

SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

THE COURT MADE THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENTS:

MISCELLANEOUS RECORD

M.R.029861 - In re: Maurice James Salem. Disciplinary Commission.

Petition by petitioner Maurice James Salem for leave to file exceptions to the report and recommendation of the Review Board. Denied. The petition by Maurice James Salem for reinstatement to the roll of attorneys licensed to practice law in the State of Illinois pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 767 is denied, as recommended by the Review Board.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.029993 - In re: Alec J. Magafas. 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. The petition by Alec J. Magafas for reinstatement to the roll of attorneys licensed to practice law in the State of Illinois pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 767. Denied.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.030802 - In re: Matthew Clay Piatt. 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 Matthew Clay Piatt, who has been disciplined in the State of Indiana, is suspended from the practice of law in the State of Illinois for one hundred eighty (180) days, with the suspension stayed after ninety (90) days by a two (2) year period of probation, *nunc pro tunc* to January 14, 2021, subject to the conditions imposed upon respondent by the Supreme Court of Indiana, and until he successfully completes the period of probation in the State of Indiana and continuing until his probation in Indiana is terminated.

Suspension effective October 14, 2021.

Respondent Matthew Clay Piatt 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/probation.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.030803 - In re: Carrie Kooi. 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 Carrie Kooi, who has been disciplined in the State of Indiana, is suspended from the practice of law in the State of Illinois for ninety (90) days, with the suspension stayed after thirty (30) days by a two (2) year period of probation, *nunc pro tunc* to November 23, 2020, subject to the conditions imposed upon respondent by the Supreme Court of Indiana, and until she successfully completes the period of probation in the State of Indiana and continuing until her probation in Indiana is terminated.

Suspension effective October 14, 2021.

Respondent Carrie Kooi 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/probation.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.030805 - In re: Michael Bernard Potere. Disciplinary Commission.

Motion by respondent Michael Bernard Potere and request for hearing on the Administrator's petition for reciprocal discipline pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 763. Denied.

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

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.030810 - In re: Cynthia Jean Koroll. 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 Cynthia Jean Koroll is suspended from the practice of law for six (6) months, with the suspension stayed after sixty (60) days by a one (1) year period of probation subject to the following conditions, with conditions (a) and (b) to commence upon the effective date of the Court's order:

- a. Respondent shall comply with any and all treatment and continuing care recommendations of Dr. Marianne Geiger or other psychiatrist or treatment program approved by the Administrator;
- b. Respondent shall provide the Administrator and Dr. Geiger, or any other approved psychiatrist or treatment program(s) with an appropriate release, authorizing the 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 nature and extent of her compliance with the conditions of probation;
- d. Respondent shall successfully complete the ARDC Professionalism Seminar within the first year 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 and shall timely cooperate with the Administrator in providing information regarding any investigations relating to her conduct;

- f. 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;
- g. 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 her conduct;
- h. Respondent shall notify the Administrator within seven (7) days of any arrest or charge alleging her violation of any criminal or quasi-criminal statute or ordinance;
- i. Respondent shall notify the Administrator within fourteen (14) days of any change of address; and
- j. 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.

Suspension effective October 14, 2021.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.030814 - In re: Lisa Michelle Edgar. 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 Lisa Michelle Edgar, who has been disciplined in the State of California, is suspended from the practice of law in the State of Illinois for one (1) year, with the suspension stayed in its entirety by a one (1) year period of probation, *nunc pro tunc* to November 21, 2020, subject to the conditions imposed upon respondent by the Supreme Court of California, and until she successfully completes the period of probation in the State of California.

Respondent Lisa Michelle Edgar 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/probation.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.030817 - In re: Craig Carnell Cunningham. 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 Craig Carnell Cunningham is suspended from the practice of law for six (6) months.

Suspension effective October 14, 2021.

Respondent Craig Carnell Cunningham 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.030819 - In re: Barbara Julia Luther. 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 Barbara Julia Luther, who has been disciplined in the State of Arizona, is reprimanded in the State of Illinois and placed on probation for two (2) years, *nunc pro tunc* to January 23, 2020, subject to the conditions imposed upon respondent by the Attorney Discipline Probable Cause Committee of the Supreme Court of Arizona, and until she successfully completes the conditions imposed upon her in Arizona.

Respondent Barbara Julia Luther 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 probation.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.030824 - In re: Donald George Groble. 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 Donald George Groble 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.030825 - In re: Ryan Mark Weinheimer. Disciplinary Commission.

Petition by Ryan Mark Weinheimer to be placed on permanent retirement status pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 756(a)(8). Allowed. Effective immediately.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.030827 - In re: Bryan S. Flangel. Disciplinary Commission.

Motion by Bryan S. Flangel to strike his name from the roll of attorneys licensed to practice law in Illinois pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 762(a). Allowed. Effective immediately.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.030835 - In re: Brad McClain Swearingen. Disciplinary Commission.

Petition by Brad McClain Swearingen to be placed on permanent retirement status pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 756(a)(8). Allowed. Effective immediately.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.030839 - In re: Andrew Martin Stroth. 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 Andrew Martin Stroth is suspended from the practice of law for thirty (30) days and is required to successfully complete the ARDC Professionalism Seminar within one (1) year of the Court's final order of discipline.

Suspension effective October 14, 2021.

Respondent Andrew Martin Stroth 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.030848 - In re: Henry A. Weber. 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 Henry A. Weber is disbarred.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.030853 - In re: James Mark McTighe. Disciplinary Commission.

Motion by James Mark McTighe to strike his name from the roll of attorneys licensed to practice law in Illinois pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 762(a). Allowed. Effective immediately.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.030854 - In re: John Anthony Ward. 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 Anthony Ward, who has been disciplined in the State of Wisconsin, is censured in the State of Illinois.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.030855 - In re: John George Steckel. Disciplinary Commission.

Motion by respondent John George Steckel for a retroactive effective date of his motion to strike his name from the roll of attorneys licensed to practice law in Illinois pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 762(a) to January 29, 2019. Allowed.

Motion by John George Steckel to strike his name from the roll of attorneys licensed to practice law in Illinois pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 762(a). Allowed. Effective January 29, 2019.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.030859 - In re: Jack Allen Schwartz. Disciplinary Commission.

Motion by respondent Jack Allen Schwartz and request for a hearing on the Administrator's petition for reciprocal discipline pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 763. Denied.

Petition by the Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission to impose reciprocal discipline pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 763. Allowed. Respondent Jack Allen Schwartz, who has been disciplined in the State of Iowa, is suspended from the practice of law in the State of Illinois and until he is reinstated to the practice of law in the State of Iowa.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.030860 - In re: Alan Kent Wittig. 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 Alan Kent Wittig, who has been disciplined in the State of Arizona, is censured in the State of Illinois.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.030872 - In re: Efrain L. Sanchez. 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 Efrain L. Sanchez, who has been disciplined in the State of Missouri, 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 Missouri.

Suspension effective October 14, 2021.

Respondent Efrain L. Sanchez 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.030875 - In re: James L. Nepl. Disciplinary Commission.

Petition by James L. Nepl to be placed on permanent retirement status pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 756(a)(8). Allowed. Effective immediately.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.030876 - In re: Veronica Reyes. 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 Veronica Reyes, who has been disciplined in the State of Colorado, is suspended from the practice of law in the State of Illinois for one (1) year and until further order of the Court, with the suspension stayed after six (6) months by a two (2) year period of probation, *nunc pro tunc* to March 19, 2019, subject to the conditions imposed upon respondent by the presiding disciplinary judge of the Supreme Court of Colorado, and until her period of probation in Colorado is successfully completed.

Suspension effective October 14, 2021.

Respondent Veronica Reyes 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/probation.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.030881 - In re: Edward Sergio Rueda. 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 Edward Sergio Rueda is suspended from the practice of law for one (1) year, with the suspension stayed after thirty (30) days by a two (2) year period of probation, subject to the following conditions:

- a. At least thirty (30) days prior to the end of the probation terms, respondent shall attend and successfully complete the ARDC Professionalism Seminar;
- b. Respondent shall establish and utilize a system for the handling of funds belonging to clients and third parties and the maintenance of records 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 checks 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 will 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. 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;

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

Source documents which must be preserved for seven (7) years:

Bank statements;

Deposit slips;

Cancelled 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;

Time and billing records;

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;

Reconciliation - there must be a running balance maintained for all ledgers and account books. The balances in the client ledger journal must be reconciled each month with the balances in the trust receipts and disbursement journals, the account checkbook register and the bank statements. Records of each reconciliation must be maintained for seven (7) years;

- c. Respondent shall meet, either virtually or in person, with the Administrator's representative on at least a quarterly basis and shall submit quarterly written reports to the Administrator concerning the status of his practice of law and the nature and extent of his compliance with the conditions of probation and shall provide the Administrator with any and all documentation and records requested in order to verify his compliance with condition (b) above;
- d. Respondent shall reimburse the Commission for the costs of this proceeding as defined in Supreme Court Rule 773;
- e. Respondent shall notify the Administrator within fourteen (14) days of any change of address;
- f. Respondent shall comply with the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct and shall timely cooperate with the Administrator in providing information regarding any investigations relating to his conduct; and

- g. Probation shall be revoked if respondent is found to have violated any of the terms of probation described in subparagraphs (a) through (f) above, and respondent shall be suspended for the remaining eleven (11) month period commencing on the date his probation is revoked.

Suspension effective October 14, 2021.

Respondent Edward Sergio Rueda 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/probation.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.030886 - In re: Stephen Thomas Fieweger. 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 Stephen Thomas Fieweger, who has been disciplined in the State of Iowa, is suspended from the practice of law in the State of Illinois for thirty (30) days.

Suspension effective October 14, 2021.

Respondent Stephen Thomas Fieweger 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.030887 - In re: Nathaniel Gordon. 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 Nathaniel Gordon is suspended from the practice of law for one (1) year and until further order of the Court, with the suspension stayed after six (6) months by a six (6) month period of probation, subject to the following conditions:

- 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 shall reimburse the Commission for any further costs incurred during the period of probation;
- c. 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;
- d. Respondent shall notify the Administrator within fourteen (14) days of any change of address;
- e. At least thirty (30) days prior to the start of the probationary term, respondent shall arrange a mentoring relationship with a licensed attorney acceptable to the Administrator. The period of probation shall not begin, and the suspension shall continue until further order of the Court, until an approved mentoring relationship is established. During the period of probation, respondent's practice of law shall be supervised by that attorney. Respondent shall provide notice to the Administrator of any change in supervising attorneys within fourteen (14) days of the change and any substitute supervising attorney must be a licensed attorney acceptable to the Administrator. Respondent shall authorize the supervising attorney to provide a report in writing to the

Administrator no less than every month regarding the nature of respondent's work, the number of cases being handled by respondent and the supervisor's general appraisal of respondent's continued fitness to practice law;

- f. 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;
- g. Respondent shall successfully complete the ARDC Professionalism Seminar during the first six (6) months of suspension, unless the Seminar is not offered during that time. In any event, respondent shall complete the Seminar by the end of the first three (3) months of probation;
- h. At least thirty (30) days prior to the termination of the period of probation, respondent shall complete and provide proof to the Administrator of the payment of restitution to Donta Hudson in the amount of \$3,500;
- i. 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;
- j. Probation shall be revoked if respondent is found to have violated any of the terms of probation. The remaining 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; and
- k. If respondent successfully completes the term of his probation, the probation shall terminate without further order of the Court.

Suspension effective October 14, 2021.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.030895 - In re: Peter J. Kovac. 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 Peter J. Kovac, who has been disciplined in the State of Wisconsin, is suspended from the practice of law in the State of Illinois for five (5) months.

Suspension effective October 14, 2021.

Respondent Peter J. Kovac 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.030903 - In re: Brian David Pondenis. Disciplinary Commission.

Motion by the Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission to approve and confirm the report and recommendation of the Review Board. Allowed. Respondent Brian David Pondenis is suspended from the practice of law for one (1) year and until further order of the Court.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.030908 - In re: Mark Vincent Kelly. 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 Mark Vincent Kelly is suspended from the practice of law for three (3) months.

Suspension effective October 14, 2021.

Respondent Mark Vincent Kelly 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.030920 - In re: Barry Edward Blumenfeld. Disciplinary Commission.

Motion by Barry Edward Blumenfeld to strike his name from the roll of attorneys licensed to practice law in Illinois pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 762(a). Allowed. Effective immediately.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.030922 - In re: Stephanie Alexandra Gerstetter. Disciplinary Commission.

Amended 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 Stephanie Alexandra Gerstetter is suspended from the practice of law for sixty (60) days.

Suspension effective October 14, 2021.

Respondent Stephanie Alexandra Gerstetter 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.030935 - In re: Jessica Lynn Jones. 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 Jessica Lynn Jones is suspended from the practice of law for nine (9) months.

Suspension effective October 14, 2021.

Respondent Jessica Lynn Jones 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.030940 - In re: John Paul Paleczny. 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 Paul Paleczny is suspended from the practice of law for one (1) year and until he successfully completes the ARDC Professionalism Seminar.

Suspension effective October 14, 2021.

Respondent John Paul Paleczny 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.