Respondent is to provide *pro bono* legal services to indigent individuals, as approved by the Administrator, in order to satisfy this condition. Respondent shall itemize the time spent on community service in the quarterly reports submitted to the Administrator. This condition applies only during the period of probation;
- s. If respondent is found to have violated any of the conditions, the stay of the three (3) year suspension, and until further order by the Court, shall be revoked. The remaining period of the three (3) year suspension and until further order of the Court shall continue as a suspension, which shall commence on the date of the determination that any condition has been violated, and shall continue until further order of the Court; and
- t. If respondent successfully completes all of the conditions of his probation, his suspension and probation shall terminate without further order of the Court.

Suspension effective June 13, 2024.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.032131 - In re: Gregory Michael Nordt. 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 Gregory Michael Nordt who has been disciplined in the State of Florida, is suspended from the practice of law in the State of Illinois for three (3) years and until he is reinstated to the practice of law in the State of Florida.

Suspension effective June 13, 2024.

Respondent Gregory Michael Nordt 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.032132 - In re: Wesley C. Zaba. 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 Wesley C. Zaba is suspended from the practice of law for sixty (60) days.

Suspension effective June 13, 2024.

Respondent Wesley C. Zaba 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.032149 - In re: Margaret Jean Lowery. Disciplinary Commission.

Petition by Margaret Jean Lowery to be placed on permanent retirement status pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 756(a)(8). Denied.

Order entered by the Court.

Neville, J. took no part.
Overstreet, J. took no part.

M.R.032175 - In re: Mark David Kehoskie. 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 Mark David Kehoskie is suspended from the practice of law for six (6) months, with the suspension stayed in its entirety by a two (2) year period of probation, subject to the following conditions:

- a. Respondent shall abstain from the usage of alcohol and any unprescribed controlled substances;
- b. Respondent shall, as required by the Administrator, submit to random substance testing by a qualified health professional or facility approved by the Administrator within eight (8) hours of receiving notice by the Administrator that he shall submit to the testing. The results of the tests shall be reported to the Administrator. Respondent shall pay any and all costs of such testing;
- c. Respondent shall continue his course of psychotherapy with his current provider, or such other qualified mental health professional acceptable to the Administrator, and shall report to his current provider, or such other qualified mental health professional, not less than once per month for at least two (2) years, with the Administrator advised of any change in attendance deemed warranted by such professional;
- d. Respondent shall comply with all treatment recommendations of his primary care physician or such other qualified mental health professional, including the taking of medications as prescribed;
- e. Respondent shall provide to his current mental health provider and his primary care physician, or such other qualified mental health professional, an appropriate release authorizing the treating professional 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 compliance with any established treatment plan;

- f. Respondent shall participate in a self-help recovery program as recommended by Lawyers' Assistance Program and/or his treating psychologist or psychiatrist and shall comply with all recommendations including the attendance of weekly meetings. Respondent is to maintain a log of his attendance at the meetings and submit them to the Administrator with his quarterly reports;
- g. 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;
- h. 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;
- i. 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;
- j. 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;
- k. 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;
- l. Respondent shall notify the Administrator within fourteen (14) days of any change of address;
- m. 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; and
- n. 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.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.032179 - In re: Sami Ziad Azhari. 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 Sami Ziad Azhari is censured.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.032180 In re: Donald Thomas. Disciplinary Commission.

The Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission having filed an answer excepting to the petition of Donald Thomas for restoration to active status pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 759, the petition and answer are referred to the Hearing Board which shall hear the matter.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.032190 - In re: James Douglas Cottrell. 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. Denied. Respondent James Douglas Cottrell is reprimanded, as recommended by the Review Board.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.032210 - In re: Steven Messner. 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 Steven Messner is disbarred.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.032211 - In re: Gregory Oltman. 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 Gregory Oltman is suspended from the practice of law for three (3) years and until further order of the Court.

Order entered by the Court.