

APPENDIX

ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT

January 15, 2026 Order of Disbarment and other Orders

December 31, 2025 Orders Certifying No Record Exist

Other Orders denying ADA Access, etc.

ILLINOIS REVIEW BOARD

October 2025 Report

ILLINOIS HEARING BOARD

December 2025 Report from May 2, 2024 Lock Out



SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS

SUPREME COURT BUILDING
200 East Capitol Avenue
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62701-1721

CYNTHIA A. GRANT
Clerk of the Court

(217) 782-2035
TDD: (217) 524-8132

January 15, 2026

FIRST DISTRICT OFFICE
160 North LaSalle Street, 20th Floor
Chicago, IL 60601-3103
(312) 793-1332
TDD: (312) 793-6185

Margaret Jean Lowery
7122 S. Sheridan Road
Suite 2-1100
Tulsa, OK 74133-2775

In re: In re: Margaret Jean Lowery
M.R.032889

Today the following order was entered in the captioned case:

Petition by respondent for leave to file exceptions to the report and recommendation of the Review Board. Denied. Respondent Margaret Jean Lowery is disbarred, as recommended by the Review Board.

Order entered by the Court.

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

Very truly yours,

Clerk of the Supreme Court

cc: Attorney Registration & Disciplinary Commission
Benjamin Lee Boroughf
Michelle Thome

STATE OF ILLINOIS
SUPREME COURT

At a Term of the Supreme Court, begun and held in Springfield, on Monday, the 12th day of January, 2026.

Present: P. Scott Neville, Jr., Chief Justice
Justice Mary Jane Theis
Justice Lisa Holder White
Justice Elizabeth M. Rochford
Justice David K. Overstreet
Justice Joy V. Cunningham
Justice Mary K. O'Brien

On the 15th day of January, 2026, the Supreme Court entered the following judgment:

M.R.032889

In re:
Margaret Jean Lowery.

Attorney Registration & Disciplinary
Commission

2023PR00060

Petition by respondent for leave to file exceptions to the report and recommendation of the Review Board. Denied. Respondent Margaret Jean Lowery is disbarred, as recommended by the Review Board.

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

As Clerk of the Supreme Court of the State of Illinois and keeper of the records, files and Seal thereof, I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the final order entered in this case.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have set my hand
and affixed the seal of said Supreme Court, in
Springfield, in said State, this 15th day of
January, 2026.

Cynthia A. Grant
Clerk,
Supreme Court of the State of Illinois



SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS

SUPREME COURT BUILDING
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SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62701-1721

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Margaret Jean Lowery
7122 S. Sheridan Road
Suite 2-1100
Tulsa, OK 74133-2775

In re: In re: Margaret Jean Lowery
M.R.032889

Today the following order was entered in the captioned case:

Motion by Margaret Jean Lowery to stay proceedings pending Supreme Court review. Denied.

Order entered by the Court.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cynthia A. Grant".

Clerk of the Supreme Court

cc: Attorney Registration & Disciplinary Commission
Benjamin Lee Boroughf
Michelle Thome



SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS

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Margaret Jean Lowery
7122 S. Sheridan Road
Suite 2-1100
Tulsa, OK 74133-2775

In re: In re: Margaret Jean Lowery
M.R.032889

Today the following order was entered in the captioned case:

Motion by Margaret Jean Lowery to order entry of determinative evidence into the record. Denied.

Order entered by the Court.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cynthia A. Grant".

Clerk of the Supreme Court

cc: Benjamin Lee Boroughf
Michelle Thome



SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS

SUPREME COURT BUILDING
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SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62701-1721

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December 31, 2025

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TDD: (312) 793-6185

Margaret Jean Lowery
7122 S. Sheridan Road
Suite 2-1100
Tulsa, OK 74133-2775

In re: In re: Margaret Jean Lowery
M.R.032889

Today the following order was entered in the captioned case:

This cause coming to be heard on the motion of petitioner, Margaret Jean Lowery, a response having been filed, and the Court being fully advised in the premises;
IT IS ORDERED that the motion for access to the record, certification whether a certified record exists, and certification of each justice's ability to participate for quorum purposes is denied.

Order entered by the Court.

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

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cynthia A. Grant".

Clerk of the Supreme Court

cc: Benjamin Lee Boroughf
Michelle Thome

BEFORE THE ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT

In the Matter of:

MARGARET JEAN LOWERY,

Attorney-Respondent,

No. 6271777.

Commission No. 2023PR00060

**MOTION FOR ACCESS TO THE RECORD, CERTIFICATION
WHETHER A CERTIFIED RECORD EXISTS, AND
CERTIFICATION OF EACH JUSTICE'S ABILITY
TO PARTICIPATE FOR QUORUM PURPOSES**

COMES NOW the Petitioner, Margaret J. Lowery and respectfully moves the Court for an order granting access to the certified record relied upon by the Court and the Administrator, certification whether a certified record exists, and certification of each Justice's ability to participate for quorum purposes.

This motion is necessitated by the Court's continued disposition of matters on the premise that a complete and certified record exists and that the tribunal is properly constituted, while Plaintiff has been denied access to any certified record and has received no confirmation regarding record certification or judicial participation.

1. The Court has repeatedly denied motions raising lack of access, lack of jurisdiction, and lack of authenticated transcripts, while simultaneously treating the disciplinary matter as procedurally and substantively

adjudicated. Those denials include, among others, orders entered December 10, 16, and 18, 2025, denying motions to compel ADA access, to require production of jurisdictional and ADA orders, to stay proceedings pending transcript authentication, and to certify jurisdictional questions.

2. At the same time, the Court has proceeded on the premise that Plaintiff had access to a record sufficient to litigate and brief the matter, and relief has been denied on that basis.
3. Plaintiff has not had access to a properly certified record. The transcripts relied upon are not certified or contain defective certifications. Specifically, the Hearing Board transcript contains no reporter signature and no Certified Shorthand Reporter certification stamp and therefore does not constitute a valid certified transcript. The oral argument transcript is not certified and contains no CSR jurat. Notwithstanding these defects, the Administrator and the Boards have cited both transcripts. Plaintiff, a disabled litigant, has never been granted access to a properly certified and accessible record.
4. Plaintiff has not received a briefing schedule and has not received notice identifying what issues, if any, the Court intends to consider. Plaintiff was advised that the Court would issue notice regarding whether it would hear the matter, yet no such notice has issued. Proceedings have continued without clarification of posture, access, or record integrity.

5. A certified and accessible record is required to brief issues that necessarily depend on citation to the record, including jurisdiction, procedural regularity, and the contents of hearing transcripts. Plaintiff cannot cite to transcripts that have not been certified, produced, or made accessible.
6. To Plaintiff's knowledge, no certified transcripts have been provided. Plaintiff further understands that the Administrator likewise lacks certified transcripts authenticated pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 371(b), as Plaintiff's motion to stay proceedings pending transcript authentication was denied without production of any such transcripts.
7. Plaintiff is therefore placed in an impossible posture. She is required to brief and respond as though a certified record exists, while being denied access to any such record and denied confirmation of its existence.
8. This motion does not seek merits relief, reconsideration, or adjudication of any previously denied claim. It seeks only access to the certified record relied upon by the Court and the Administrator, or, in the alternative, certification whether a certified record exists, so that the procedural posture is accurately reflected.
9. If no certified transcripts exist, the absence of a certified record is material to any further proceedings and must be acknowledged on the record by the Court

and the reason for this is Lowery has never received a properly certified record from the Clerk despite repeatedly asking.

10. In fact, the ARDC Clerk and the Court's Clerk stated in writing that Ms. Lowery would not be afforded a certified copy of the court file until this Court accepted the appeal. The problem with that rule is that one cannot appeal from a defective record.
11. To date no one has certified jurisdiction or allowed access to the certified record for Lowery to complete the appeal.
12. Plaintiff further notes that in 2020PR00018 final order Justice Overstreet and Justice Neville participated.
13. In 2023PR00060 Justices Overstreet and Neville have recused. To permit meaningful assessment of whether the entire tribunal was infected, the Court needs to state the reason on the record.
14. Plaintiff now requests certification each Justices ability to participate because this Court en blanc has denied multiple ADA access requests.
15. Petitioner now requests the Court address how the Court can deny meaningful access under the ADA to these proceedings while refusing to provide access to the record, denying the interactive process and then proceedings as if *Tennessee v. Lane* and *In re Ruffalo* never existed.

16. This Court must explain how it intends to permit its Administrator to proceed on a record certified the DOJ Forensic Expert certified as fraudulent.

WHEREFORE premises considered Plaintiff respectfully requests that the Court:

- a. Order production of the certified transcripts and record relied upon by the Court and the Administrator; or
- b. In the alternative, enter an order confirming that no certified transcripts exist in this matter.

Plaintiff seeks no other relief.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Lowery

Margaret J. Lowery, OBA #12138ⁱ
7122 South Sheridan Road, Suite 2-1100
Tulsa, OK 74114
(918) 513-2204
mlowery@thelowerylawfirm

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The foregoing pleading was emailed on the same day as presentation to the Clerk to counsel of record at their official addresses.

/s/Margaret J. Lowery

NOTICE OF FILING

To: ARDC: PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on November 24, 2025, an electronic copy of the foregoing pleading was submitted to the Clerk of the Supreme Court for filing. On that same date, a copy was served on ARDC via the ECF System & by Appellant emailing to counsels ARDC address on or before 4:00 p.m. on the day of filing. /s/Margaret J. Lowery

¹ Lowery is an Oklahoma lawyer who retired on June 30, 2023. She does not seek to retain bar privileges nor re-admission to the Illinois Bar. The Review Board misstated this as “Lowery not contesting the punishment which is absurd based upon the Amended Answer before this Court and the litigation history of this case.



SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS

SUPREME COURT BUILDING
200 East Capitol Avenue
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62701-1721

CYNTHIA A. GRANT
Clerk of the Court

(217) 782-2035
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December 18, 2025

FIRST DISTRICT OFFICE
160 North LaSalle Street, 20th Floor
Chicago, IL 60601-3103
(312) 793-1332
TDD: (312) 793-6185

Margaret Jean Lowery
7122 S. Sheridan Road
Suite 2-1100
Tulsa, OK 74133-2775

In re: In re: Margaret Jean Lowery
M.R.032889

Today the following order was entered in the captioned case:

This cause coming to be heard on the motion of petitioner, Margaret Jean Lowery, a response having been filed, and the Court being fully advised in the premises;
IT IS ORDERED that the motion to compel court access under the ADA is denied.

Order entered by the Court.

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

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cynthia A. Grant".

Clerk of the Supreme Court

cc: Benjamin Lee Boroughf
Michelle Thome



SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS

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Suite 2-1100
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In re: In re: Margaret Jean Lowery
M.R.032889

Today the following order was entered in the captioned case:

This cause coming to be heard on the motion of petitioner, Margaret Jean Lowery, a response having been filed, and the Court being fully advised in the premises;
IT IS ORDERED that the motion for certification of questions on jurisdiction and ADA access is denied.

Order entered by the Court.

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

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cynthia A. Grant".

Clerk of the Supreme Court

cc: Benjamin Lee Boroughf
Michelle Thome



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Suite 2-1100
Tulsa, OK 74133-2775

In re: In re: Margaret Jean Lowery
M.R.032889

Today the following order was entered in the captioned case:

This cause coming to be heard on the motion of petitioner, Margaret Jean Lowery, a response having been filed, and the Court being fully advised in the premises;
IT IS ORDERED that the motion to disqualify the Administrator for structural constitutional conflict is denied.

Order entered by the Court.

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

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cynthia A. Grant".

Clerk of the Supreme Court

cc: Benjamin Lee Boroughf
Michelle Thome



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Suite 2-1100
Tulsa, OK 74133-2775

In re: In re: Margaret Jean Lowery
M.R.032889

Today the following order was entered in the captioned case:

This cause coming to be heard on the motion of petitioner, Margaret Jean Lowery, a response having been filed, and the Court being fully advised in the premises;
IT IS ORDERED that the motion to declare the ARDC unconstitutional and to vacate all orders entered in this matter is denied.

Order entered by the Court.

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

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cynthia A. Grant".

Clerk of the Supreme Court

cc: Benjamin Lee Boroughf
Michelle Thome

In re Margaret Jean Lowery
Respondent-Appellant

Commission No. 2023PR00060

Synopsis of Review Board Report and Recommendation
(October 2025)

The Administrator brought a six-count disciplinary Amended Complaint against Respondent, charging her with making false or reckless statements that impugned the integrity of a judge, a retired judge, and the Illinois Supreme Court (“Court”), and engaging in misconduct involving dishonesty and misrepresentations, in violation of Rules 3.3(a)(1), 8.2(a), and 8.4(c) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010).

The Hearing Board found that Respondent had committed the misconduct charged in five of the six counts of the Amended Complaint.

Respondent filed an appeal, pro se, arguing that the case should be dismissed or remanded for a variety of reasons. Respondent argued that the Court and the ARDC did not have jurisdiction; the Chairman of the Hearing Board Panel abused his discretion by denying certain motions; Respondent was locked out of the disciplinary hearing; the Hearing Board erred by finding that Respondent engaged in misconduct; the Hearing Board violated the Americans with Disability Act and due process; the Hearing Board and the Court ruled based on gender bias; and the ARDC engaged in selective prosecution. Respondent did not challenge or address the issue of the sanction. The Administrator argued that there were no reversible errors.

The Review Board rejected Respondent’s arguments, and affirmed the Hearing Board’s evidentiary rulings, findings of fact, and findings of misconduct. The Review Board concluded that there were no reversible errors. The Review Board agreed with the Hearing Board’s recommendation that Respondent be disbarred, but did not address the sanction, since Respondent did not raise that issue on appeal.

**BEFORE THE REVIEW BOARD
OF THE
ILLINOIS ATTORNEY REGISTRATION
AND
DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION**

In the Matter of:

MARGARET JEAN LOWERY,

Respondent-Appellant,

No. 6271777.

Commission No. 2023PR00060

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE REVIEW BOARD

SUMMARY

The Administrator filed a six-count disciplinary Amended Complaint (“Complaint”) against Respondent, charging her with making false or reckless statements that impugned the integrity of a judge, a retired judge, and the Illinois Supreme Court (“Court”), and engaging in misconduct involving dishonesty and misrepresentations, in violation of Rules 3.3(a)(1), 8.2(a), and 8.4(c) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010). Respondent filed an Answer to the original Complaint and the Amended Complaint, in which she denied that she engaged in any misconduct.

Respondent was initially represented by counsel, but represented herself during the last six months of the disciplinary proceedings, and has continued to represent herself on appeal.

The disciplinary hearing was held on May 2, 2024 in Springfield, Illinois. The Administrator presented testimony from two witnesses, and presented thirty-seven exhibits that were admitted. Respondent did not appear at the hearing and was not represented by counsel.

The Hearing Board found that Respondent committed the misconduct charged in five of the six counts in the Complaint. The Hearing Board recommended that Respondent be disbarred.

FILED

October 03, 2025

ARDC CLERK

Respondent appealed, *pro se*, arguing that the case should be dismissed or remanded for a variety of reasons. Respondent argues that the Court and the ARDC do not have jurisdiction over her; the Chairman of the Hearing Board Panel (“the Chair”) abused his discretion by denying certain motions; Respondent was locked out of the disciplinary hearing; the Hearing Board erred by finding that Respondent engaged in misconduct; the Hearing Board violated the Americans with Disability Act (“ADA”) and due process; the Hearing Board and the Court ruled based on gender bias; and the ARDC engaged in selective prosecution. Respondent did not challenge or address the issue of the sanction.

The Administrator argues that there were no reversible errors.

For the reasons that follow, we reject Respondent’s arguments, and affirm the Hearing Board’s evidentiary rulings, findings of fact, and findings of misconduct. We conclude that there were no reversible errors. We agree with the Hearing Board’s recommendation that Respondent be disbarred, but we do not address the sanction, since Respondent did not raise that issue on appeal.

Background

The facts and procedural background are fully set out in the Hearing Board's report and are summarized only to the extent necessary here.

Respondent

Respondent was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 2000, and was licensed to practice law in Oklahoma in 1987. She practiced law in Belleville, Illinois, with a focus on corporate law and healthcare law. According to Respondent, she retired from the Illinois bar in June 2023, and moved to Oklahoma, where she continued practicing law through 2025. She has one prior disciplinary case, as discussed below. In March 2024, the Court imposed an interim suspension.

The Hearing Board's Findings and Sanction Recommendation

The Hearing Board found that Respondent engaged in the misconduct charged in five of the six counts of the Complaint, and knowingly or recklessly, with disregard for the truth, made multiple false statements, which impugned the integrity of a judge (Judge Andrew Gleeson), a retired judge (retired Chief Justice Anne Burke), and the Illinois Supreme Court, in violation of Rules 3.3(a)(1), 8.2(a), and 8.4(c).

Rule 3.3(a)(1) states, "A lawyer shall not knowingly: ... make a false statement of fact or law to a tribunal." Rule 8.2(a) states, "A lawyer shall not make a statement that the lawyer knows to be false or with reckless disregard as to its truth or falsity concerning the qualifications or integrity of a judge." Rule 8.4(c) states, "It is professional misconduct for a lawyer to: ... engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation."

The Hearing Board found that the Administrator failed to prove Count III, which charged Respondent with making a false statement impugning the integrity of the Review Board. (Hearing Bd. Report at 11-14.) The Administrator does not challenge that finding. Consequently, Count III will not be addressed herein.

Overview

Count I: The Hearing Board found that Respondent knowingly and recklessly, with disregard for the truth, made a false statement of fact to the court, claiming that Judge Andrew Gleeson threatened to harm her, which falsely impugned his integrity and which constituted dishonest conduct, in violation of Rules 3.3(a)(1), 8.2(a), and 8.4(c). (Hearing Bd. Report 8-11.)

Counts II, IV, V, and VI: The Hearing Board found that through various social media posts, Respondent knowingly or recklessly made false statements of fact impugning the qualifications or integrity of Judge Gleeson, retired Chief Justice Burke, and the Court, in violation

of Rule 8.2(a), as charged in four counts (Counts II, IV, V, and VI). The Hearing Board also found that Respondent's false statements involved dishonesty or misrepresentation in violation of Rule 8.4(c) as charged in three counts (Counts IV, V, and VI). (Hearing Bd. Report 14-22.)

Misconduct Findings

The Hearing Board made the following findings:

- **Count I:** In April 2023, Respondent made a statement in a pleading, filed with the Court, in which she knowingly or recklessly impugned the qualifications or integrity of Judge Gleeson by making the following false statement: "Judge Gleeson specifically threatened Lowery with the following statement, 'I will see to it that you are homeless and living under a bridge.'"

- **Count II:** In July 2023, Respondent posted a statement on her Twitter account on the website known as "X," (formerly known as Twitter) in which she knowingly or recklessly impugned the integrity of the Court by making the following false statement: "[T]he ARDC & the Illinois Supreme Court has a history of permitting harassment of women until they committ suicide or leave the bar[.]"

- **Count III:** The Hearing Board found that the Administrator failed to prove the misconduct charged in Count III.

- **Count IV:** The Hearing Board found that between January and October 2023, Respondent posted three statements on her Twitter account on X, in which she knowingly or recklessly impugned the integrity of the Court by making the following false statements:

"Effective today, the ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT ruled no attorney in the State of Illinois has ANY FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS. If an attorney expresses ANY opinion about a judge, it will subject the attorney to immediate discipline." (Emphasis in original.)

"Wow the Illinois Supreme Court has a hit list of attorneys they want to target because they are outspoken whistleblowers? They target their political opponents? Is this true? ..."

“Now the Illinois Supreme Court is following attorneys to the Holocaust Museum in Missouri to spy on them. What possible ‘confidential investigation’ can there be for an attorney to attend an event at the Holocaust Museum? Oh no that’s not the point, the point is to let everyone know the government spies on Jews? This is the behavior of the Third Reich or Nazi’s and the purpose is to make people afraid to associate with you. The purpose is to isolate an individual same as what the SS & Hitler did.”¹

- **Count V:** In November 2023, Respondent posted a statement on her Twitter account on X, in which she knowingly or recklessly impugned the qualifications or integrity of retired Chief Justice Burke by falsely stating, “Chief Justice Anne Burke HATES JEWS. While smiling to me and nodding, behind those kind eyes lied [*sic*] seething JEW HATE. Then she smirked and laid her plan to destroy my career.” (Emphasis in original.)

- **Count VI:** In July 2023, Respondent posted a statement on her account on X, in which she knowingly or recklessly impugned the qualifications or integrity of Judge Gleeson, by making the following false statement: “Isn’t it ironic that the new SCC [St. Clair County] associate judge signed off on the majority of Chief Judge Andrew Gleeson’s DIVORCE and in return gets appointed to a new judgeship? I wonder what the paid rate of exchange was for services rendered in that divorce. All above board I’m sure.” (Emphasis in original.)

The Hearing Board’s Description of Respondent’s Conduct

The Hearing Board’s description of Respondent’s conduct included the following:

Throughout this proceeding, Respondent has displayed shockingly unprofessional conduct, exemplified by the unprecedented scope and volume of baseless vitriol in her filings. Respondent wrongfully impugned nearly everyone involved with her disciplinary matters: witnesses; Administrator’s Counsel; the Inquiry, Hearing, and Review Boards; and the Court. She continued this verbal tirade across more than 40 motions, petitions, and objections, as well as her responsive pleadings.

Throughout her pleadings, Respondent portrayed herself as the victim of an unfair, abusive, and corrupt justice system, which oppressed her for exposing the truth about it. She described her own behavior as ethical, honorable, and

professional. She took no responsibility for her misconduct or the scurrilous accusations and name calling she employed while defending herself. For example, she claimed the Court was like ‘Nazi Germany and Jim Crow South;’ referred to this case as ‘Andrew Gleeson’s psycho vendetta’ and a ‘shit show;’ referred to Administrator’s Counsel as ‘auld Lang swine;’ called Inquiry Board members ‘administrative whores’ and the Chair ‘an idiot’ Respondent’s behavior throughout this disciplinary proceeding leaves us with no confidence in her ability to act ethically in the future.

(Hearing Bd. Report at 28-29.) We agree with the Hearing Board’s summary and conclusions.

Along the same lines, we note that, during the oral argument in this case on July 11, 2025, Respondent referred to the Review Board as being a “Kangaroo Court Board.” (Oral Argument Transcript, at 7, 12), and stated, “I am clearly in front of a biased Board.” (*Id.* at 49-50.) She also stated, “I asked your lazy ass ARDC person to look into this.” (*Id.* at 11.) Additionally, she claimed that “the Hearing Board lied in their orders,” (*id.* at 8), and that the Hearing Board was “corrupt.” (*Id.* at 10-11.)

Respondent’s Prior Discipline

In 2023, the Court suspended Respondent for 30 days for making a false statement that impugned the integrity of a judge, and making a false statement to the ARDC during her sworn statement. *See In re Lowery*, 2020PR00018, M.R. 031506 (Feb. 7, 2023).

In that case, the Review Board found that Respondent impugned the integrity of Judge Andrew Gleeson by falsely representing that Judge Gleeson had attempted to frame an innocent person for murder. The Review Board stated, “Respondent’s false assertion that a judge, acting with blatant disregard for the law, was orchestrating an attempt to illegally frame an innocent person for murder is an extraordinarily serious accusation that directly attacks the integrity of the judiciary.” (Review Bd., 2022, at 20.) In that case, as here, Respondent continued to insist that she had done nothing wrong.

Findings Regarding Mitigation and Aggravation in this Case

The Hearing Board found there was no mitigation in this case. Respondent did not appear at the hearing to present any mitigating evidence. (Hearing Bd. Report at 23.)

In terms of aggravation, the Hearing Board found that there were several aggravating factors. (*Id.* at 23-30.) Respondent's false statements harmed the justice system and its judges. Judge Gleeson's sense of security was upset, and he spent significant time addressing Respondent's conduct. She was previously disciplined (in part for impugning the integrity of Judge Gleeson) just three months before she began making the false statements charged in the Complaint. Respondent failed to accept responsibility and she lacked remorse.

The Hearing Board's Recommendation in the Present Case

The Hearing Board recommended that Respondent be disbarred. (Hearing Bd. Report at 27-33.) Respondent does not specifically challenge the recommended sanction of disbarment.

ANALYSIS

Respondent argues on appeal that this case should be dismissed or reversed for numerous reasons, including that she is the victim here; she did nothing wrong; there is no evidence of misconduct; she has been harassed and bullied; she has been unfairly targeted and mistreated; the Court and the ARDC lack jurisdiction; the Hearing Board made serious errors; and there have been repeated ethical and legal violations by the Hearing Board and the Administrator. For the reasons set forth below, we find that Respondent's arguments are without merit and there are no reversible errors. We affirm the Hearing Board's rulings, and the Hearing Board's findings of misconduct.

In reaching our conclusions, we have given careful consideration to all of the issues Respondent raised on appeal; the arguments that the parties made in the briefs and at oral argument;

the evidence presented at the disciplinary hearing; the caselaw presented by the parties; and the Hearing Board's Report.

Respondent's Mental Health

In reaching our conclusions, we have also given very serious consideration to the issue of Respondent's mental health and whether she was able to represent herself during the disciplinary proceedings and on appeal. After a careful review of the record, we conclude that Respondent is able to represent herself.

Although the issue of Respondent's mental health was not raised by the parties or the Hearing Board, Respondent has repeatedly made harsh, vitriolic, and derogatory statements, arguments, and accusations, and Respondent has appeared to be upset, angry, combative, and erratic at times. Those factors raised the question of whether Respondent was suffering from mental health issues that undermined her ability to represent herself. After giving careful consideration to that question, we conclude that Respondent has the ability to represent herself.

The record in this case, which contains more than 2000 pages, shows that Respondent has presented a vigorous defense of herself. She filed dozens of *pro se* motions before the Hearing Board and the Review Board; she filed *pro se* motions before the Illinois Supreme Court; she sent emails; she filed hundreds of pages of documents, identified as exhibits; she has repeatedly moved to have this case dismissed, and on appeal, she filed an opening Brief and a Reply Brief.

Respondent, who appeared via video conference, represented herself at the oral argument. Her behavior at the beginning of the oral argument was concerning, in that she was shouting at the Review Board Panel. However, she eventually asked for a short break to compose herself, and she was calmer when the oral argument continued.

During the oral argument, Respondent addressed a number of issues that she raised in her appellate briefs and motions. She argued, *inter alia*, that there was a lack of jurisdiction; that she had been locked out of the disciplinary hearing; that there was no evidence proving that she engaged in any misconduct; that the ADA had been violated; and that the members of the Review Board Panel had conflicts of interest.

During the oral argument, Respondent also stated that she is currently practicing law in Oklahoma. She stated that she has a law partner, who was present in the room with Respondent during oral argument. Respondent said she was practicing law “successfully. No problems. Amazing.” (Oral Argument Transcript at 18.) She also said, “I’m in Oklahoma doing well.” (*Id.* at 42.)

During the oral argument, in response to questions about her mental health, Respondent stated, “I don’t have a mental health problem. I have a trauma issue from being bullied [by the ARDC.]” (*Id.* at 16-17.) She said that she had seen mental health professionals beginning approximately seven years ago (*id.* at 15-16), and she stated, “Everybody said I am completely sane. You're the problem.” (*Id.* at 18.)

In September 2023, Respondent appeared before the inquiry board, with her attorney, William Moran. During Respondent’s appearance, there was a discussion about her mental health. Respondent explained she had done some work in connection with the Oklahoma City bombing, which had resulted in a mental health diagnoses in the 1990s relating to stress. She stated, “You always carry the diagnosis. It just not active or not an issue.” (Inquiry Board Transcript, Adm. Ex. 46, at 31-32.) Respondent testified that she had seen two mental health professionals between 2020 and 2023, and she was getting physical exams on an annual basis. At the hearing before the Inquiry Board, Respondent’s attorney, William Moran, stated,

I think if you read the tea leaves from everything that's gone on, the bottom line is that there's a fear that Margaret Lowery ... [has mental health issues], and she is a danger to the public and her clients. I think her performance today -- and it's not a performance; she's testifying under oath -- shows you that she is not ... [a danger based on her mental health].

In this instance, I think it's very important to recognize the statement that Ms. Lowery made that no client has ever complained about her. That her clients love her. That, above anything else, is important and shows that she's not a danger. Also, ... she voluntarily went and sought help for her issues The fact that she has had self-recognition, that she has done something about it, ... is all good.

(*Id.* at 41- 42.)

The Inquiry Board, which had the opportunity to observe Respondent, could have referred the matter to the Administrator to file a petition with the Hearing Board requesting a hearing to determine whether Respondent lacked the capacity to practice law, pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 758(a). The Inquiry Board, however, did not do so. Instead, the Inquiry Board voted to file a disciplinary Complaint with the Hearing Board, pursuant to Rule 753.

Based on our review of the record, we conclude that, to the extent that Respondent may have any mental health issues, those issues have not prevented Respondent from representing herself in this disciplinary proceeding and on appeal. However, we recommend that if Respondent is disbarred, she should be required to have a mental health evaluation and mental health treatment as needed, before she is allowed to be reinstated.

Documents Filed by Respondent

On appeal, Respondent has attached more than 600 pages of documents to her opening appellate brief, which she has identified as exhibits. She has also filed other documents, elsewhere, which she has also identified as exhibits. Many of the documents filed by Respondent are not part of the record before the Hearing Board. As a general matter, the Review Board will not consider

documents and information that are not part of the record. *See In re Pondenis*, 2020PR00048 (Review Bd. at 5), M.R. 030903 (Sept. 23, 2021) (“[The facts cited by respondent] are not part of the record, and this Board may not consider them on appeal.”) (citations omitted); *In re Lascia*, 2007PR00125 (Review Bd. at 8, 13), M.R. 23734 (May 18, 2010) (“[The Review] Board is not the fact-finder and does not consider evidence that is outside the record. *** The general rule is that it is improper to consider matters that are not part of the record.”) (citations omitted); *In re Wick*, 2005PR00066 (Review Bd. at 3-4), M.R. 23942 (Sept. 22, 2010) (“[O]ur consideration of the facts is confined to the evidence presented to the Hearing Board ... Therefore, [respondent] cannot supplement his statement of facts by directing us to sources outside the record.”) (citation omitted); *In re Ford*, 2018PR00011 (Review Bd. at 7), M.R. 030123 (Jan. 17, 2020) (“None of the documents contained in those exhibits was presented at hearing, and therefore none is part of the record. We therefore will not consider them on appeal.”) (citations omitted).

Accordingly, we decline to consider the documents presented by Respondent that are not part of the record before the Hearing Board, except for two pages, as discussed below.

Relevant Law

The Hearing Board’s factual findings generally will not be disturbed on review unless they are against the manifest weight of the evidence. *See In re Winthrop*, 219 Ill. 2d 526, 542, 848 N.E.2d 961 (2006). The Hearing Board's findings regarding the credibility of witnesses, the resolution of conflicting testimony, and other fact-finding judgments are entitled to great deference because the Hearing Board is able to observe the witnesses’ demeanor and judge their credibility. *See In re Timpone*, 157 Ill. 2d 178, 196, 623 N.E.2d 300 (1993). Evidentiary, procedural, and discovery rulings are reviewed for an abuse of discretion. *See In re Chiang*, 2007PR00067 (Review

Bd. at 10), M.R. 23022 (June 8, 2009); *In re Carroll*, 2015PR00132 (Review Bd. at 7), M.R. 029285 (June 14, 2018).

Although Respondent has raised numerous arguments on appeal, none of those arguments persuade us to overturn any of the Hearing Board's rulings or findings of misconduct. Many of Respondent's arguments are contained in one paragraph or even one sentence, often without citations to the record or legal authority. We have considered and rejected all of Respondent's arguments, including those arguments not specifically addressed in this Report.

The Court and the ARDC Have Jurisdiction Over Respondent

Respondent argues that the Court and the ARDC do not have jurisdiction over her because she took retirement status in Illinois in June 2023, and therefore the Court cannot discipline her. That argument has no merit. The Court and the ARDC have jurisdiction based on Illinois Supreme Court Rule 756, which pertains to "every attorney admitted to practice" in Illinois. (Rule 756(a)).

Rule 756(a)(6) provides that an Illinois attorney may elect to take retirement status, and the ARDC will change that attorney's registration status to retired, which impacts on the attorney's ability to practice law in Illinois, and the fees the attorney is required to pay. An attorney on retirement status may elect to return to active status, and may register as active, upon payment of certain fees.

Rule 756(j), which is entitled "No Effect on Disciplinary Proceedings," provides that taking retirement status has no effect on disciplinary proceedings. Rule 756(j) states in relevant part, "The provisions of this rule pertaining to registration status **shall not bar, limit, or stay any disciplinary investigations or proceedings** against an attorney." (Emphasis added.) Thus, even though Respondent's registration status changed in June 2023, that change did not deprive the

Court or the ARDC of jurisdiction in disciplinary proceedings against Respondent.² Accordingly, we find that the Court and the ARDC have jurisdiction in this disciplinary proceeding.

Respondent also argues, “The Court’s Rule which prohibits a lawyer from retiring without surrendering another states bar license is unconstitutional and amounts to extortion/racketeering. Illinois may regulate its own bar but it may not require surrender of another states license to retire.” (Resp. Brief at 33.) Although Respondent does not specify the Rule she is discussing, and does not cite any cases, it appears she is referring to Supreme Court Rule 756(a)(8)(B)(2), which states, “An attorney shall not be permitted to assume permanent retirement status if: the attorney retains an active license to practice law in any jurisdictions other than the State of Illinois.” Respondent’s argument has no merit.

Indeed, in May 2024, the Court denied Respondent’s motion to declare Rule 756(a)(8) unconstitutional. Respondent filed a Petition with the Court seeking, *inter alia*, to be transferred to permanent retirement status, and the Court issued an order stating, “Petition by petitioner to transfer to permanent retirement status pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 756(a)(8) and to waive the rule **or to declare the rule unconstitutional. Denied.**” (Emphasis added.) (Common law record (“C.”) 2577.)

We note that once an attorney is granted permanent retirement status, any disciplinary proceeding or pending investigation against the attorney in Illinois will be dismissed (*see* Rule 756(a)(8)(C)), which explains why Respondent wanted to transfer to permanent retirement status.

Contrary to Respondent’s argument, Rule 756(a)(8) does not require the surrender of a law license in another state. That choice is left to the attorney, if the attorney wants to take permanent retirement in Illinois. Rule 756 regulates retirement status in Illinois; it does not regulate licensing in other states.

The Chair Did Not Abuse His Discretion by Denying Respondent's May 1, 2024 Motion to Continue the Hearing

Commission Rule 272 states, “The Chair may continue a hearing ... at the Chair's discretion. No hearing ... shall be continued at the request of any party except upon written motion supported by affidavit. No hearing shall be continued at the request of a party except under extraordinary circumstances.”

On May 1, 2024, the day before the scheduled disciplinary hearing, Respondent filed a “Motion for Continuance Due to Temporary Disability” (“Motion”), in which she argued that the hearing should be postponed because of her medical condition. (C. 2531.) The Chair denied that motion because Respondent failed to establish that there were extraordinary circumstances supporting a continuance. Respondent argues throughout her appeal (in various ways, based on various legal theories) that the Chair erred by denying her Motion. That argument fails.

On May 2, 2024, the Chair issued an Order denying Respondent's Motion, which stated,

Respondent's Motion for Continuance Due to Temporary Disability is denied for the reasons stated pursuant a written order to come. Nevertheless, pursuant to Respondent's previous request and in the interests of justice and efficiency, the Hearing Panel will permit Respondent to appear at the May 2 and 3, 2024, hearing remotely. The Clerk shall provide remote appearance information to Respondent by email and shall contact Respondent by phone to inform her of the entry of this Order. The hearing will commence at 10:30 a.m. on May 2, 2024.

May 2, 2024 Order (C. 2555.) Respondent did not appear at the hearing.³

On May 10, 2024, the Chair issued another Order that is set forth below, essentially in full, which provides a detailed explanation of why Respondent's Motion was denied, and it identifies facts that undermine and refute Respondent's claims on appeal. The May 10 Order states:

[T]he reasons for the denial [of Respondent's Motion] are as follows:

Commission Rule 272 provides that a hearing may be continued at the Chair's discretion, but no hearing shall be continued 'except upon written motion supported by affidavit. No hearing shall be continued at the request

of a party except under extraordinary circumstances.’ Ms. Lowery has requested to continue the hearing or stay the proceedings in this matter at least nine times, and each time she has failed to prove the requisite ‘extraordinary circumstances.’ See In re Duric, 2015PR00052, M.R. 030734 (May 10, 2021) (Review Bd. at 8) (the party seeking the continuance bears the burden to show ‘extraordinary circumstances’).

On October 23, 2023, the Hearing Board scheduled Ms. Lowery’s hearing in this matter for May 2 and 3, 2024. After 4:00 p.m. on May 1, 2024, Ms. Lowery filed a Motion for Continuance Due to Temporary Disability (Motion). The Motion included 27 pages of attachments All but one of these exhibits fail to constitute competent, credible, and/or reliable evidence, and the remaining exhibit fails to establish ‘extraordinary circumstances’ as required by Commission Rule 272.

First, the CT scan, ECG, blood test, and retrograde pyelogram screenshots are not reliable evidence because they contain no information that would establish that Respondent was unable to appear for her hearing on May 2, 2024. Second, although Respondent’s name is printed at the top of the patient information sheets, these merely contain general information and do not indicate that Respondent was prescribed opioids or diagnosed with sepsis. While Respondent (or someone on her behalf) has represented that she is taking opioids, Respondent has never provided proof of a prescription or medical record indicating that she is taking opioids. Thus, these are also not reliable evidence. Third, even if a year-old medical opinion were considered relevant to the current Motion, the authenticity of the May 2023 letter from Dr. VanShoyck is questionable, as the images of the first two pages differ substantially in form from the third page, which is the only page containing Dr. VanShoyck’s name or signature.

Next, the Hearing Board wonders why Respondent waited until the late afternoon of May 1, 2024 – that is, the eve of the hearing – to file her Motion when Dr. VanShoyck’s affidavit was dated two days prior. Regardless, Dr. VanShoyck’s April 29, 2024, affidavit is not competent evidence because it lacks foundation for the facts reported and the medical opinions based on those facts. Like Dr. VanShoyck’s April 24, 2024, affidavit and April 14, 2024, letter – which the Hearing Board rejected as insufficient support for Respondent’s previous motions to continue – the April 29 affidavit lacks any statement that Dr. VanShoyck personally witnessed the events he describes in his affidavit or that he personally examined Respondent to form the basis for his purported medical opinions.

Moreover, Dr. VanShoyck’s April 29 affidavit is contradicted by hospital records. The affidavit states: ‘On April 25, 2024 [Respondent] saw the Clinical Director of St. Francis Hospital who ordered her into emergency surgery on April 26, 2024. She had sepsis and was going into septic shock. ... When a patient becomes septic, they become confused, agitated, run a

fever and can present with delirium[.]’ However, the hospital records provided by Respondent contain no indication that she was diagnosed with sepsis. The April 26, 2024, Anesthesia Postprocedure Evaluation listed hematuria and kidney stone as her only diagnoses and described her procedure as a kidney stone extraction with ureteral stent placement. It further indicated that Respondent’s temperature was a normal 97.5 degrees Fahrenheit at 1:45 p.m. on April 26, 2024, and that she was cleared for discharge that day with a pain score of ‘1,’ which presumably is the lowest level of pain. In addition, the hospital records contain nothing about post-surgery recovery time or activity restrictions, contrary to Dr. VanShoyck’s claim that Respondent required six weeks’ recuperation time, during which she could not prepare for, travel to, or participate in a hearing.

Dr. VanShoyck’s claims in his affidavit are further undermined by the fact that Respondent signed an eight-page, 30-paragraph affidavit on April 29, 2024, which she attached to her Motion. Although Respondent asserted in her affidavit that she has had ‘a raging systemic infection which has prevented her from preparing her case properly since December of 2023,’ she has filed over 30 motions, plus many other responsive pleadings and discovery requests, since then. Her active participation in this matter belies her claim that she has been unable to prepare for her hearing. See Duric, 2015PR00052 (Review Bd. at 12) (attorney’s continued practice of law, which contradicted his alleged health concerns, was a valid basis for denying his continuance request).

Moreover, Respondent’s affidavit suffers from credibility issues similar to Dr. VanShoyck’s. For example, she states that, on April 25, 2024, her doctors ‘realized Ms. Lowery had overwhelming sepsis and was headed into septic shock with death imminent [*sic*] ... resulting without surgery.’ Yet, the hospital records provided by Respondent contain no indication that she was suffering from sepsis either before or after her kidney stone removal, or that this surgery was anything but routine and successful.

In sum, the only competent, credible, and reliable evidence accompanying Respondent’s Motion is the April 26, 2024, Anesthesia Postprocedure Evaluation, and it does not demonstrate the ‘extraordinary circumstances’ required by Commission Rule 272. Respondent thus failed to meet her burden of showing that a continuance of her hearing was warranted.

Nonetheless, because Respondent is a *pro se* litigant, the Hearing Board determined that it would be appropriate to give her some leeway and afford her an opportunity to present her case. Thus, in the interests of both justice and efficiency, and with no objection from the Administrator, the Hearing Board granted leave for Respondent to appear at her May 2, 2024 hearing remotely. The hearing start was delayed by one hour, to 10:30 a.m., in order to allow the Clerk to notify Respondent of the Order and provide remote appearance information. Neither Respondent nor anyone on her behalf

appeared remotely at any point during the hearing, which proceeded in Respondent's absence.

May 10, 2024 Order. (C. 2571-74.) We agree with the Chair's analysis and conclusions.

The Hearing Board also addressed the denial of Respondent's Motion, stating:

As detailed in the order entered on May 10, 2024, of the medical records that were specific to Respondent, none corroborated Dr. VanSchoyck's averments about Respondent's condition and treatment. Specifically, Dr. VanSchoyck stated that Respondent 'had emergency surgery on 4/26 with a diagnosis of sepsis.' None of the hospital records Respondent submitted contained a diagnosis of sepsis or septic shock, nor did Dr. VanSchoyck point to any test results indicating that Respondent had a life-threatening condition. Similarly, none of the hospital records indicated a need for emergency surgery .

It is also noteworthy that Respondent emailed photographs of herself to Counsel for the Administrator at 9:21 a.m. on April 26, 2024, which depict Respondent standing, smiling, and extending her middle fingers while in a hospital gown. (Adm. Obj. to Res. Motion to Continue, Apr. 26, 2024, Ex. 1). Both Respondent's physical appearance and her ability to correspond with Counsel for the Administrator at a time when she purportedly was in septic shock and about to undergo emergency surgery undermine the reliability of Respondent's and Dr. VanSchoyck's sworn affidavits.

Respondent's continued representation of herself in this proceeding and her high level of activity also contradict her claimed inability to practice law since April 11, 2024, and Dr. VanSchoyck's assertions that Respondent was unable to prepare for and attend the hearing on May 2 and 3, 2024.

Based on the significant inconsistencies between Respondent's and Dr. VanSchoyck's averments and Respondent's medical records and activity in this proceeding, the affidavits submitted did not constitute sufficient, competent evidence to warrant a continuance.

(Hearing Bd. Report at 4-6.) The Hearing Board also stated, "We found no credible evidence to support her claim that medical issues prevented her from preparing for and attending the hearing."

(*Id.* at 30.) We agree with the Hearing Board's conclusions.

An abuse of discretion occurs only when no reasonable person would have taken the position adopted by the Chair. *See In re Duric*, 2015PR00052 (Review Bd. at 7), M.R. 030734 (May 18, 2021) (“Respondent must show ... that no reasonable person would have taken the hearing panel chair’s position.”) In this case, Respondent has failed to show that no reasonable person would have taken the Chair’s position.

We find that Respondent failed to establish extraordinary circumstances justifying the continuance of the disciplinary hearing, for the reasons set forth in the May 10, 2024 Order, and the Hearing Board’s Report. Therefore, we conclude that the Chair did not abuse his discretion in denying Respondent’s Motion,

Respondent Was Not Locked Out of the Disciplinary Hearing

Respondent argues that the Hearing Board locked her out of the disciplinary hearing. Respondent states, “[T]he Hearing Board physically locked Ms. Lowery out of her own hearing.” (Resp. Brief at 12.) That argument is misleading, inflammatory, and has no merit whatsoever.

Contrary to Respondent’s claim that the Hearing Board locked her out, the record indicates that the Hearing Board attempted to facilitate Respondent’s participation in the hearing. In the May 2, 2024 Order, the Chair ruled that Respondent could attend the hearing remotely, and delayed the hearing by an hour. The Order also directed the Clerk of the Commission to send Respondent an email with the information needed to join the hearing, and directed the Clerk to advise Respondent about the May 2, 2024 Order.

In support of her argument that the Hearing Board locked her out of the hearing, Respondent cites to several documents attached to her opening appellate brief. As stated above, we generally decline to consider the documents submitted by Respondent that are not part of the

record before the Hearing Board, except for two documents, one identified as Respondent's Exhibit 3, ("Exhibit 3") and the other identified as Page 6 of Respondent's Exhibit 18 ("Page 6").

Exhibit 3 is a rough transcription, presented by Respondent, of a voicemail message that Respondent received from the Clerk of the Commission. Exhibit 3 establishes that the Clerk followed the Chair's directions set forth in the May 2 Order, and provided the requisite information to Respondent. Although the transcription in Exhibit 3 contains typographical and grammatical errors, the substance of the message is clear. We have considered Exhibit 3 because it is closely tied to the May 2, 2024 Order issued by the Chair; the content of that voicemail message appears to be accurate on its face; it is contextually consistent with the events that took place on May 2, 2024; and Respondent states in Exhibit 3 that the "voice recording is available."

As set forth above, the May 2 Order stated, "Respondent's Motion for Continuance Due to Temporary Disability is denied for the reasons stated pursuant a written order to come. Nevertheless, pursuant to Respondent's previous request and in the interests of justice and efficiency, the Hearing Panel will permit Respondent to appear at the May 2 and 3, 2024, hearing remotely. **The Clerk shall provide remote appearance information to Respondent by email and shall contact Respondent by phone to inform her of the entry of this Order.**" (Emphasis added.) (C. 2555.) Respondent's Exhibit 3 states the following:

May 2, 2024 Phone MESSAGE
(VOICE RECORDING IS AVAILABLE BUT IT CANNOT BE ATTACHED)

This message is for Margaret Jean Lowery. This is Michelle from the ARC clerks office. I am calling regarding a hearing board order that was entered this morning on May 2 - 2024. That order reads that [']respondents motion for continuance due to temporary disability is denied for the reason stated pursuant a written order to come[.] [N]evertheless pursuant to respondents previous request and any interest of justice and efficiency[.] [t]he hearing panel will permit responded [Respondent] to appear at the May 2 and third 2024 hearing remotely[.] [T]he clerks shall provide remote appearance information to responded [Respondent] by email and shell contact responded [Respondent] by phone to inform her of the entry of this order.

The hearing will commence at 10:30 AM on May 2, 2024.['] **I did send you an email and I did include the link that you can actually access the hearing this morning at 10:30.** If you[,] I believe that's all thank you bye-bye...'

(Emphasis added.) (Exhibit 3.) (*See also*, Page 6.)

The record in this case shows that “Michelle” is the first name of the Clerk of the Commission. (*See e.g.*, C. 2555.) Thus, Exhibit 3 shows that the Clerk phoned Respondent, and read the Court’s Order to her.

As set forth above, the Clerk stated, “I did send you an email and I did include the link that you can actually access the hearing this morning.” Respondent had access to the hearing because, according to the Clerk’s voicemail, the Clerk sent Respondent an email with a link that Respondent could use to join the disciplinary hearing. Respondent failed to use that link to join the hearing. Respondent’s failure to do so was a problem of her own making.

Additionally, if Respondent had any questions or needed help accessing the hearing, she could have contacted the Clerk. We note that Respondent had the Clerk’s direct line and email, based on prior communications with the Clerk. (*See e.g.*, C. 2396.) However, as discussed below, Respondent did not attempt to contact the Clerk.

Exhibit 3 does not identify the time of the Clerk’s voicemail. However, Page 6, which is a partial transcription of the Clerk’s voicemail, shows the date and time of the voicemail, as being “May 2, 2024 at 10:01 AM,” approximately half an hour before the hearing was scheduled to start. We have considered Page 6 because it establishes the time of the voicemail, and it is consistent with Exhibit 3. (We do not consider the other pages contained in the document identified as Exhibit 18.) We note that the Administrator will not suffer any prejudice as a result of our consideration of Exhibit 3 and Page 6, and Respondent offered those documents to be considered.

As further evidence that the Hearing Board did not attempt to lock Respondent out, we note that the Chair postponed the start of the hearing for an hour so that Respondent would have

sufficient time to join the hearing. Moreover, at the beginning of the hearing, the Chair stated, “We have now opened up the ... connection [for Respondent to appear remotely] and it does not appear that Ms. Lowery or anyone on her behalf is present We will leave the ... connection open so that if anybody, either Ms. Lowery or anybody on her behalf, decides to join, we will know that immediately.” (Disciplinary Hearing Transcript at 42.)

In her appellate brief, Respondent describes the very limited steps she took to join the hearing remotely. (Resp. Brief at 14.) Respondent states that she made three phone calls to the ARDC, and the ARDC hung up on each of those calls. She also states that a friend of hers made one phone call on her behalf, in which an ARDC staff member hung up, and her friend made subsequent calls that went unanswered.

Based on Respondent’s own description, it is clear that Respondent did not attempt to contact the Administrator’s Counsel who was handling the disciplinary hearing, even though Respondent had Counsel’s direct phone number and email, which appeared in pleadings. (*see e.g.*, C. 2533), and Respondent did not attempt to contact any other ARDC representatives with whom she had previously had contact, including the Clerk of the Commission, in order to obtain help gaining access to the hearing. We find that Respondent failed to take reasonable steps to join the hearing.

We note that the hearing lasted for almost two hours (10:30 a.m. to 12:16 p.m.). Thus, Respondent had ample time to gain access to the hearing before it ended. Additionally, even after the hearing was over, Respondent could have contacted the Clerk or the Administrator’s Counsel and asked for the Hearing to continue to give her an opportunity to participate, and to present witnesses and evidence. Based on her own description, Respondent did not do so.

Throughout the disciplinary proceedings, Respondent has portrayed herself as the victim in this case, claiming that she has been treated unfairly. Respondent's claim that she was locked out of the hearing is consistent with that narrative, but her claim is baseless. We conclude that Respondent was not locked out of the hearing.

The Chair Did Not Abuse His Discretion by Denying Respondent's Request to Serve

Interrogatories

Respondent argues that the Chair erred in issuing an Order on April 9, 2024 (C. 2135), denying two of Respondent's Motions for Leave to File Discovery. (C. 1908, C. 1943.) In those two Motions, Respondent requested permission to serve written interrogatories on the Administrator. The Administrator filed responses to those motions, (C. 1925, C. 2042), arguing that Respondent had not shown good cause to serve written interrogatories, as required by Commission Rule 251(a), which states, "Written interrogatories shall not be served by any party without leave of the chair of the hearing panel and upon good cause shown."

On appeal, Respondent failed to explain how the Chair abused his discretion in denying those motions, or any other motions that she filed. A review of the record shows that Respondent failed to establish good cause to serve written interrogatories.

Respondent also argues that the denial of her discovery requests violated due process. That argument also fails. In a disciplinary proceeding, due process generally entitles the respondent to notice of the allegations of misconduct, and an opportunity to defend against those allegations. See *In re Chandler*, 161 Ill. 2d 459, 470, 641 N.E.2d 473 (1994). The due process requirements were fully satisfied in this case. Respondent had notice concerning the allegations in this case, and the record shows that she had an opportunity to defend against those allegations.

The Hearing Board's Findings that Respondent Engaged in Misconduct Were Not Against the Manifest Weight of the Evidence

Respondent argues that there was no evidence that she engaged in any misconduct and the Hearing Board's findings of misconduct are against the manifest weight of the evidence. We reject this argument based on the record in this case.

The Hearing Board set forth the facts, and provided a detailed and thorough analysis of the evidence establishing that Respondent engaged in the misconduct charged in five of the six counts of the Complaint. We have given careful consideration to the Hearing Board's summary of the evidence, and conclude that the Hearing Board's findings of misconduct are not against the manifest weight of the evidence.

Respondent admitted that she made several of the charged statements, or similar statements. The Hearing Board stated, "Respondent admitted to making at least three of the same or similar posts that were found on the Lowery Twitter Account, including those at issue in Count II and Count V. She also admitted to making the Lowery LinkedIn Account post at issue in Count IV." (Hearing Bd. Report at 18.) Respondent also admitted in her Answer to the Complaint that she made the statement charged in Count I, in a pleading filed with the Court, claiming that Judge Gleeson threatened her. Judge Gleeson testified he did not make that statement.

At the disciplinary hearing, Mark Pointer, who is an investigator for the ARDC office in Springfield, testified about the statements Respondent posted online, and identified the evidence that showed Respondent had made those posts. The Hearing Board stated, "Mr. Pointer's testimony further convinced us that Respondent made the alleged posts, given the consistency of content across the two social media accounts and the direct connection between the posts and events occurring in Respondent's disciplinary matters." (Hearing Bd. Report at 18.)

Without repeating the Hearing Board's summary of the evidence, set forth below are several relevant points:

- In terms of Count I of the Complaint, the Hearing Board found that Respondent knowingly or recklessly falsely stated in a pleading, that Judge Andrew Gleeson “specifically threatened” Respondent by saying, “I will see to it that you are homeless and living under a bridge.” In her Answer to the original Complaint, Respondent admitted that she made that statement. (Ans., pars. 4-6, C. 32-33.) At the disciplinary hearing, Judge Gleeson testified he did not make that statement, and the Hearing Board found his testimony to be credible. The Hearing Board stated, “After Judge Gleeson testified at her prior disciplinary hearing, Respondent accused him of wrongdoing in a pleading which sought relief from the adverse consequences in that case. This demonstrates her motive for fabricating the threat.”
- In terms of Count II, the Hearing Board found that Respondent knowingly or recklessly posted the false statement, “[T]he ARDC & the Illinois Supreme Court has a history of permitting harassment of women until they commit suicide or leave the bar[.]” During Respondent’s appearance before the Inquiry Board, she admitted that she posted a statement on her Twitter account, stating that the ARDC and the Supreme Court harass female attorneys until they leave the profession or commit suicide. (*See* Inquiry Board Transcript, Admin. Ex. 46 at 26-30.) The Hearing Board stated, “Based on Respondent’s admissions of making a similar post and our finding that Respondent made the posts on the Lowery Twitter Account, we find that she made this statement.” (Hearing Bd. Report at 18.)

- In terms of Count IV, the Hearing Board found that Respondent falsely or recklessly posted three false statements between January and October 2023 impugning the integrity of the Court.

The October 2023 post stated: “Now the Illinois Supreme Court is following attorneys to the Holocaust Museum in Missouri to spy on them. What possible ‘confidential investigation’ can there be for an attorney to attend an event at the Holocaust Museum? Oh no that’s not the point, the point is to let everyone know the government spies on Jews? This is the behavior of the Third Reich or Nazi’s and the purpose is to make people afraid to associate with you. The purpose is to isolate an individual same as what the SS & Hitler did.” In her Answer to the Amended Complaint, Respondent admitted that she posted that statement; she stated, “Respondent did post her objection to the State of Illinois targeting the Missouri Holocaust Museum with a secret governmental investigation demanding the name of every Jew in attendance because it was state action across state line into her religion and ethnicity which is not bar regulation.” (Resp. Answer to Amended Complaint, par. 31, at C. 1319.)

The January 2023 post stated “Effective today, the ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT ruled no attorney in the State of Illinois has ANY FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS. If an attorney expresses ANY opinion about a judge, it will subject the attorney to immediate discipline.” (Emphasis in original.) That statement was posted on the same day that the Court ordered Respondent’s 30-day suspension in her prior disciplinary case.

- In terms of Count V, the Hearing Board found that Respondent knowingly or recklessly posted the false statement: “Chief Justice Anne Burke HATES JEWS. While smiling to me and nodding, behind those kind eyes lied [*sic*] seething JEW HATE. Then she smirked and laid her plan to destroy my career.” (Emphasis in

original.) The Hearing Board stated, “Respondent admitted to making the latter post, explaining that she was ‘commenting about the Illinois problems reported on the news and about its anti Semitism’ and that she was ‘complaining about Ed and Anne Burkes [*sic*] Jew hate.’ (Ans. to Amend. Compl. at par. 38).” (Hearing Bd. Report at 16.)

- In terms of Count VI, the Hearing Board found that Respondent knowingly or recklessly posted the false statement, “[The new St. Clair County] associate judge signed off on the majority of Chief Judge Andrew Gleeson’s DIVORCE and in return gets appointed to a new judgeship[.]”

Judge Gleeson testified that his divorce was not handled by the judge who was appointed around that time, and he does not have the authority to appoint a new judge; a judicial appointment must be approved by a majority of the eight circuit judges. The Hearing Board stated, “Based on our finding that Respondent made the posts on the Lowery Twitter Account, we find that she made this specific post, which resembles the others in tone and language. Because we find Judge Gleeson to be a credible witness, we believe his testimony that he did not exchange benefits with another judge.” (Hearing Bd. Report at 22.)

We conclude that the Hearing Board’s findings are supported by the record, and are not against the manifest weight of the evidence.

There Were No Reversible Errors Concerning the ADA, Due Process, Gender Bias, or Selective Prosecution

Respondent argues that (1) the Hearing Board violated the ADA; (2) the Hearing Board violated Respondent’s due process rights; (3) the Hearing Board and the Court ruled based on gender bias; and (4) the ARDC engaged in selective prosecution. There is no merit to those arguments.⁴

The ADA: Respondent argues that the Hearing Board violated the ADA by retaliating against her for engaging in protected activities, namely, filing complaints concerning harassment with the Illinois Supreme Court and the Department of Justice. Specifically, Respondent claims that the Hearing Board retaliated by denying her May 1 Motion to Continue, and by recommending that she be disbarred. We disagree.

In order to show that the Hearing Board violated the ADA, Respondent must show that there was a causal connection between the alleged protected activity (Respondent's filing complaints) and the adverse action (denying the motion and recommending disbarment). *See Dickerson v. Bd. of Trustees.*, 657 F.3d 595, 601 (7th Cir. 2011) ("To establish a case of retaliation ... a plaintiff must show (1) he engaged in a statutorily protected activity; (2) he suffered an adverse action; and (3) [there was] a causal connection between the two."); *Bruno v. Wells-Armstrong*, 93 F.4th 1049, 1055 (7th Cir. 2024) ("[P]laintiff must show: (1) statutorily protected activity; (2) an adverse ... action; and (3) a causal connection between the protected activity and the adverse action."). *See also, H.P. v. Naperville Cmty. Unit School Dist. #203*, 910 F.3d 957, 960-61 (7th Cir. 2018) ("[T]he statutory language in ... the ADA requires proof of causation [The plaintiff must] prove 'that, 'but for' his disability, he would have been able to access the services or benefits desired' ... Our analysis begins and ends with the causation requirement.") (citations omitted).

In this case, Respondent has failed to show a causal connection between the alleged protected activity (filing complaints) and the adverse actions (denying the motion and recommending disbarment). As discussed above, the Motion was denied because Respondent failed to show extraordinary circumstances. In terms of disbarment, the Hearing Board set forth the reasons for recommending disbarment in great detail (Hearing Bd. Report at 23-33), and stated,

“[D]isbarment is warranted in order to protect the public from Respondent’s continued use of her law license to wrongfully impugn others and undermine public trust in the legal system. Considering the egregious proven misconduct, serious aggravating factors, lack of mitigation, and relevant case law, we recommend that Respondent, Margaret Jean Lowery, be disbarred.” (*Id.* at 33.) We find that the Hearing Board did not violate the ADA.

Due Process: Respondent argues that the Hearing Board violated her due process rights, by denying her May 1 Motion to Continue. That argument fails. As noted above, in a disciplinary proceeding, due process generally entitles the respondent to notice of the allegations of misconduct, and an opportunity to defend against those allegations. *See In re Chandler*, 161 Ill. 2d 459, 470 (1994). The due process requirements were fully satisfied in this case. Respondent had fair notice concerning the allegations in this case, and she had an opportunity to defend against those allegations. Respondent’s failure to participate in the hearing does not mean that the Hearing Board deprived her of the opportunity to defend herself.

Gender Bias: Respondent argues that the denial of her Motion to Continue reflects gender bias because the Chair rejected Respondent’s claims that she could not participate in the hearing due to her disabilities. That argument is not supported by the record. As previously discussed, the Chair’s denial of Respondent’s Motion was appropriate for the reasons set forth in the Chair’s May 10, 2024 Order.

Respondent also argues that the Court’s imposing an interim suspension constituted gender based discrimination. Although there is no support in the record for that argument, we decline to address that issue because the Review Board does not have authority to review decisions made by the Court. *See In re Peterson*, 2001PR00083 (Review Bd at 14), M.R. 19162 (March 12, 2004) (“[I]t was the Court that entered the interim suspension order. This Board does not have authority

to review decisions of the Court.”) The Hearing Board stated, “We find no evidence in the record to support Respondent’s claims of gender harassment, religious and ethnic discrimination, or conspiracy.” (Hearing Bd. Report at 28.) We agree.

Selective Prosecution: Respondent argues that the ARDC selectively prosecuted her in order to suppress her research exposing systemic gender bias. That argument fails. The Illinois Supreme Court has held that claims of selective prosecution in disciplinary cases fail because each disciplinary case has to be decided on its own merits, and there is no requirement that respondents receive identical treatment. *See In re Damisch*, 38 Ill. 2d 195, 230 N.E.2d 254 (1967). In that case, the Court stated, “[T]he fact that a particular case was treated differently by the Commissioners from respondent’s case is simply not relevant here. Each case depends on its own facts ... and identical treatment is not required, since the conditions and circumstances under which categorical misconduct may occur vary widely.” 38 Ill.2d at 205 (citations omitted.). *See also, In re Novoselsky*, 2015PR00007 (Review Bd. at 18), M.R. 030416 (Sept. 21, 2020) (“The Court has held that [selective prosecution is] irrelevant in disciplinary proceedings, and has stated that each disciplinary case must be decided on its own merits The Court has also noted that the Administrator has the authority to determine which cases to prosecute [T]he Review Board has rejected similar selective prosecution arguments made in other cases.”) (citations omitted); *In re Gilsdorf*, 2012PR00006 (Review Bd. at 13), M.R. 26540 (April 4, 2014) (“The Illinois Supreme Court has stated that each disciplinary case must be decided on its own merits and ‘identical treatment is not required.’”) (quoting *Damisch*, 38 Ill. 2d at 205).

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, we find that none of Respondent’s arguments have merit, and we affirm the Hearing Board’s rulings and findings of misconduct. As discussed above, we find

that the Court and the ARDC have jurisdiction; the Chair did not abuse his discretion by denying Respondent's May 1 Motion to Continue or her requests to serve interrogatories; Respondent was not locked out of the disciplinary hearing; the Hearing Board's findings that Respondent engaged in misconduct were not against the manifest weight of the evidence; the Hearing Board did not violate the ADA or Respondent's due process rights; the Hearing Board and the Court did not rule based on gender bias; and selective prosecution is not an issue in this case.

We agree with the Hearing Board's recommendation that Respondent be disbarred, and in our view, the record shows that Respondent is unwilling to conform her conduct to the ethical rules in the future. However, we do not address the sanction in this case because Respondent did not raise that issue on appeal.

Respectfully submitted,

Esther J. Seitz
Ashley N. Greer Shambley
Juan R. Thomas

CERTIFICATION

I, Michelle M. Thome, Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission of the Supreme Court of Illinois and keeper of the records, hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true copy of the Report and Recommendation of the Review Board, approved by each Panel member, entered in the above entitled cause of record filed in my office on October 3, 2025.

/s/ Michelle M. Thome
Michelle M. Thome, Clerk of the
Attorney Registration and Disciplinary
Commission of the Supreme Court of Illinois

4922-1970-0847, v. 1

¹ At the disciplinary hearing, Mark Pointer, who is an investigator for the ARDC office in Springfield, testified that Respondent declined to attend a deposition at the ARDC's Springfield office on June 16, 2023, claiming that she was too ill to travel and would be extremely sick. Pointer

testified, however, that Respondent posted on her Twitter account that, on June 16, 2023, she attended an in-person event at the Kaplan Feldman Holocaust Museum in St. Louis. In order to confirm Respondent's attendance at the Museum, the ARDC sent a letter to the Museum requesting information about whether Respondent had attended the event. Pointer testified that there was nothing antisemitic about the inquiry. The Hearing Board stated, "We find credible Mr. Pointer's testimony that the Administrator's inquiry about Respondent's attendance at an event at the Holocaust Museum in St. Louis was not motivated by anti-Semitism but rather was an attempt to verify [or disprove] Respondent's claim that her medical condition made her too sick to travel to the ARDC office." (Hearing Bd. Report at 20.)

² See *In re Betts*, 1990PR00049 (Review Bd. at 10), M.R. 9296 (Sept. 27, 1993) ("[R]espondent argues that ... he was not on the Master rolls and therefore not subject to any provisions of the Illinois Code of Professional Responsibility or the Supreme Court Rules during that time A suspended attorney remains a member of the bar and is subject to the authority of the disciplinary system."); *Applebaum, v. Rush Univ. Medical Center*, 231 Ill. 2d 429, 441, 899 N.E.2d 262 (2008) ("Although a change in ARDC registration status from 'active' to 'inactive' is accompanied by [certain] restriction[s] in the attorney's practice, ... it is a fundamental error to equate such a status change with stripping the attorney of his or her license to practice law."). See also, *In re Kubiowski*, 2011PR00012, M.R. 25679 (Jan. 18, 2013) (The attorney, who was 77 years and had been retired for approximately four months, was disbarred even though he was retired).

³ Respondent erroneously refers to the May 2, 2024 Order as being a "default order." (See, e.g., Resp. Brief at 17, 21, 24, 28.) The Chair did not find that Respondent was in default, or rule that she was prohibited from participating in the hearing.

⁴ In her Reply Brief, Respondent also made arguments that she did not make in her opening brief, or had not developed. Those arguments are waived. See Rule 302(f)(5) ("Points not argued [in the opening brief] are waived and shall not be raised in the reply brief or oral argument." Those arguments include (but are not limited to) the following: (1) Respondent argues, in one sentence, that there was no transcript of the Inquiry Board's proceedings (except for Respondent's appearance), which voids the Complaint (Reply Brief at 8); (2) Respondent argues, in one sentence, that the Administrator erred by referring to Respondent's prior discipline during the hearing, before proving misconduct. (*Id.*) Respondent included the same sentence in the opening brief, but failed to develop the argument; (3) Respondent argues, in one sentence, that the Chair erred by issuing an Order on April 9, 2024, denying Respondent's motion requesting permission to retain her own independent court reporter to record the disciplinary hearing. (*Id.*) Respondent did not challenge that Order in her opening brief; (4) Respondent argues that the Chair erred by denying the nine motions to continue that she filed, and violated the ADA in doing so. (*Id.* at 9.) In her opening brief, although Respondent mentioned the other motions in passing, she did not present an argument challenging them; (6) Respondent argues (in one sentence) that the Hearing Board violated privacy regulations by disclosing Respondent's medical records. (*Id.* at 10.) In her opening brief, Respondent also included one sentence making the same argument, but she did not develop that argument or explain it; (7) Respondent argues, for the first time in the Reply Brief, "A stay is warranted to investigate the pattern of Gleeson's 22 complaints ... and the recent exculpatory witness who just came forward." (*Id.* at 15.) She did not ask for a stay in her opening brief. Although those arguments are waived, we have considered those arguments and find no merit to any of them.

**BEFORE THE REVIEW BOARD
OF THE
ILLINOIS ATTORNEY REGISTRATION
AND
DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION**

In the Matter of:

MARGARET JEAN LOWERY,

Respondent-Appellant,

No. 6271777.

Commission No. 2023PR00060

**PROOF OF SERVICE
OF THE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION
OF THE REVIEW BOARD**

I, Michelle M. Thome, hereby certify that I served a copy of the Report and Recommendation of the Review Board on the Respondent-Appellant listed at the address shown below by e-mail service on October 3, 2025, at or before 5:00 p.m. At the same time, a copy was sent to Counsel for the Administrator-Appellee by e-mail service.

Margaret Lowery
Respondent-Appellant
mlowery@thelowerylawfirm.com

Under penalties as provided by law pursuant to Section 1-109 of the Code of Civil Procedure, the undersigned certifies that the statements set forth in this instrument are true and correct, except as to matters therein stated to be on information and belief and as to such matters the undersigned certifies as aforesaid that she verily believes the same to be true.

/s/ Michelle M. Thome

By: Michelle M. Thome
Clerk of the Attorney Registration and
Disciplinary Commission of the
Supreme Court of Illinois

FILED

October 03, 2025

ARDC CLERK

In re Margaret Jean Lowery
Attorney-Respondent

Commission No. 2023PR00060

Synopsis of Hearing Board Report and Recommendation
(December 2024)

The Administrator charged Respondent with multiple counts arising from statements she made falsely or with reckless disregard to the truth, which impugned the integrity of a circuit judge, a retired Illinois Supreme Court justice, the Court, and the ARDC Review Board, in violation of Rules 3.3(a)(1), 8.2(a), and 8.4(c). The Hearing Board found that the Administrator proved by clear and convincing evidence that Respondent violated these Rules in five of the six counts. The Hearing Board recommended disbarment due to Respondent's egregious misconduct, which was significantly aggravated by her harmful pattern of making false, disrespectful, and vitriolic statements; lack of remorse and failure to acknowledge her wrongdoing; failure to attend the hearing; and recent, similar prior discipline.

**BEFORE THE HEARING BOARD
OF THE
ILLINOIS ATTORNEY REGISTRATION
AND
DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION**

In the Matter of:

MARGARET JEAN LOWERY,

Attorney-Respondent,

No. 6271777.

Commission No. 2023PR00060

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE HEARING BOARD

SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

The Administrator charged Respondent with multiple counts of making false or reckless statements in a pleading and on social media which impugned the integrity of a circuit judge, a retired Illinois Supreme Court justice, the Court, and the ARDC Review Board. The Hearing Board found that the Administrator proved the charged misconduct in five of the six counts. The Hearing Board recommended disbarment due to the egregious nature of the misconduct, which was significantly aggravated by Respondent's harmful pattern of making false, disrespectful, and vitriolic statements; lack of remorse and failure to acknowledge her wrongdoing; failure to attend the hearing; and recent, similar prior discipline.

INTRODUCTION

The hearing in this matter was held on May 2, 2024, at the Springfield office of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission (ARDC) before a panel of the Hearing Board consisting of Jose A. Lopez Jr., Martha M. Ferdinand, and Elizabeth Delheimer. Rachel Miller represented the Administrator. Respondent was not present and not represented by counsel.

FILED

December 12, 2024

ARDC CLERK

PLEADINGS AND MISCONDUCT ALLEGED

On February 14, 2024, the Administrator filed a six-count First Amended Complaint against Respondent, charging her with knowingly making a false statement of fact or law to a tribunal (Counts I and III); making a false statement knowingly or with reckless disregard for its truth or falsity concerning the qualifications or integrity of a judge or adjudicatory officer (Counts I, II, III, IV, V, and VI); and conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation (Counts I, III, IV, V, and VI), in violation of Rules 3.3(a)(1), 8.2(a), and 8.4(c) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010), respectively. On February 15, 2024, Respondent filed an Answer to the First Amended Complaint in which she admitted some factual allegations, denied some factual allegations, and denied misconduct.

PREHEARING PROCEEDINGS

Respondent was represented by counsel in this matter until November 2, 2023, when she was allowed to enter her substitute appearance. Once she began representing herself, Respondent filed numerous motions, including multiple motions to continue the hearing scheduled for May 2 and May 3, 2024, based on alleged medical reasons. All of her motions to continue were denied. Respondent filed the last of these motions at 4:01 p.m. on May 1, 2024, the day before the hearing. The next morning, the hearing start time was delayed so the Clerk of the Commission could notify Respondent of the Chair's order denying the continuance but allowing her to participate remotely. When Respondent did not appear, the hearing proceeded in her absence. An order detailing the reasons why Respondent's May 1, 2024, motion was not sufficient to justify a continuance was entered on May 10, 2024. The following provides additional context for the denials of Respondent's requests to continue the hearing.

Respondent filed the following motions related to alleged medical conditions that purportedly prevented her from being able to prepare for and attend her disciplinary hearing:

- February 21, 2024, Motion to Stay Proceedings. Respondent requested that the entire proceeding be stayed so she could undergo unspecified medical testing. Respondent filed a similar motion with the Illinois Supreme Court, which was denied.
- April 19, 2024, Motion to Continue Hearing. Respondent asserted she had not been able to practice law since April 11, 2024, for medical reasons. She attached a letter from her primary care provider, Patrick VanSchoyck, M.D., stating that he had previously asked that Respondent have two weeks of bed rest and hydration “for a medical illness” and that he recommended that she take time off of work. Respondent’s motion refers to a kidney stone that was causing her pain and illness.
- April 22, 2024, Motion to Continue Hearing. Respondent attached an affidavit from Dr. VanSchoyck, which stated that she “could not work because of a serious medical condition,” was taking narcotic pain medication, and could not practice law until she discontinued that medication. Respondent further asserted that the Chair and the Administrator were “intentionally trying to harm and cause death of the Respondent.”
- April 24, 2024, Motion for Continuance for Cause. Respondent asserted she was taking prescription narcotics for pain and was not able to function as a lawyer.
- April 25, 2024, Motion for Continuance and Motion to Remove Chair and Hearing Board for Cause. Respondent asserted that the Chair improperly denied Respondent’s motions to continue and entered an order “designed to cause Ms. Lowery’s personal injury up to and including death.”
- May 1, 2024, Motion for Continuance Due to Temporary Disability. Respondent attached some medical records as well as an affidavit of Dr. VanSchoyck, which stated that Respondent had episodes in December 2023 and February 2024 and on April 11 and 15, 2024, in which she collapsed; that because of the episode in December 2023 Dr. VanSchoyck wanted Respondent to have “testing and treatment;” that Respondent went to the emergency room on April 15, 2024, and, on that date, “was becoming septic;” that his “office” ordered Respondent off of work on April 15, 2024; and that on April 25, 2024, Respondent “had sepsis and was going into septic shock” and was ordered to undergo emergency surgery the next day.

Under Commission Rule 272, “[n]o hearing shall be continued at the request of a party except under extraordinary circumstances.” It is within the Chair’s discretion to determine whether such circumstances are present. Moreover, a party requesting a continuance for medical reasons

must support the request with competent medical evidence concerning the nature of the medical problems and the reasons the party cannot attend the proceeding. In re Marriage of Ward, 282 Ill. App. 3d 423, 430, 668 N.E.2d 149 (1st Dist. 1996); In re Duric, 2015PR00052, M.R. 030734 (May 18, 2021). Relevant considerations include whether the party requests a definite and reasonable time for the continuance and whether the party has exercised due diligence in attempting to bring the case to hearing. Ward, 282 Ill. App. 3d at 430. Respondent was advised of these requirements in an order entered on April 22, 2024. Her subsequent motions, however, still failed to provide the necessary competent medical evidence to demonstrate extraordinary circumstances that would justify a continuance.

Respondent did submit affidavits from Dr. VanSchoyck as well as some medical records. Many of the medical records were general in nature, including a map of a medical facility and general information sheets about sepsis and opioid medications. As detailed in the order entered on May 10, 2024, of the medical records that were specific to Respondent, none corroborated Dr. VanSchoyck's averments about Respondent's condition and treatment. Specifically, Dr. VanSchoyck stated that Respondent "had emergency surgery on 4/26 with a diagnosis of sepsis." None of the hospital records Respondent submitted contained a diagnosis of sepsis or septic shock, nor did Dr. VanSchoyck point to any test results indicating that Respondent had a life-threatening condition. Similarly, none of the hospital records indicated a need for emergency surgery. Dr. VanSchoyck stated that Respondent saw the Clinical Director of St. Francis Hospital on April 25, 2024, who ordered Respondent into emergency surgery, but Respondent provided no medical record of that visit or of the claimed directive for emergency surgery.

It does appear from the hospital records that Respondent underwent a procedure on April 26, 2024. However, the Anesthesia Postprocedure Evaluation record listed hematuria and kidney

stone as the only diagnoses and described Respondent's procedure as a kidney stone extraction with ureteral stent placement. It further indicated that Respondent's temperature was a normal 97.5 degrees Fahrenheit at 1:45 p.m. on April 26, 2024, and that she was cleared for discharge that day with a pain score of "1."

It is also noteworthy that Respondent emailed photographs of herself to Counsel for the Administrator at 9:21 a.m. on April 26, 2024, which depict Respondent standing, smiling, and extending her middle fingers while in a hospital gown. (Adm. Obj. to Res. Motion to Continue, Apr. 26, 2024, Ex. 1). Both Respondent's physical appearance and her ability to correspond with Counsel for the Administrator at a time when she purportedly was in septic shock and about to undergo emergency surgery undermine the reliability of Respondent's and Dr. VanSchoyck's sworn affidavits.

Respondent's continued representation of herself in this proceeding and her high level of activity also contradict her claimed inability to practice law since April 11, 2024, and Dr. VanSchoyck's assertions that Respondent was unable to prepare for and attend the hearing on May 2 and 3, 2024. In the two weeks prior to the hearing:

- On April 19, 2024, Respondent filed one motion;
- On April 22, 2024, she filed a motion, a reply, and a third pleading entitled "No Link for Pretrial/No Ability to Appear;"
- On April 23, 2024, she filed one motion;
- On April 24, 2024, she filed one motion;
- On April 25, 2024, the day before her procedure, she filed two motions; and
- On April 29, 2024, three days after her procedure, she executed, and presumably drafted, an eight-page affidavit that was attached to her May 1, 2024, motion to continue.

This conduct casts serious doubt on Respondent's and Dr. Van Schoyck's representations about the severity of Respondent's alleged health issues as well as Respondent's purported inability to practice law. A respondent's continued practice of law despite his or her claimed inability to practice is a relevant factor in considering a motion to continue. Duric, 2015PR00052 (Review Bd. at 12).

The Review Board in Duric noted that, when requesting a continuance for medical reasons, the submission of a physician's affidavit "is not the ceiling but rather the floor of what is required" under Commission Rule 272. Duric, 2015PR00052 (Review Bd. at 8). It is Respondent's burden to provide "sufficient competent evidence to convince the hearing panel chair that extraordinary circumstances existed to warrant a continuance." Id. (Review Bd. at 9). Thus, even though Respondent submitted affidavits from Dr. VanSchoyck, that is not the end of the analysis. Based on the significant inconsistencies between Respondent's and Dr. VanSchoyck's averments and Respondent's medical records and activity in this proceeding, the affidavits submitted did not constitute sufficient, competent evidence to warrant a continuance.

Additionally, the fact that Respondent underwent a procedure on April 26, 2024, was not sufficient to demonstrate extraordinary circumstances or due diligence absent evidence showing that she could not have scheduled the procedure for a different date. The medical records indicate that Respondent had a kidney stone, but there is no medical record demonstrating the need for emergency surgery or indicating when Respondent's procedure was actually scheduled. The hearing dates were set in October 2023. Based on Respondent's assertions, her kidney stone was not a sudden occurrence in April 2024 but something she had been dealing with since at least December 2023. Under these circumstances and in the absence of reliable medical evidence

showing that her procedure was an emergency, a significant question remains whether Respondent scheduled the procedure with the intention of using it as a reason to continue the hearing.

As set forth in detail in the Aggravation section of this Report, Respondent engaged in dilatory tactics and sought to obstruct the proceeding throughout the time she represented herself. These factors are further examples of her failure to demonstrate due diligence. See Ward, 282 Ill. App. 3d at 431-432; In re Marriage of Drewitch, 263 Ill. App. 3d 1088, 1095, 636 N.E.2d 1052 (1st Dist. 1994).

Respondent also asserted she was entitled to a continuance as an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). For the reasons already articulated, she did not provide sufficiently credible evidence to establish that she had a qualifying disability under the ADA, that is, “a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.” 42 U.S.C. 12102(1)(A). Nonetheless, in the interests of justice and efficiency, the Hearing Board offered Respondent the opportunity to participate in the hearing remotely, of which she did not take advantage.

EVIDENCE

At the hearing, the Administrator called two witnesses, and Administrator’s Exhibits 1-4, 6-17, 23, 25-30, 32-40, and 42-46 were admitted. (Tr. 21). Respondent was not present and offered no evidence.

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Administrator bears the burden of proving the charges of misconduct by clear and convincing evidence. In re Thomas, 2012 IL 113035, ¶ 56. Clear and convincing evidence constitutes a high level of certainty, which is greater than a preponderance of the evidence but less stringent than proof beyond a reasonable doubt. People v. Williams, 143 Ill. 2d 477, 484-85, 577

N.E.2d 762 (1991). The Hearing Board assesses witness credibility, resolves conflicting testimony, makes factual findings, and determines whether the Administrator met the burden of proof. In re Winthrop, 219 Ill. 2d 526, 542-43, 848 N.E.2d 961 (2006).

I. In Count I, Respondent was charged with knowingly or recklessly making a false statement which impugned the integrity of a circuit judge and which constituted dishonest conduct, in violation of Rules 3.3(a)(1), 8.2(a), and 8.4(c).

A. Summary

We find that the Administrator proved by clear and convincing evidence that Respondent knowingly and recklessly made a false statement of fact to the Court that Judge Andrew Gleeson threatened to harm her, which falsely impugned his integrity and which constituted dishonest conduct.

B. Admitted Facts and Evidence Considered

On January 17, 2023, the Court suspended Respondent for 30 days and ordered that she complete the ARDC professionalism seminar after she knowingly or recklessly made a false statement impugning the integrity of Judge Gleeson during his 2018 campaign for retention in the Twentieth Judicial Circuit (St. Clair County), and then she dishonestly made material misrepresentations to the ARDC. In re Lowery, 2020PR00018, M.R. 031506 (Jan. 17, 2023). Judge Gleeson testified at the prior disciplinary hearing regarding these charges. (Tr. 32-33).

On April 18, 2023, the ARDC filed a petition for order and judgment of costs, seeking repayment by Respondent of up to \$1,500 in costs from her disciplinary matter, per Supreme Court Rule 773. (Ans. at par. 4; Ans. to Amend. Compl. at par. 4). On April 24, 2023, Respondent filed with the Court an Objection to ARDC Petition for Taxation of Costs, in which she stated, “Judge Gleeson specifically threatened Lowery with the following statement, ‘I will see to it that you are homeless and living under a bridge.’” (Ans. at pars. 5-6). She sought relief from the Court, including a stay of proceedings and reopening of her disciplinary matter. (Admin. Ex. 1 at 36-37).

On September 12, 2023, Respondent testified before the Inquiry Board that she had received harassing text messages, including one dated December 24 with a picture of someone under a bridge, and that she posted screenshots of those text messages on Twitter and Facebook. (Adm. Ex. 46 at 30-31). Mark Pointer, ARDC investigator and former police detective, testified to finding a publicly accessible account titled “Margaret J. Lowery of the Lowery Law Firm” on Twitter, now known as X (“Lowery Twitter Account”). (Tr. 39-41). Mr. Pointer testified that this account posted a screenshot of a text message, which contained a picture of a person under a bridge in a tent, along with the caption, ““When I speak of harassment and discrimination and toxic environment in the bar, this is what I am speaking about. Note the date. It was intended as my Christmas present.”” (Tr. 55-56). Mr. Pointer explained that the text message appears to have been sent – not received – by the poster, as it appears in a blue bubble on the right side of the screen. (Id.). On May 5, 2023, the Lowery Twitter Account posted a substantially similar screenshot dated December 24, along with another complaint about harassment of women by the Illinois Bar. (Adm. Ex. 23 at 9).

Judge Gleeson testified that he never made the statement quoted in Respondent’s Objection to ARDC Petition for Taxation of Costs, nor did he make a similar statement or direct anyone else to threaten Respondent in any way. (Tr. 26, 35). He further testified that he had never had any conversation with Respondent, nor had she been in his courtroom during his nearly 21 years on the bench. (Tr. 23, 25-26, 34).

C. Analysis and Conclusions

Rule 3.3(a)(1) states that a lawyer shall not knowingly make a false statement of fact or law to a tribunal. Ill. R. Prof’l Cond. R. 3.3(a)(1). Rule 8.2(a) prohibits a lawyer from making a statement that the lawyer knows to be false, or with reckless disregard to its truth or falsity, concerning the qualifications or integrity of a judge. Id. at R. 8.2(a). Rule 8.4(c) prohibits a lawyer

from engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation. The Administrator charged Respondent with violating these Rules by filing with the Court on April 24, 2023, an Objection to ARDC Petition for Taxation of Costs, in which she stated that Judge Gleeson “specifically threatened” that he would cause her to become “homeless and living under a bridge.”

First, we find that Respondent made the statement at issue to a tribunal, as admitted in her Answer. “[A]n admission in a pleading is a formal judicial admission that is conclusively binding on the party making it ... and dispenses of the need for any proof of that fact.” In re Mills, 07 SH 2, M.R. 23070 (May 18, 2009) (Hearing Bd. at 14).

Next, we find that Respondent’s accusation of Judge Gleeson’s threat to harm her clearly impugned his integrity and that this accusation was false. Having observed Judge Gleeson’s demeanor and candor, we believe his overall testimony to be credible. Specifically, we find credible his testimony that he never threatened to make Respondent homeless and living under a bridge, and we conclude that Respondent’s contrary claim in the Objection to ARDC Petition for Taxation of Costs was not true.

The only remaining question is whether Respondent knew her statement was false or recklessly disregarded the truth when she wrote it. For both Rules 3.3(a)(1) and 8.2(a), “knowing” refers to “actual knowledge of the fact in question,” and “a person’s knowledge may be inferred from circumstances.” Ill. R. Prof’l Cond. R. 1.0(f). The Hearing Panel may rely on circumstantial evidence to infer that a respondent did not act in good faith when it appears that the respondent made a statement in retaliation for an adverse ruling. In re Amu, 2011PR00106, M.R. 26545 (May 16, 2014) (Hearing Bd. at 6). On the other hand, reckless disregard is an objective standard. Even if a respondent genuinely believed her statement were true, it may constitute a Rule 8.2(a) violation

if she had no reasonable basis in fact for believing the statement she made. *Id.* at 8; *In re Denison*, 2013PR00001, M.R. 27522 (Sept. 21, 2015) (Hearing Bd. at 29).

As there is no objective evidence in the record that Judge Gleeson made the alleged threat, we find that Respondent had no reasonable basis for believing her statement to be true. Thus, she recklessly disregarded the truth in making her false accusation.

We further find, based on circumstantial evidence, that Respondent knowingly fabricated her statement. After Judge Gleeson testified at her prior disciplinary hearing, Respondent accused him of wrongdoing in a pleading which sought relief from the adverse consequences in that case. This demonstrates her motive for fabricating the threat. Also, as discussed in Section III below, we find that Mr. Pointer is credible and that Respondent posted on the Lowery Twitter Account the text messages that included a picture of a person under a bridge. Respondent claimed that she received this picture, but its appearance on the right side of the screen demonstrates that she actually sent it. Based on her untruthful posting of this fabricated text message, which aligns with the story she invented in her pleading, we infer that she knew her statement about Judge Gleeson was false when she made it in the Objection to ARDC Petition for Taxation of Costs.¹

For these reasons, we find that the Administrator proved by clear and convincing evidence that Respondent violated Rules 3.3(a)(1) and 8.2(a). We further find that, by knowingly making this false statement about Judge Gleeson, she engaged in conduct involving dishonesty or misrepresentation in violation of Rule 8.4(c).

II. In Count III, Respondent was charged with knowingly or recklessly making a false statement which impugned the integrity of the Review Board and which constituted dishonest conduct, in violation of Rules 3.3(a)(1), 8.2(a), and 8.4(c).

A. Summary

We find that the Administrator proved that Respondent made statements which impugned the integrity of the Review Board. However, the Administrator did not produce any evidence that

Respondent knew her statements were false, made them with reckless disregard to the truth, or made them dishonestly. Thus, we find that the Administrator did not prove by clear and convincing evidence that this conduct violated Rules 3.3(a)(1), 8.2(a), and 8.4(c).

B. Evidence Considered

We consider the following evidence, in addition to the admitted facts and evidence described in Section I B.

This Count also arises from the Objection to ARDC Petition for Taxation of Costs which Respondent filed with the Court on April 24, 2023. Throughout that pleading, Respondent alleged gender-based discrimination, harassment, and systemic bias by those involved in her prior disciplinary matter, including witnesses Judge Gleeson and former Judge Ron Duebbert, ARDC Deputy Administrator Peter Rotskoff, the ARDC Hearing Board and Review Board panels, and the Court. She claimed that her unwarranted discipline was not because of her professional misconduct but because she is a woman attorney. (Adm. Ex. 1 at 38-39).

Relying on various law review, journal, and magazine articles, Respondent claimed that the inherent bias of an all-male adjudicatory body deciding a case against a female respondent results in a less favorable outcome because of gender. (*Id.* at 25-26, 41-42). Respondent extended this generalization to the Review Board panel of three men in her prior disciplinary matter. She claimed that the alleged errors in their Report and Recommendation were either by mistake or because the panel was “so gender biased it felt emboldened to make up facts about a woman to justify its harsh legal findings[.]” (*Id.* at 26-27). Specifically, she argued that the Review Board’s finding that her false testimony misdirected the ARDC’s investigation was a “factual finding which *do[es] not exist in record [sic].*” (*Id.* at 26) (emphasis in original). This, along with other “serious factual mistakes” not specified in the Objection to ARDC Petition for Taxation of Costs, formed

the basis for her request to the Court to “reopen the entire proceedings to address the prima facie case of harassment and gender discrimination which occurred herein.” (Id. at 27).

C. Analysis and Conclusions

The Administrator charged Respondent with violating Rules 3.3(a)(1) and 8.2(a) by knowingly or recklessly making false statements to the Court that the all-male Review Board panel in her prior disciplinary matter made factual findings which do not exist in the record and engaged in harassment and gender discrimination. The Administrator also alleged that this constituted dishonest conduct in violation of Rule 8.4(c).

The Review Board is comprised of panels of adjudicatory officers who hear and recommend decisions in attorney disciplinary cases. There is no dispute that Respondent made statements to the Court questioning the Review Board’s qualifications or integrity, which was the basis for her request in the Objection to ARDC Petition for Taxation of Costs to reopen her prior disciplinary matter. Respondent’s accusations of improper decision-making with discriminatory intent clearly impugned the Review Board and the three panelists who heard her case.

While Administrator’s Counsel mentioned these accusations in her opening statement, she presented no evidence during her case in chief that Respondent’s statements were false or that Respondent knowingly or recklessly disregarded the truth in making them. We could take judicial notice of the Hearing Board and Review Board Reports in Respondent’s prior disciplinary matter and determine from them that there was no objective basis for Respondent’s statements. However, we decline to do so. The Administrator did not offer the Reports at issue into evidence, ask us to take judicial notice of them, or identify how they objectively contradicted Respondent’s claim that the Review Board made unsubstantiated findings based on fabricated facts. Nor did the Administrator call any witnesses, such as the Review Board panelists in question, to testify about whether they discriminated against Respondent.

We find that the Administrator failed to meet her burden of proof as to the Rule 3.3(a)(1), 8.2(a), and 8.4(c) charges in Count III because she produced no evidence that Respondent knowingly or recklessly disregarded the truth or acted dishonestly when impugning the Review Board. Therefore, we recommend that Count III be dismissed. We emphasize that this finding does not imply that we agree with Respondent's allegations of systemic gender bias, disparate treatment of women, and biased treatment of Respondent in the disciplinary process. These are very serious allegations. However, because our analysis ended with the preliminary finding that the Administrator failed to produce any evidence on an essential element of each of these charges, we could not address the persuasiveness of that evidence.

III. In Counts II, IV, V, and VI, Respondent was charged with knowingly or recklessly making false statements which impugned the integrity of the Illinois Supreme Court, a retired chief justice, and a circuit judge, and which constituted dishonest conduct.

A. Summary

We find that the Administrator proved by clear and convincing evidence that, through various social media posts, Respondent knowingly or recklessly made false statements of fact concerning the qualifications or integrity of the Illinois Supreme Court, retired Chief Justice Anne Burke, and Judge Gleeson, and that Respondent thereby engaged in conduct involving dishonesty or misrepresentation. We find that Respondent's conduct violated Rule 8.2(a), as charged in Counts II, IV, V, and VI, and Rule 8.4(c), as charged in Counts IV, V, and VI.

B. Admitted Facts and Evidence Considered

We consider the following admitted facts and evidence, in addition to those described in Sections I B and II B.

On September 12, 2023, Respondent testified before the Inquiry Board about her social media posts, including the screenshot of a text message that was discussed in Section I above. She also testified to making a post on her Twitter account about the ARDC and the Court harassing

female attorneys until they leave the profession or commit suicide. (Adm. Ex. 46 at 26). Respondent later admitted to making a similar post but claimed that it was not on the Lowery Twitter Account. (Ans. at par. 12). However, Mr. Pointer testified that both of the posts she addressed before the Inquiry Board appeared on the Lowery Twitter Account. Specifically, on July 6, 2023, she posted: “Did you know the ARDC & the Illinois Supreme Court has [*sic*] a history of permitting harassment of women until they comitt [*sic*] suicide or leave the bar? That’s how they enforce their ‘anti discrimination and non harassment policy.’ How do I know this? I interviewed the affected women.” (Tr. 44-45; Adm. Ex. 4 at 1).

Along with the acknowledged posts, Mr. Pointer testified that he determined that the Lowery Twitter Account belonged to Respondent because “[t]he content of the account was all based out of southern Illinois, St. Clair County[,]” and the account made posts related to Respondent’s disciplinary matters as developments occurred in those cases. (Tr. 39-46). For example, Mr. Pointer testified that on January 17, 2023, the Lowery Twitter Account posted, “Effective today, the ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT ruled no attorney in the State of Illinois has ANY FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS. If an attorney expresses ANY opinion about a judge, it will subject the attorney to immediate discipline.” (Tr. 45-46; Adm. Ex. 6 at 2) (emphasis in original). This was the same day that the Court ordered Respondent’s 30-day suspension due to her prior false statement that impugned Judge Gleeson. In re Lowery, 2020PR00018, M.R. 031506 (Jan. 17, 2023). Additionally, on August 11, 2023, the Lowery Twitter Account posted a July 13, 2023, letter from the Administrator to Respondent’s then-counsel about an investigation of Respondent’s conduct. Mr. Pointer testified that the disciplinary investigation was confidential at that time, and no one other than Respondent or her attorney would have had access to that letter. (Tr. 47-49; Adm. Ex. 7 at 4-5).

According to Mr. Pointer, the Lowery Twitter Account posted on August 11, 2023, “Wow the Illinois Supreme Court has a hit list of attorneys they want to target because they are outspoken whistleblowers? They target their political opponents?” (Tr. 45, 47; Adm. Ex. 7 at 4). That account also posted in November 2023:

Today I found out that a person I had admired, profoundly broke my heart and that person was Chief Justice Anne Burke. ...

I then found out today, that she lied to my face about her kindness. She HATES JEWS. While smiling to me and nodding, behind those kind eyes lied seething JEW HATE. Then she smirked and laid her plan to destroy my career.

(Tr. 53-54; Adm. Ex. 9 at 5) (emphasis in original). Respondent admitted to making the latter post, explaining that she was “commenting about the Illinois problems reported on the news and about its anti-Semitism” and that she was “complaining about Ed and Anne Burkes [*sic*] Jew hate.” (Ans. to Amend. Compl. at par. 38).

After the Lowery Twitter Account posted on June 16, 2023, that Respondent had attended an in-person event at the Kaplan Feldman Holocaust Museum in St. Louis, the Administrator contacted the museum’s representative to verify her attendance. (Tr. 49-51; Adm. Ex. 17 at 1). Mr. Pointer explained that this was because, on June 6, 2023, Respondent claimed that a medical condition made her too ill to travel to the ARDC office to give a sworn statement later that month. He testified that there was no “anti-Semitic tinge behind this investigation.” (Tr. 49-51; Adm. Ex. 16 at 2).

Mr. Pointer testified that he found a publicly accessible account titled “Margaret J. Lowery, JD, MHA” on LinkedIn (“Lowery LinkedIn Account”), which shared the same profile picture as the Lowery Twitter Account. In fall 2023, the Lowery LinkedIn Account posted:

Now the Illinois Supreme Court is following attorneys to the Holocaust Museum in Missouri to spy on them. What possible ‘confidential investigation’ can there be for an attorney to attend an event at the Holocaust Museum? Oh no that’s not the point, the point is to let everyone know the government spies on Jews?

This is the behavior of the Third Reich or Nazi's [*sic*] and the purpose is to make people afraid to associate with you. The purpose is to isolate an individual same as what the SS & Hitler did.

(Tr. 42, 51; Adm. Ex. 8 at 1). The post included a picture of part of the Administrator's letter to the museum representative, inquiring about Respondent's attendance at the event. (Adm. Ex. 8 at 1-2). Respondent admitted to making this post. (Ans. to Amend. Compl. at par. 31).

Judge Gleeson testified that he began viewing the Lowery Twitter Account after colleagues brought to his attention some posts involving him. He recognized Respondent in the profile picture that Mr. Pointer identified as common across Respondent's social media accounts. (Tr. 26-27). A Lowery Twitter Account post dated July 19 stated: "Isn't it ironic that the new SCC associate judge signed off on the majority of Chief Judge Andrew Gleeson's DIVORCE and in return gets appointed to a new judgeship? I wonder what the paid rate of exchange was for services rendered in that divorce. All above board I'm sure. [laughing/crying emoji]" (Adm. Ex. 10) (emphasis in original). Judge Gleeson testified that "SCC" referred to St. Clair County, where he serves as Chief Judge. He testified emphatically that no one received a judicial appointment in exchange for providing a benefit to him, and he would never make such an exchange. Moreover, the judge appointed around that time did not even handle his divorce, and a judicial appointment must be approved by a majority of the eight circuit judges, not by him alone. (Tr. 23, 28-29).

C. Analysis and Conclusions

Rule 8.2(a) prohibits a lawyer from making a statement that the lawyer knows to be false, or with reckless disregard to its truth or falsity, concerning the qualifications or integrity of a judge. Ill. R. Prof'l Cond. R. 8.2(a). Rule 8.4(c) prohibits a lawyer from engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation. *Id.* at R. 8.4(c). The Administrator charged Respondent with violating Rule 8.2(a) by knowingly or recklessly posting false statements on social media that impugned the integrity of the Illinois Supreme Court (Counts II and IV), retired

Chief Justice Burke (Count V), and Judge Gleeson (Count VI). The Administrator also charged dishonest conduct in violation of Rule 8.4(c) based on the posts in Counts IV, V, and VI.

We begin by finding that Respondent made the alleged posts on the Lowery Twitter Account and the Lowery LinkedIn Account. Respondent admitted to making at least three of the same or similar posts that were found on the Lowery Twitter Account, including those at issue in Count II and Count V. She also admitted to making the Lowery LinkedIn Account post at issue in Count IV. In addition, we considered Mr. Pointer's testimony, which we find to be credible based on his experience as an investigator and our observations of his demeanor and candor. Mr. Pointer's testimony further convinced us that Respondent made the alleged posts, given the consistency of content across the two social media accounts and the direct connection between the posts and events occurring in Respondent's disciplinary matters. We find it particularly compelling that the August 11, 2023, post on the Lowery Twitter Account included a copy of a letter about Respondent that only she and her attorney would have had at that stage of the Administrator's confidential investigation.

Count II

Count II involved Respondent's alleged July 6, 2023, Twitter post claiming that "the ARDC & the Illinois Supreme Court has [*sic*] a history of permitting harassment of women until they comitt [*sic*] suicide or leave the bar[.]" Based on Respondent's admissions of making a similar post and our finding that Respondent made the posts on the Lowery Twitter Account, we find that she made this statement. Respondent's post clearly impugned the qualifications or integrity of the Court, whose justices are prohibited from engaging in harassment based on sex or gender while performing their judicial duties. Ill. Code Jud. Cond. R. 2.3. Because the evidence showed no objectively reasonable basis for this statement, which we note occurred just five months after the

Court's adverse ruling in Respondent's prior disciplinary matter, we find that Respondent knew it was false or recklessly disregarded the truth in making it.

For these reasons, we conclude that the Administrator proved by clear and convincing evidence that Respondent violated Rule 8.2(a), as charged in Count II.

Count IV

Count IV of the First Amended Complaint alleged four more social media posts by Respondent that falsely impugned the Illinois Supreme Court. While any one statement may constitute a violation of Rules 8.2(a) and 8.4(c), three of the four examples support our finding that Respondent clearly and convincingly violated these Rules.

First, we find that Respondent made the Lowery Twitter Account post on January 17, 2023, about the Court denying attorneys' First Amendment rights and subjecting attorneys to immediate discipline for expressing any opinion about a judge. This was the same day that the Court ordered Respondent's 30-day suspension for making a false statement that impugned Judge Gleeson and for making misrepresentations to the ARDC.

We take judicial notice that the Court has never made a blanket ruling that eliminates attorneys' right to freedom of speech, nor has the Court bypassed the disciplinary process by immediately sanctioning attorneys for their conduct. Rather, alleged misconduct must be proven by the Administrator through a hearing and review process, which Respondent knew because she had just been through it. Moreover, the Court has a long-established precedent that the First Amendment does not protect all speech, including false statements impugning the judiciary that are knowingly or recklessly made by attorneys. In re Amu, 2011PR00106, M.R. 26545 (May 16, 2014) (Review Bd. at 11-12).

By falsely accusing the Court of disregarding the attorney disciplinary process and constitutional rights, despite her actual knowledge and the objectively clear case law to the

contrary, Respondent knowingly or recklessly made a false statement that impugned the Court in violation of Rule 8.2(a). When an attorney so recklessly disregards the truth, it can be considered as knowingly engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation. In re Jackson, 2021PR000102, M.R. 031932 (Hearing Bd. at 18). Accordingly, we find that Respondent's post also constituted dishonest conduct in violation of Rule 8.4(c).

Second, we find that, on August 11, 2023, Respondent posted on the Lowery Twitter Account, accusing the Court of targeting a "hit list" of whistleblower attorneys and political opponents. The evidence showed no reasonable basis for such a statement, which Respondent also made in the months following the Court's disciplinary action. Thus, we find that Respondent made this statement knowing that it was false or with reckless disregard to the truth, in violation of Rule 8.2(a). Likewise, by making such a recklessly false statement, she engaged in conduct involving dishonesty or misrepresentation in violation of Rule 8.4(c).

Third, we find that, in fall 2023, Respondent posted on the Lowery LinkedIn Account, accusing the Court of acting like Nazis by following attorneys to a Holocaust Museum and spying on Jews, for the purpose of isolating Jews and making people afraid to associate with Jews. We find credible Mr. Pointer's testimony that the Administrator's inquiry about Respondent's attendance at an event at the Holocaust Museum in St. Louis was not motivated by anti-Semitism but rather was an attempt to verify Respondent's claim that her medical condition made her too sick to travel to the ARDC office.

We further find that no reasonable attorney would have interpreted the Administrator's letter in the way that Respondent did in her LinkedIn post. Respondent feigned ignorance of the context of the "confidential investigation," which the letter explicitly referenced as "Administrator's Investigation No. 2023IN01374." She had referred to that case number in

communications with Administrator's Counsel about the potential charges that later became Count I, so she knew that the museum inquiry was related to that ongoing investigation and was not random, nefarious governmental surveillance of a Jewish attorney. (Adm. Ex. 11 at 2, 12 at 1-2). Respondent's post deliberately obfuscated the purpose of the Administrator's investigation for a public audience that lacked the context she had.

The evidence showed no reasonable basis for Respondent's scurrilous accusations against the Court in her LinkedIn post, which she admitted to making. As such, we find that Respondent made these statements knowing that they were false or with reckless disregard to the truth, in violation of Rule 8.2(a), and that she thereby engaged in conduct involving dishonesty or misrepresentation, in violation of Rule 8.4(c).

Each of these three knowingly or recklessly false statements that impugned the judiciary through dishonest misrepresentations support our finding that Respondent clearly and convincingly violated Rules 8.2(a) and 8.4(c), as charged in Count IV. However, we note that the Administrator did not present any evidence about the alleged Twitter post from March 24, 2023, found in Paragraphs 25-27 of the First Amended Complaint, so our finding of misconduct is not based on that statement.

Count V

In Count V, the Administrator alleged that Respondent's November 2023 post on the Lowery Twitter Account falsely accused retired Chief Justice Burke of hating Jews and planning to destroy Respondent's career. Based on our finding that Respondent made the posts on the Lowery Twitter Account and Respondent's admission of making this post, we find that Respondent made the statement at issue. We further find that this statement impugned the qualifications or integrity of retired Chief Justice Burke, as the Code of Judicial Conduct prohibits

acts of bias or prejudice based on protected classes, including religion and ethnicity, while performing judicial duties and in judges' personal lives. Ill. Code Jud. Cond. R. 2.3, 3.1.

As the evidence showed no reasonable basis for Respondent's accusation, which again occurred in the months following the Court's disciplinary order, we find that Respondent made this statement knowing that it was false or with reckless disregard to the truth, and that Respondent thus engaged in conduct involving dishonesty or misrepresentation. We conclude that the Administrator proved by clear and convincing evidence that Respondent violated Rules 8.2(a) and 8.4(c), as charged in Count V.

Count VI

Count VI involved a post on the Lowery Twitter Account accusing Judge Gleeson of providing payment or a judicial appointment in exchange for another St. Clair County judge "sign[ing] off" on his divorce. Based on our finding that Respondent made the posts on the Lowery Twitter Account, we find that she made this specific post, which resembles the others in tone and language. Because we find Judge Gleeson to be a credible witness, we believe his testimony that he did not exchange benefits with another judge to gain a favorable outcome in his divorce case. We find Respondent's accusation to be even more implausible based on Judge Gleeson's testimony that the judge appointed around that time did not handle his divorce and that Judge Gleeson did not have the sole authority to approve such an appointment.

As the evidence showed no reasonable basis in fact for Respondent's statement about Judge Gleeson, we find that Respondent made this statement knowing that it was false or with reckless disregard to the truth, and that Respondent thereby engaged in conduct involving dishonesty or misrepresentation. We conclude that the Administrator proved by clear and convincing evidence that Respondent violated Rules 8.2(a) and 8.4(c), as charged in Count VI.

EVIDENCE OFFERED IN MITIGATION AND AGGRAVATION

Mitigation

Respondent did not appear at the hearing to present any mitigating evidence.

Aggravation

In the seven months that Respondent represented herself leading up the hearing in this matter, she filed over 40 motions, petitions, and objections with the Hearing Board or the Court. These included 10 motions to stay or continue the hearing; 7 motions to disqualify each assigned Hearing Board chair and member, all Commissioners of the ARDC, and the entire Illinois Supreme Court; and 2 motions to dismiss the amended complaint despite her awareness that such motions are not permitted under Commission Rule 235. (See Res. Motion to Dismiss Adm. Amend. Compl., Mar. 14, 2024, at par. 1). None of these requests were granted, after consideration at various times by Hearing Board Chair Jose A. Lopez Jr., Chairperson of the full Hearing Board Kenn Brotman, and the Court.

Respondent also filed numerous discovery-related motions. Respondent acknowledged that written interrogatories may only be served with leave of the Chair, upon good cause shown, according to Commission Rule 251. (Res. Motion for Leave to File Discovery, Oct. 26, 2023, at par. 2). Yet, after her first request to serve interrogatories was denied on November 2, 2023, she filed six more motions renewing her request, which she deemed the “right to conduct discovery.” (Res. Motion to Reconsider or in the Alternative Clarify Order, Nov. 2, 2023, at p. 6). Despite her insistence that the Chair “summarily rule[d] against Respondent on every single motion,” thereby “openly prov[ing] not only HIS bias, but the unconstitutional nature of the process,” the Chair granted some of Respondent’s motions, including allowing two of her interrogatories on March

14, 2024. (Res. Obj. to Assignment of Comm'r Due to Conflict of Interest, Apr. 1, 2024, at 6:03 p.m., at par. 4) (emphasis in original).

Not only were Respondent's pleadings voluminous and duplicative, but they also included hundreds of false, disrespectful, and vitriolic statements. A complete list would be too long to set forth here, but representative examples include the following:

- Respondent asserted multiple times that individuals associated with this proceeding had a conflict of interest because their political affiliation differed from hers.
(Res. Petition to Remove Chair for Cause, Nov. 7, 2023, at par. 2, 13; Res. Motion for Continuance & Motion to Remove Chair & Hearing Bd. for Cause, Apr. 25, 2024, at par. 13);
- Respondent stated, "So Ms. Lowery is being imprisoned in a state bar that won't let her leave by an Administrator who wants to put Jewish attorneys into a regulatory concentration camps [*sic*]."
(Res. Obj. to Adm. Motion to Amend & Motion for 137 Sanctions, Feb. 5, 2024, at par. 22).
- "This case is not about professional regulation – it is about bullying by a group of attorneys who hate Jews. ...
Individuals in the Illinois Bar are dying because of the abusive conduct by the Administrators. ...
In Illinois if an attorney is a white male, he can rape and pillage without fear of being charged or interim suspended. But if you are female, Black and Jewish, the ARDC will destroy your life and career."
(Res. Ans. to Rule 744 Petition, Feb. 7, 2024, at pars. 23, 24, 30);
- "The Administrator by her actions is arguing by analogy that the life of Emmett Till was a figment of our collective imaginations. Conduct that amounts to gas lighting. Gas lighting is a form of domestic violence, and it is emotional abuse. Yet the Administrator engages in the tactic as bar regulation and this Court refuses to address it."
(Res. Motion to Disqualify Ill. S.Ct. Due to Direct Conflict of Interest & Pecuniary Interest, Feb. 21, 2024, at par. 37);
- "Time and again as demonstrated in this case, when the metal met the mat, this Court and its Administrators failed its own Character & Fitness requirements. ...
Ms. Lowery retired from Illinois because this Court refuses to follow the Rule of Law, refuses to follow its Constitutional obligations and targets individuals in a way that reminds Margaret Jean Lowery of times that are best left in the past, Nazi Germany and Jim Crow South. ...
The Illinois Supreme Court reacts by cancelling the career of any woman who reports harassment just like Anita Hill and Christine Ford Blasey."

(Res. Petition to Transfer to Permanent Retirement Status & to Waive Rule, Mar. 5, 2024, at pp. 12, 18);

- Respondent asserted that she lives on an “Indian” reservation, that the Administrator violated federal law by “stalking” her there, and that, “[n]ot only does [*sic*] the Illinois Supreme Court laws not apply on an Indian Reservation, the Court and its justices are inferior to and subject to the concurrent jurisdiction of the Indian Nations and Federal Court. ... Ms. Lowery no longer lives in the USA, she lives in Indian country.”

(Res. Notice of Rule 137 Violation by Adm., Mar. 8, 2024, at pars. 14-15);

- Respondent contended that “[e]very single person within the Illinois Disciplinary system is a partisan political appointee of the Illinois Supreme Court,” and characterized the disciplinary system as one in which “everyone at the Court are politicians first and jurists/legal scholars second.”

(Res. Obj. to Assignment of Comm’r Due to Conflict of Interest, Apr. 1, 2024, at 6:03 p.m., at pars. 14, 16);

- “This case has been Andrew Gleeson’s psycho vendetta all along and now this Chair is being asked to participate in a conspiracy to deprive Ms. Lowery of her Oklahoma bar license [*sic*] by engaging in trial by ambush.”

(Res. Reply to Adm. Object [*sic*] to Permit Remote Testimony, Apr. 9, 2024, at p. 7);

- “Ms. Miller’s conduct is further evidence of bullying. She can pick up the phone and call Dr. VanSchoyck and ask him if he wrote the letter as his phone number is on his letterhead, but of course she won’t do that - because this quote applies perfection [*sic*] to Ms. Miller: f [*sic*]

Oh Madam Administrator, what a scold you are!

And when your man is down, how bold you are!

Of Christian (or Jewish) charity how scant you are!

And, auld Lang swine, how full of cant you are!”

(Res. Reply to Adm. Obj. to Continuance, Apr. 22, 2024, at par. 13);

- Respondent claimed that a conflict of interest existed because the attorney member of the Hearing Panel and her husband donated to Judge Gleeson’s campaign. However, that panel member has never been married, nor did she ever donate to Judge Gleeson’s campaign.

(Id. at par. 11(f); Tr. 7);

- “For Ms. Lowery to even write this pleading, she has to stop taking her medication. When she stops her medication, Respondent has uncontrollable projectile vomiting. Apparently the Chair and Ms. Miller want to see projectile vomiting all over the Chair, the Board and Ms. Miller so as to require the entire hearing board room to require a biohazard clean up because of the unreasonable stance of this Commission. ...

Here is today’s photo of the vomiting episode preparing this pleading filed.

[photograph of vomit on top of trash in a paper bag]"

(Res. Motion to Seal Medical Records from Public, Apr. 23, 2024, at pars. 5-7, 11);

- Respondent reported that her doctors called Chair Lopez “an idiot who clearly can’t read an affidavit and understand it,” and she agreed with them that “[h]is opinion isn’t worth the paper its [*sic*] written on” because a “100% failure rate is not bias, its [*sic*] an intention to harm.” She continued, “Then after creating this ‘shit show’ the ARDC and State of Illinois expect Ms. Lowery to do what, file pleadings from the OR surgical suite because their wrongful acts are the sole proximate cause of this entire event.”

(Res. Motion for Continuance & Motion to Remove Chair & Hearing Bd. for Cause, Apr. 25, 2024, at pars. 5, 16).

Respondent sent similar emails to Administrator’s Counsel. Despite her awareness of Supreme Court Rule 753(a)(1), which states that the Inquiry Board shall be comprised of lawyers and nonlawyers, Respondent said, “I demand to be judged by my peers and that excludes the nincompoop laypeople the Court ‘selects’ as their administrative whores.” (Adm. Ex. 32 at 1). In response to the Administrator’s objection to recording a deposition, Respondent wrote, “Are you insane?” (Adm. Ex. 44 at 4). Then, the week before the hearing, Respondent sent several photographs of herself with raised middle fingers, as mentioned in the Prehearing Proceedings section.

Nonetheless, Respondent claimed to have behaved appropriately throughout this proceeding, stating, “at every turn the Respondent acted in an Honorable way” and “Respondent is not a danger to the profession because even after everything that has been done to her, she still acts professionally in response to this Court.” (Ans. to Amend. Compl. at par. 18; Res. Motion to Disqualify Ill. S.Ct. Due to Direct Conflict of Interest & Pecuniary Interest, Feb. 21, 2024, at par. 38). In her words:

Respondent is ethical, honorable and not subject to public clamor or the whim of public opinion. She is a principled attorney, but can be a complete pain in the ass, speaking the truth to a fault. (Respondent knows that as she won’t agree to other peoples [*sic*] lies, and will tell them to their face to knock it off and do the right

thing.) But then again, that's not someone impugning anyone, that's merely an attorney enforcing this Court's Rules, Standards and Expectations.

(Res. Petition to Transfer to Permanent Retirement Status & to Waive Rule, Mar. 5, 2024, at p. 22).

At the hearing, Judge Gleeson testified that he generally did not worry about the security concerns of being a chief judge because he had spent a lifetime feeling safe while actively participating in his community. (Tr. 29-31). However, when Respondent posted on Twitter a photograph of the vehicle he was driving, parked about a block from the courthouse, "it upset that sense of security." (Tr. 31). Because of her post, he now thinks more seriously about the safety of himself and others who are with him. (*Id.*). Judge Gleeson further testified that, over the course of nearly seven years, he had to respond to "scurrilous accusations about [his] family," reported Respondent's conduct to the ARDC, and testified in both of Respondent's disciplinary matters. (Tr. 32-34). He explained that these issues involving Respondent had taken "an inordinate amount of time," which was "a nightmare of sorts" and "a surreal ordeal." (Tr. 33-34).

Prior Discipline

Respondent has been licensed to practice law in Illinois since 2000. She was previously suspended for 30 days, effective February 7, 2023, and ordered to complete the ARDC professionalism seminar for making a false statement about Judge Gleeson and making material misrepresentations to the Administrator, as explained in Section I B. In re Lowery, 2020PR00018, M.R. 031506 (Jan. 17, 2023)

RECOMMENDATION

A. Summary

Based on the egregious proven misconduct, significant aggravation, and lack of mitigation, the Hearing Board recommends that Respondent be disbarred.

B. Analysis

The purpose of the disciplinary process is not to punish attorneys, but to protect the public, maintain the integrity of the legal profession, and safeguard the administration of justice from reproach. In re Edmonds, 2014 IL 117696, ¶ 90. When recommending discipline, we must consider the nature of the misconduct and any factors in mitigation and aggravation. In re Gorecki, 208 Ill. 2d 350, 360-61, 802 N.E.2d 1194 (2003). We may also consider the deterrent value of a sanction, the need to impress upon others the seriousness of the misconduct, and whether the sanction will help preserve public confidence in the legal profession. Id.; In re Twohey, 191 Ill. 2d 75, 85, 727 N.E.2d 1028 (2000). We seek to recommend similar sanctions for similar types of misconduct, but we must decide each case on its own unique facts. Edmonds, 2014 IL 117696, ¶ 90.

Throughout this proceeding, Respondent has displayed shockingly unprofessional conduct, exemplified by the unprecedented scope and volume of baseless vitriol in her filings. Respondent wrongfully impugned nearly everyone involved with her disciplinary matters: witnesses; Administrator's Counsel; the Inquiry, Hearing, and Review Boards; and the Court. She continued this verbal tirade across more than 40 motions, petitions, and objections, as well as her responsive pleadings. We find no evidence in the record to support Respondent's claims of gender harassment, religious and ethnic discrimination, or conspiracy. Ironically, through these repeated false disparagements, Respondent perpetrated the very bullying that she so vehemently decried. We find this behavior to be significantly aggravating. In re Amu, 2011PR00106, M.R. 26545 (May 16, 2014) (Hearing Bd. at 31-32).

We also find aggravating Respondent's lack of remorse and "complete inability to recognize the wrongfulness of [her] acts." In re Lewis, 138 Ill. 2d 310, 347-48, 562 N.E.2d 198 (1990); see also Amu, 2011PR00106 (Hearing Bd. at 31). Throughout her pleadings, Respondent

portrayed herself as the victim of an unfair, abusive, and corrupt justice system, which oppressed her for exposing the truth about it. She described her own behavior as ethical, honorable, and professional. She took no responsibility for her misconduct or the scurrilous accusations and name-calling she employed while defending herself. For example, she claimed the Court was like “Nazi Germany and Jim Crow South;” referred to this case as “Andrew Gleeson’s psycho vendetta” and a ““shit show;”” referred to Administrator’s Counsel as “auld Lang swine;” called Inquiry Board members “administrative whores” and the Chair ““an idiot;”” and accused Administrator’s Counsel and the Chair of trying to kill her. She also emailed vulgar hand gestures to Administrator’s counsel and included in a motion a photograph of vomit. Respondent’s behavior throughout this disciplinary proceeding leaves us with no confidence in her ability to act ethically in the future. In re Samuels, 126 Ill. 2d 509, 531, 535 N.E.2d 808 (1989).

In addition, we find aggravating that Respondent caused risk of harm or actual harm to those she wrongfully impugned. In re Saladino, 71 Ill. 2d 263, 276, 375 N.E.2d 102 (1978). Judge Gleeson credibly testified that he spent an inordinate amount of time addressing Respondent’s conduct. He also testified that seeing a picture of his vehicle on her Twitter account upset his sense of security. Thus, we find that Respondent caused actual harm to Judge Gleeson. Moreover, we find that Respondent caused risk of harm or actual harm to the justice system and its judges with her unfounded accusations, especially those posted on her public social media accounts. “A suspicious public, and rightfully so, relies upon statements made by those who work within the system as to corruption therein. ... The damage that false allegations have on the public’s perception of the Court system is incalculable.” In re Palmisano, 92 CH 109, M.R. 10116 (May 19, 1994) (Hearing Bd. at 22). We find further aggravating that Respondent’s conduct was not an isolated incident but rather a pattern of behavior spanning nearly a year and a half, during which

she made hundreds of such statements to the Court, the Hearing Board, and the public. Lewis, 138 Ill. 2d at 342.

Respondent should have had a heightened awareness of her ethical obligations because of her prior discipline. In re Storment, 203 Ill. 2d 378, 401, 786 N.E.2d 963 (2002). Her license had just been suspended for 30 days in early 2023 for making a false statement impugning Judge Gleeson and for making material misrepresentations to the ARDC. Yet she continued to engage in similar behavior that increased in frequency and intensity throughout 2023 and 2024. This resulted in four counts being added to the original two counts in this matter, all regarding false or reckless statements impugning the judiciary. Based on the similarity of the misconduct and the short time between these two proceedings, we give Respondent's prior discipline significant weight in aggravation. In re Banks, 2020PR00068, M.R. 031115 (Mar. 25, 2022) (Hearing Bd. at 12).

Finally, we find it significantly aggravating that Respondent failed to cooperate with the disciplinary process. Her pre-hearing participation focused on causing delay and obfuscation by filing a steady stream of voluminous and often duplicative pleadings that were filled with false accusations and meritless legal arguments. Such behavior does not satisfy an attorney's duty to cooperate in this proceeding. In re Smith, 168 Ill. 2d 269, 296, 659 N.E.2d 896 (1995). Moreover, Respondent did not attend her hearing, as required by Supreme Court Rule 753(f). We found no credible evidence to support her claim that medical issues prevented her from preparing for and attending the hearing, as explained in the Prehearing Proceedings section. She was also offered the opportunity to appear remotely but did not do so. By failing to appear, Respondent not only missed the opportunity to provide any mitigating evidence and present argument regarding an appropriate sanction, but she also showed further disrespect for the disciplinary system.

The Administrator advocated for disbarment as our recommended sanction. In support, the Administrator cited In re Harshman, 05 SH 93, M.R. 21232 (Jan. 12, 2007); In re Denison, 2013PR00001, M.R. 27522 (Sept. 21, 2015)¹; and Amu, 2011PR00106. In light of these applicable cases and others found in our research, we recommend disbarment for Respondent.

Harshman was disbarred for “extremely serious” misconduct including conflicts of interest, improper fees, client neglect, and failure to cooperate with ARDC rules and procedures in two disciplinary proceedings. Harshman, 05 SH 93 (Hearing Bd. at 10). Like Harshman, Respondent had prior discipline which did not deter her from engaging in a pattern of misconduct of a similar nature both during and shortly after her first proceeding. Both Harshman and Respondent failed to attend the hearing in their second proceeding and demonstrated no mitigation. Id. at 10-14.

Respondent’s conduct was more egregious and more aggravated than the factually similar misconduct by Denison and Amu, who were suspended for three years and until further order of the Court. Denison knowingly or recklessly made 10 public blog posts over four months that falsely impugned the integrity of the judges and attorneys involved in a pending probate case. Denison, 2013PR00001 (Hearing Bd. at 11). Similar to Respondent, she showed no remorse for her harmful actions and continued falsely accusing others of serious wrongdoing while her disciplinary proceeding was pending. Id. at 48-51. However, Respondent’s misconduct merits a more severe sanction because, unlike Denison, Respondent had prior discipline, did not appear at her hearing, and presented no mitigating factors. Id. at 53. Respondent’s false or recklessly made statements also occurred over a longer period of time, in greater volume, and in larger scope, extending to pleadings and communications with opposing counsel, in addition to online posts.

Amu knowingly or recklessly made false statements impugning the integrity of four judges and the Illinois Appellate Court in multiple court filings, letters to the judiciary, and a public website over a seven-year period. Amu, 2011PR00106 (Hearing Bd. at 7-9, 14, 19-20, 25-26). Similar to Respondent, Amu lacked remorse and portrayed himself as courageous for speaking out against judicial unfairness and discrimination, yet he presented no evidence to support these claims, instead demonstrating that his false statements were in reaction to unfavorable rulings. Id. at 6-7, 19, 31. Amu's misconduct lasted longer than Respondent's, but he had no prior discipline, and he presented favorable character witnesses at his hearing. Id. at 31. In contrast, there are no mitigating factors in the present case. Although the Hearing Board considered disbaring Amu, they opined that a suspension for three years and until further order was as effective at protecting the public and deterring future misconduct, as Amu would have to demonstrate his changed ways before his license could be reinstated. Id. at 36-37. Considering Respondent's facts in light of Harshman, Denison, and Amu, we find disbarment to be an appropriate sanction for Respondent.

Additional cases have resulted in disbarment for attorneys who repeatedly made knowingly or recklessly false statements about the judiciary and who disrespected the disciplinary process. For example, an attorney was disbarred for his "continual abusive, unwarranted, unsubstantiated, false, scurrilous and scandalous" accusations of corruption and conspiracy "against everyone whom he feels has wronged him," including various judges and the ARDC. Palmisano, 92 CH 109 (Hearing Bd. at 24-25). Upon reviewing Palmisano's court filings, the Hearing Board stated, "we have seldom seen more vituperative, scandalous and unprofessional documents," which it found were in retaliation to adverse rulings and a perceived personal grievance. Id. at 23. Considering Palmisano's extreme unprofessionalism and the "incalculable" damage of false allegations on the public's perception of the court system, he was disbarred. Id. at 22, 25-26.

In another case, an attorney filed numerous motions falsely claiming that judges were discriminating based on political affiliation or race, biased by current or former relationships with opposing counsel, or otherwise conspiring against him and his clients. In re Kozel, 96 CH 50, M.R. 16530 (June 30, 2000). During his disciplinary proceeding for these and other charges, he filed over 30 “repeated frivolous, baseless and simply ridiculous” motions, seeking dismissal of the case, reconsideration of unfavorable rulings, and continuances from the Hearing Board, as well as seeking a supervisory order from the Court. Id. (Hearing Bd. at 84). The Review Board explained that this behavior “creates a need to pour over and address issues which have little or no relevance to the real issues in the case, and distracts the tribunal from being able to address, on their merits, legitimate issues presented and issues which are central to resolving the case.” Id. (Review Bd. at 10). In alignment with Palmisano and other precedent, Kozel was disbarred because of the proven misconduct and his behavior before the Hearing Board. Id. at 85.

Respondent’s misconduct was as egregious and aggravated, or more, than in these two cases. Respondent’s false accusations were at least as outrageous and as unsubstantiated as in Palmisano, and they occurred in greater number than in Kozel.

For all of these reasons, we determine that disbarment is warranted in order to protect the public from Respondent’s continued use of her law license to wrongfully impugn others and undermine public trust in the legal system. Considering the egregious proven misconduct, serious aggravating factors, lack of mitigation, and relevant case law, we recommend that Respondent, Margaret Jean Lowery, be disbarred.

Respectfully submitted,

Jose A. Lopez, Jr.
Martha M. Ferdinand
Elizabeth Delheimer

CERTIFICATION

I, Michelle M. Thome, Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission of the Supreme Court of Illinois and keeper of the records, hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true copy of the Report and Recommendation of the Hearing Board, approved by each Panel member, entered in the above entitled cause of record filed in my office on December 12, 2024.

/s/ Michelle M. Thome

Michelle M. Thome, Clerk of the
Attorney Registration and Disciplinary
Commission of the Supreme Court of Illinois

4932-7071-6421, v. 1

¹ While we find no misconduct for posting this text message, as none was charged by the Administrator, we do consider these posts as circumstantial evidence supporting our finding that Respondent knew she made a false statement about Judge Gleeson in her Objection to ARDC Petition for Taxation of Costs.

HARVARD FAMILY PHYSICIANS, P.C.

7912 E. 31st Court, Suite 220
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74145

18 May 2023

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Re: Patient Margaret J. Lowery, DOB 14 July 1961

This is an update of a letter I provided previously to the Illinois Attorney Registration & Disciplinary Commission.

I am Ms. Lowery's Primary Care Physician (PCP). I was her PCP when she lived in Tulsa, Oklahoma in the 1980's through 2000, until she moved to Illinois. I resumed being her PCP in June of 2020 because Ms. Lowery practices law in Oklahoma and it is her desire to return to Tulsa, Oklahoma permanently.

It is my understanding from visiting Ms. Lowery and from reviewing her health records that the following occurred:

Ms. Lowery began experiencing symptoms of fatigue, sore joints and night sweats in the fall of 2018. She had an existing diagnosis of hereditary hemochromatosis and some of these symptoms if mild would be consistent with that diagnosis. However, her symptoms gradually grew worse over a period of time and by the spring of 2020, Ms. Lowery's symptoms consisted of the following:

- Lack of energy
- Brain fog
- Night sweats
- Painful joints
- Difficulty concentrating & comprehending material
- Severe Fatigue
- High Blood Pressure
- Tachycardia which causes the feeling of severe anxiety

Ms. Lowery saw her PCP at Family Physician of O'Fallon in Illinois several times through 2018-2020 with no diagnosis. Finally in May/June of 2020, Ms. Lowery

ordered her own blood tests (she was a licensed EMT) and sent the results to her PCP in O'Fallon, Illinois who instructed her to take Vitamin C. Ms. Lowery concerned that something was being missed, faxed me her blood test results and requested a second opinion.

Upon my review of her records, my nurse called Ms. Lowery to schedule an immediate appointment the next day.

When Ms. Lowery arrived the next morning at my office, I informed her that something was very wrong.

The preliminary diagnosis was blood cancer, myeloproliferative neoplasm (MPN) subset Polycyemia Vera ("PV"). PV is a form of leukemia. As her PCP, I arranged for Ms. Lowery to see the top hematologist/oncologist in Tulsa that afternoon.

More tests were ordered and a treatment plan was devised and implemented. Ms. Lowery was informed that her blood cancer caused the thickening of her blood and in turn, caused the symptoms she was experiencing, especially the anxiety, fatigue which resulted in brain fog. The treatment for those symptoms is generally handled by the assigned specialist. Ms. Lowery fully cooperated with all of the recommendations by all of her providers.

Ms. Lowery underwent a series of treatments in October and November of 2020. She then tried to withdraw from some of the medications since her blood cancer was controlled, however the symptoms returned. A full body scan was then performed in the late summer of 2021 for potential tumors especially bone tumors. The scan identified a serious problem with Ms. Lowery's left kidney which required surgery. Surgery was scheduled for December of 2021, but due to the COVID pandemic was required to be moved to February 2022. Ms. Lowery then contracted COVID in February 2022 while in Tulsa preparing for surgery and the surgery again had to be postponed by eight weeks to comply with current health standards. The kidney surgery and follow up procedures were completed by the renal specialist and Ms. Lowery was discharged from his care.

After the June 2022, kidney surgery, Ms. Lowery contracted another bout of Covid in October of 2022. In the summer of 2022, Ms. Lowery began to experience more symptoms and she underwent cardiac testing which concluded in March of 2023.

Ms. Lowery's cancer is now considered controlled and she has returned to the full time practice of law in March of 2023.

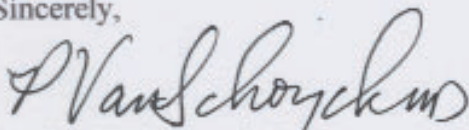
It is my opinion, *within a reasonable degree of medical certainty*, that if Ms. Lowery demonstrated confusion in a sworn statement during the time she suffered from undiagnosed blood cancer (July of 2019), it was directly caused by her blood cancer. Ms. Lowery has always been highly ethical and highly conscientious about her work as an attorney.

Her Polycythemia Vera reduced the amount of circulating oxygen to the body's organs, including the brain, which leads to brain fog and confusion. By taking a sworn statement while Ms. Lowery had untreated blood cancer, I would fully expect the results to be less than stellar, because such a situation would heighten her anxiety and thus exacerbate all of her other symptoms including brain fog.

I have known Ms. Lowery for more than thirty years. She is a competent and conscientious attorney. At all times throughout this process she fully cooperated with her providers, insured that my office and all her specialist received documentation from each other and she has been fully compliant in her health treatment plan. So conscientious is she about insuring her continued fitness to practice law, that she voluntarily has both an annual physical and neurological/mental evaluation to insure that her cancer is not affecting her ability to effectively practice law. While this was not recommended by me or any of her other providers, it demonstrates Ms. Lowery high ethical standards and compliance with her professional duties including her requirement to remain fit to practice law.

Despite her past health challenges, Ms. Lowery has and continues to be fit to practice law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "P Van Schoyck M.D." The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Patrick VanSchoyck, M.D.

Calendar Event Sheet [PR]

02/17/2026

Lowery, Margaret Jean

Matter Number: **2023PR00060** 09/18/2023
 Respondent / Petitioner: Lowery, Margaret Jean
 Attorney Number: 6271777
 Office: Springfield
 Public: Y
 Matter Status: Post Adjudication

Docket & MR Number(s):	<u>General Docket #</u>	<u>MR Case #</u>	<u>Subject</u>
		32889	* Supreme Court: 11/7/2025 - 1/15/2026
		32782	* Supreme Court: 8/15/2025 - 9/22/2025
		32221	* Supreme Court: 4/15/2024 - 5/1/2024
		32149	* Supreme Court: 3/5/2024 - 5/23/2024
		32026	* Supreme Court: 12/20/2023 - 3/12/2024

Supreme Court Rule: 753-Disciplinary Case
 Phase Event: * Supreme Court: 11/7/2025 - 1/15/2026
 Last Recorded Hearing Date: 11/21/2025 SC

Counsel for Administrator: Boroughf, Benjamin Lee 2025/01/15
 Counsel for Administrator: Splitt, Steven Robert 2025/01/15
 Counsel for Respondent: Lowery, Margaret Jean 2023/10/25

Last Assigned Panel: Review Board Assign Date
 Seitz, Esther Judith 05/07/2025
 Greer Shambley, Ashley N. 05/07/2025
 Thomas, Juan R. 05/07/2025

Hearing Board Assign Date
 Lopez Jr., Jose A. 12/08/2023
 Ferdinand, Martha M. 03/21/2024
 Delheimer, Elizabeth 03/25/2024

<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Entered By</u>
09/18/2023	Phase	Hearing Board	WatsonA
09/18/2023	Record	Complaint filed.	WatsonA
09/18/2023	Record	Notice of complaint filed. Order assigning Sonni Choi Williams, Chairperson of a Panel of the Hearing Board entered. Copies of complaint, order, notice, and pre-hearing conference procedures memorandum to Counsel for the Administrator for service.	WatsonA
09/19/2023	Record	Entry of appearance and acceptance of service pursuant to Rule 214(d) by William F. Moran, III as Counsel for Respondent filed.	ThomeM

Calendar Event Sheet [PR]

02/17/2026

Lowery, Margaret Jean

<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Entered By</u>
09/20/2023	Hearing	On the Chair's own motion and pursuant to Commission Rule 260, and with the agreement of the parties: 1. A pre-hearing conference in this matter is scheduled for October 23, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., and will be conducted by telephone. Counsel for the Administrator and Counsel for Respondent shall be available at that time and are responsible for calling in. The Clerk of the Commission shall provide the parties with the call-in information; and 2. At this pre-hearing conference, the Chair will enter a scheduling order setting certain dates, including the hearing date, in accordance with Commission Rule 260(c).. Proof of service filed.	ThomeM
09/26/2023	Record	Administrator's report pursuant to Commission Rule 253 and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	CerinoC
10/10/2023	Motion	Respondent's motion for an extension of time to file Respondent's answer and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
10/12/2023	Hearing	Order entered with proof of service filed: 1) Respondent's Motion is granted. Respondent shall file her answer to the Administrator's complaint on or before October 19, 2023; 2) The pre-hearing conference in this matter remains scheduled for October 23, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., and will be conducted by telephone. Counsel for the Administrator and Counsel for Respondent shall be available at that time and are responsible for calling in. The Clerk of the Commission shall provide the parties with the call-in information; and 3) At this pre-hearing conference, the Chair will enter a scheduling order setting certain dates, including the hearing date, in accordance with Commission Rule 260(c).	WatsonA
10/17/2023	Record	Respondent's answer to complaint and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
10/17/2023	Record	Respondent's report pursuant to Commission Rule 253 and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
10/23/2023	Hearing	Pre-hearing conference held by telephone before the Chairperson of a Hearing Panel. Present: Panel Member: Sonni Choi Williams, Chair. Administrator by: Rachel C. Miller, Counsel. Respondent by William F. Moran, III, Counsel. Pre-hearing conference continued until April 23, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. Hearing scheduled for May 2 and May 3, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.	WatsonA

Lowery, Margaret Jean

<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Entered By</u>
10/23/2023	Hearing	Order entered with proof of service filed: 1. The parties shall disclose all opinion witnesses and provide their reports and/or written opinions on or before March 15, 2024; 2. The parties shall complete all discovery on or before April 12, 2024; 3. The parties shall exchange the exhibits they propose to offer at hearing and their exhibit lists on or before April 19, 2024. Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 138, each party is responsible for redacting personal identifying information from their respective exhibits; 4. The parties shall file any stipulations of fact on or before April 19, 2024; 5. The parties shall file any joint motion for leave to file petition to impose discipline on consent on or before April 19, 2024; 6. All motions in limine shall be filed on or before April 19, 2024. Responses, if any, shall be filed on or before April 26, 2024; 7. A final pre-hearing conference is scheduled for April 23, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., and will be conducted by telephone. Counsel for the Administrator and Counsel for Respondent shall be available at that time and are responsible for calling in to the pre-hearing conference. The Clerk of the Commission shall provide the parties with call-in information; 8. A hearing in this matter is scheduled for May 2 and May 3, 2024, commencing at 9:30 a.m. each day, at the Springfield offices of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission, located at 3161 West White Oaks Drive, Suite 301; and 9. In conformance with the Clerk of the Commission's procedures for submitting exhibits electronically, prior to the hearing each party shall submit electronic copies of the documentary exhibits to be uploaded on the Commission's iPads. Alternatively, each party shall appear at the hearing with five (5) paper copies of all documentary exhibits prepared in conformance with Commission Rule 276. Regardless of whether exhibits are submitted in electronic or paper form, each party shall provide a paper copy of that party's table of exhibits to the Chair and opposing counsel at the commencement of the hearing.	WatsonA
10/25/2023	Motion	Respondent's motion for leave to substitute counsel and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
10/25/2023	Record	Entry of appearance for Respondent and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA

Calendar Event Sheet [PR]

02/17/2026

Lowery, Margaret Jean

<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Entered By</u>
10/26/2023	Motion	Respondent's motion for leave to file discovery and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	CerinoC
10/30/2023	Record	Administrator's response to Respondent's motion for leave to file discovery and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	CerinoC
10/30/2023	Record	Respondent's notice of filing of proposed order for substitution with proof of service	WatsonA
10/31/2023	Record	Respondent's request for production and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
10/31/2023	Record	Respondent's requests for admission of facts pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 216 and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
11/02/2023	Record	Order entered with proof of service filed: 1) Respondent's Motion For Leave To Substitute Counsel is granted and the entry of appearance for Margaret Jean Lowery is hereby filed instanter; 2) Respondent's Motion For Leave To File Discovery is denied; 3) The pre-hearing conference in this matter remains scheduled for April 23, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., and will be conducted by telephone. Counsel for the Administrator and Counsel for Respondent shall be available at that time and are responsible for calling in. The Clerk of the Commission shall provide the parties with the call-in information; and 4) All remaining dates in the October 23, 2023 order remain in effect.	WatsonA
11/02/2023	Motion	Respondent's motion to reconsider or in the alternative to clarify order and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	CerinoC
11/07/2023	Motion	Respondent's petition to remove Chair for cause and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
11/07/2023	Record	Administrator's response to Respondent's request for admission of facts pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 216 and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	CerinoC
11/07/2023	Record	Administrator's reply to response to the Respondent's request to production and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	CerinoC
11/07/2023	Record	Administrator's response to Respondent's motion to reconsider or in the alternative to clarify order and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	CerinoC
11/13/2023	Motion	Respondent's motion to compel request for admission & motion for 137 sanctions and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
11/13/2023	Motion	Administrator's motion for extension of time to respond	WatsonA

Calendar Event Sheet [PR]

02/17/2026

Lowery, Margaret Jean

<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Entered By</u>
11/13/2023	Record	and notice of filing with proof of service filed. Order entered with proof of service filed: 1) The Administrator's Motion is granted; and 2) The Administrator is granted an extension of time to respond to Respondent's Petition To Remove Chair For Cause to and including November 21, 2023.	WatsonA
11/17/2023	Record	Administrator's objection to Respondent's petition to remove Chair for cause and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
11/17/2023	Deadline	Administrator's objection to Respondent's motion to compel admission and motion for 137 sanctions and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
11/27/2023	Record	Order entered with proof of service filed: Respondent has not established cause for removal of the Hearing Panel Chair or grounds for any of the other relief she requests. Consequently, Respondent's Petition is denied.	ThomeM
11/28/2023	Record	Order entered with proof of service filed: The Clerk of the Commission is directed to reassign this matter to another Chair of the Hearing Board.	WatsonA
11/28/2023	Record	Order entered with proof of service filed: This case is reassigned to John L. Gilbert, Chairperson of a Panel of the Hearing Board.	WatsonA
11/30/2023	Record	Order entered with proof of service filed: 1. Respondent's Motion to Reconsider or in the Alternative to Clarify Order is denied; and 2. Respondent's Motion to Compel Request for Admission and Motion for 137 Sanctions is denied.	ThomeM
11/30/2023	Motion	Respondent's motion to reconsider or in the alternative motion to amend motion to compel and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
12/01/2023	Motion	Respondent's motion to remove Chair & vacate his order and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
12/06/2023	Record	Administrator's objection to Respondent's motion to reconsider or in the alternative motion to amend motion to compel and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
12/06/2023	Record	Administrator's objection to Respondent's motion to remove chair for cause & [sic] motion to vacate order and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
12/08/2023	Record	Order entered with proof of service filed: 1. The Hearing Board Order entered on November 30, 2023, is vacated; and 2. John L. Gilbert hereby recuses himself from this matter.	ThomeM

Calendar Event Sheet [PR]

02/17/2026

Lowery, Margaret Jean

<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Entered By</u>
12/08/2023	Record	Order entered with proof of service filed: 1. Respondent's Motion is denied as moot; and 2. The Clerk of the Commission is directed to reassign this matter to another Chair of the Hearing Board.	ThomeM
12/08/2023	Record	Order entered with proof of service filed: This case is reassigned to Jose A. Lopez, Jr., Chairperson of a Panel of the Hearing Board.	ThomeM
12/20/2023	Phase	Supreme Court	ThomeM
12/20/2023	Record	Copy of the Administrator's petition for interim suspension pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 774(a)(2) and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
12/28/2023	Hearing	Order entered with proof of service filed: A telephonic prehearing conference in this matter is scheduled for January 26, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. Counsel for the Administrator and Respondent are responsible for calling in to the prehearing conference. The Clerk of the Commission shall provide the parties with call-in information.	ThomeM
01/03/2024	Deadline	Supreme Court order entered January 3, 2024: Respondent Margaret J. Lowery is hereby ruled to show cause, in writing, why she should not be suspended from the practice of law effective immediately and until further order of the Court pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 774. The answer to this rule shall be filed in the office of the Clerk of this Court in Springfield on or before February 7, 2024. Order Entered by the Court. Overstreet, J., took no part. Letter from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	WatsonA
01/04/2024	Record	Respondent's subpoena return and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
01/04/2024	Record	Respondent's subpoena return synopsis and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
01/09/2024	Record	Respondent's notice to take evidence deposition with subpoena duces tecum and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	CerinoC
01/10/2024	Record	Copy of rule to show cause and affidavit of service filed.	ThomeM
01/10/2024	Motion	Administrator's motion to require Respondent to provide notice to the Administrator when she serves a subpoena and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
01/26/2024	Hearing	Pre-hearing conference held by telephone before the Chairperson of a Hearing Panel. Present: Panel	ThomeM

Calendar Event Sheet [PR]

02/17/2026

Lowery, Margaret Jean

<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Entered By</u>
01/26/2024	Record	<p>Member: Jose A. Lopez, Jr., Chair, Administrator by Rachel C. Miller, Counsel and Respondent, pro se. Pre-hearing conference concluded.</p> <p>Order entered with proof of service filed: 1. For the reasons stated on the record, the Administrator's Motion to Require Respondent to Provide Notice to the Administrator when She Serves a Subpoena is granted. The parties shall meet and confer regarding mutually agreeable dates before issuing subpoenas and shall comply with applicable Commission and Supreme Court Rules when serving discovery; and 2. The Chair respectfully requests that Counsel for the Administrator assist in obtaining the correspondence discussed during the pre-hearing conference. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: 3. The Order of November 30, 2023, addressing Respondent's Motion to Reconsider or in the Alternative to Clarify Order and Motion to Compel Request for Admission and Motion for 137 Sanctions, was vacated by Order entered on December 8, 2023. The Chair has considered said Motions and the Administrator's respective Response and Objection. Respondent's Motions are denied; and 4. The Chair has also considered Respondent's Motion to Reconsider or in the Alternative Motion to Amend Motion to Compel and the Administrator's Objection. That Motion is denied.</p>	ThomeM
01/29/2024	Record	Respondent's affidavit of attorney Ronald D. Wilkinson and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
01/30/2024	Record	Respondent's affidavit of attorney Ronald D. Wilkinson and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	CerinoC
01/31/2024	Motion	Administrator's motion to strike Respondent's affidavit of Ronald D. Wilkinson and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
02/01/2024	Record	Respondent's witness list/disclosure and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
02/02/2024	Motion	Administrator's motion for leave to file first amended complaint with first amended complaint and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
02/05/2024	Record	Respondent's objection to Administrator's motion to amend & motion for 137 sanctions and proof of service filed.	WatsonA
02/05/2024	Motion	The Administrator's motion for supervision of discovery pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 201(C)(2) and notice	WatsonA

Calendar Event Sheet [PR]

02/17/2026

Lowery, Margaret Jean

<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Entered By</u>
02/05/2024	Motion	of filing with proof of service filed. Administrator's motion for protective order pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 201(C)(1) for Keith Roberts, Synapsis and Caryn Haddix and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
02/05/2024	Motion	Respondent's motion for continuance of May hearing date with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
02/06/2024	Record	Administrator's response to Respondent's objection to Administrator's motion to amend & motion for 137 [sic] sanctions and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
02/06/2024	Record	Administrator's objection to Respondent's motion for continuance of May hearing date and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
02/07/2024	Record	Copy of Respondent's answer to Rule 744 (sic) petition filed.	ThomeM
02/08/2024	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	ThomeM
02/08/2024	Record	Date under advisement - Supreme Court	ThomeM
02/13/2024	Record	Report of proceedings of pre-hearing conference held on January 26, 2024 received.	WatsonA
02/14/2024	Deadline	Order entered with proof of service filed: 1. The Administrator's Motion to Strike Respondent's Affidavit of Ronald D. Wilkinson is granted. The affidavits of Ronald D. Wilkinson filed with the Clerk of the Commission on January 29, 2024 and January 30, 2024 are stricken. Respondent has identified Mr. Wilkinson as a fact and character witness in her Witness List/Disclosure filed on February 2, 2024, so she will have the opportunity to present his testimony at hearing, subject to the applicable rules of evidence; 2. The Administrator's Motion for Leave to File Amended Complaint is granted. The Administrator's First Amended Complaint is filed, instanter; 3. Respondent shall file an answer to the First Amended Complaint on or before March 6, 2024; 4. Respondent's Motion for Rule 137 Sanctions is denied; 5. The Administrator's Motion to Supervise Discovery Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 201(c)(2) and Motion for Protective Order Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 201(c)(1) are denied. The parties will be held to strict compliance with all applicable rules governing discovery and	WatsonA

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Lowery, Margaret Jean

<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Entered By</u>
		communications; and 6. Respondent's Motion for Continuance of May Hearing Date is denied.	
02/14/2024	Record	Administrator's amended complaint filed.	WatsonA
02/15/2024	Record	Respondent's answer to amended complaint and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	CerinoC
02/20/2024	Motion	Respondent's motion to compel Administrator to answer discovery with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
02/20/2024	Motion	Respondent's motion to schedule depositions and proof of service filed.	CerinoC
02/20/2024	Motion	The Administrator's motion to strike Respondent's first amended answer and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	CerinoC
02/20/2024	Record	Respondent's second requests for admissions pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 216 and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
02/21/2024	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	ThomeM
02/21/2024	Motion	Copy of Respondent's motion to file pleading under seal, Respondent's motion to disqualify Illinois Supreme Court due to direct conflict of interest & pecuniary interest and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
02/21/2024	Motion	Copy of Respondent's motion to stay proceedings with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
02/21/2024	Motion	Copy of Respondent's motion to require Clerk to accept pleadings for filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
02/21/2024	Motion	Respondent's motion to stay proceedings and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
02/22/2024	Motion	Administrator's motion to strike Administrator's counsel and Supreme Court Justices from Respondent's rule 253 witness list with notice of filing and proof of service filed.	CerinoC
02/22/2024	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	WatsonA
02/22/2024	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	WatsonA
02/22/2024	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	WatsonA
02/22/2024	Record	Copy of Respondent's response to motion to strike	WatsonA

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Lowery, Margaret Jean

<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Entered By</u>
02/23/2024	Record	pleadings with proof of service filed. Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	WatsonA
02/23/2024	Record	Copy of Administrator's objection to Respondent's motion to compel Administrator to answer discovery and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
02/23/2024	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	WatsonA
02/23/2024	Record	Copy of the Administrator's objection to motion to disqualify the Illinois Supreme Court due to direct conflict of interest and pecuniary interest and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
02/23/2024	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	WatsonA
02/23/2024	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	WatsonA
02/23/2024	Deadline	Copy of Administrator's objection to motion to stay proceedings and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
02/23/2024	Record	Copy of Administrator's objection to motion to require Clerk to accept pleadings for filing and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
02/27/2024	Record	Supreme Court order entered February 27, 2024: Motion by Margaret Jean Lowery to stay proceedings in this Court for one week. Denied. Order entered by Justice Cunningham.	WatsonA
02/27/2024	Record	Supreme Court order entered February 27, 2024: Motion by Margaret Jean Lowery to require Clerk to accept pleadings for filing. Denied. Order entered by Justice Cunningham.	WatsonA
02/28/2024	Record	Administrator's request for admissions of facts and genuineness of documents and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
03/04/2024	Record	Supreme Court order entered March 4, 2024: The motion to compel the Administrator to answer discovery is denied. Order entered by the Court. Neville, J., took no part. Overstreet, J., took no part.	WatsonA
03/04/2024	Record	Supreme Court order entered March 4, 2024: That the motion to disqualify the Illinois Supreme Court and all	WatsonA

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Lowery, Margaret Jean

<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Entered By</u>
03/05/2024	Phase	Commissioners of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission due to direct conflict of interest and pecuniary interest is denied. Order entered by the Court. Neville, J., took no part. Overstreet, J., took no part.	WatsonA
03/05/2024	Record	Supreme Court Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	WatsonA
03/05/2024	Record	Respondent's petition to transfer to permanent retirement status & to waive Rule with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
03/07/2024	Motion	Respondent's motion for leave to file interrogatories and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
03/08/2024	Motion	Respondent's motion for emergency stay & 137 sanctions and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
03/08/2024	Record	Respondent's notice of Rule 137 violation by Administrator and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
03/08/2024	Record	Copy of Administrator's objection to Respondent's petition to transfer to permanent retirement status and to waive rule and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
03/08/2024	Deadline	Administrator's response to Respondent's motion for leave to file interrogatories and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
03/08/2024	Motion	Respondent's motion in limine and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
03/12/2024	Record	Administrator's response to Respondent's second request for admission of facts pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 216 and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	CerinoC
03/12/2024	Disposition	Supreme Court order entered March 12, 2024: The rule to show cause that issued to respondent Margaret Jean Lowery pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 774 on January 3, 2024, is enforced. Respondent is suspended from the practice of law effective immediately and until further order of the Court. Order Entered by the Court. Neville, J., took no part. Overstreet, J., took no part. Letter from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	WatsonA
03/12/2024	Disposition	Mandate entered March 12, 2024.	WatsonA
03/13/2024	Record	Respondent's response to Administrator's motion to	ThomeM

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Lowery, Margaret Jean

<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Entered By</u>
03/13/2024	Motion	strike Respondent's witnesses and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
03/14/2024	Deadline	Respondent's motion for continuance and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	CerinoC
03/14/2024	Record	Administrator's objection to Respondent's motion for emergency stay and 137 [SIC} sanctions and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
03/14/2024	Record	Order entered with proof of service filed: 1. It is unclear from Respondent's Motion to Schedule Depositions what relief she requests. To the extent she seeks to require the Administrator to produce the listed persons for deposition, the Motion is denied. For any person served with a subpoena in compliance with all applicable rules, the parties shall cooperate in scheduling those depositions; 2. Respondent's Motion to Stay Proceedings is denied; 3. The Administrator's Motion to Strike Respondent's First Amended Answer is denied; 4. The Administrator's Motion to Strike Administrator's Counsel and Supreme Court Justices from Respondent's Rule 253 Witness List is granted. Chief Justice Mary Jane Theis, Justice David Overstreet, former Administrator Jerome Larkin, and Counsels for the Administrator Rachel C. Miller and Peter L. Rotskoff are stricken from Respondent's Witness List/Disclosure filed on February 2, 2024.	ThomeM
03/14/2024	Record	Order entered with proof of service filed: 1. Respondent's Motion For Leave To File Interrogatories is granted, in part, but only as to interrogatory 7 and 8. All other interrogatories are denied; and 2. Respondent's Motion For Emergency Stay & 137 [sic] Sanctions is denied.	ThomeM
03/14/2024	Motion	Respondent's motion to dismiss the Administrator's amended complaint and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	CerinoC
03/14/2024	Motion	Respondent's motion to clarify & motion in limine and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	CerinoC
03/14/2024	Deadline	Administrator's objection to Respondent's motion to dismiss the amended complaint and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	CerinoC
03/14/2024	Record	Administrator's objection to Respondent's motion to continue and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	CerinoC
03/18/2024	Record	Order entered with proof of service filed: 1. Respondent's Motion in Limine is denied; 2.	WatsonA

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Lowery, Margaret Jean

<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Entered By</u>
03/19/2024	Record	Respondent's Motion for Continuance is denied; and 3. Respondent's Motion to Dismiss the Administrator's Amended Complaint is denied.	CerinoC
03/25/2024	Record	Respondent's answers to the Administrator's first request for admissions and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
03/25/2024	Record	Respondent's third request for production and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
03/29/2024	Motion	Order entered with proof of service filed: 1. Respondent's Motion to Clarify and Motion in Limine is granted in part and denied in part. Respondent's request to clarify the Order entered on March 14, 2024 is granted. Based on Respondent's representation that "[t]he only motion pending was the Motion for Leave to file the Second Set of Interrogatories which starts at #12," Paragraph 1 of the March 14 Order is stricken and Respondent's Motion for Leave to File Interrogatories is denied in its entirety; and 2. The remainder of Respondent's Motion to Clarify and Motion in Limine is denied.	WatsonA
04/01/2024	Motion	Respondent's motion to dismiss/sanctions for Administrator's destruction and spoliation of exculpatory evidence in this case and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
04/01/2024	Motion	Respondent's objection to assignment of Commissioner, Elizabeth Delheimer, due to conflict of interest panel and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
04/01/2024	Deadline	Respondent's objection to assignment of Commissioner, Martha M. Ferdinand, due to conflict of interest and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
04/01/2024	Record	Administrator's objection to Respondent's motion to dismiss and motion for sanctions against the Administrator and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
04/01/2024	Record	Order entered with proof of service filed: Martha M. Ferdinand is assigned as a hearing panel member in the above captioned matter.	CerinoC
04/01/2024	Record	Order entered with proof of service filed: Elizabeth Delheimer is assigned as a hearing panel member in the above captioned matter.	CerinoC
04/01/2024	Record	Order entered with proof of service filed: Respondent's Motion is denied.	WatsonA
04/02/2024	Motion	Respondent's motion for leave to file discovery and	WatsonA

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Lowery, Margaret Jean

<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Entered By</u>
04/03/2024	Record	notice of filing with proof of service filed. Administrator's objection to Respondent's motion for leave to file discovery and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
04/03/2024	Record	Administrator's objection to Respondent's objection to hearing panel member Martha Ferdinand and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
04/03/2024	Record	Administrator's objection to Respondent's objection to hearing panel member Elizabeth Delheimer and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
04/04/2024	Record	Order entered with proof of service filed: Although Respondent styled her filings as "Objections" rather than "Motions," the Chair takes them to be requests to either remove the panel members assigned to this matter or to allow Respondent the opportunity to voir dire them. Both of those requests are denied. The panel members have again confirmed that they do not have a conflict of interest in this matter.	WatsonA
04/05/2024	Motion	Respondent's motion to permit Respondent's audio/video CSR transcription and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
04/05/2024	Motion	Respondent's motion for leave to file discovery and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
04/05/2024	Motion	Respondent's motion to permit remote testimony and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
04/05/2024	Record	Respondent's notices to take discovery depositions of Andrew J. Gleeson, Stephen McGlynn and Mark Pointer and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	CerinoC
04/08/2024	Record	Respondent's second amended report pursuant to Commission Rule 253 and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
04/08/2024	Record	Respondent's subpoenas filed.	ThomeM
04/08/2024	Motion	Respondent's motion to strike Administrator's Rule 253 witness list and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
04/08/2024	Motion	Respondent's motion to bar all testimony on Counts 3-6 & to bar amendment of Rule 253 disclosure and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
04/08/2024	Record	Respondent's amended notice to take discovery deposition and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
04/09/2024	Record	Administrator's objection to Respondent's motion to permit remote testimony and notice of filing with proof	CerinoC

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Lowery, Margaret Jean

<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Entered By</u>
04/09/2024	Record	of service filed. Administrator's objection to Respondent's motion to permit audio/video CSR transcription and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	CerinoC
04/09/2024	Record	Administrator's objection to Respondent's amended motion for leave to file discovery and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	CerinoC
04/09/2024	Record	Administrator's amended report pursuant to Commission Rule 253 and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	CerinoC
04/09/2024	Record	Administrator's objection to Respondent's motion to strike Administrator's Rule 253 witness list and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	CerinoC
04/09/2024	Record	Administrator's objection to Respondent's motion to bar testimony on Count III through Count VI and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
04/09/2024	Record	Respondent's reply to Administrator's object to permit remote testimony and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
04/09/2024	Motion	Administrator's motion to bar Respondent's use video recording for deposition of Mark Pointer and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
04/09/2024	Record	Order entered with proof of service filed: 1. Both Motions for Leave to File Discovery are denied; 2. The Motion to Permit Audio/Video CSR Transcriptionist is denied, pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 44; 3. The Motion to Permit Remote Testimony is granted in part and denied in part. Judge Stiehl and Judge McGlynn are permitted to testify remotely. The remainder of the Motion to Permit Remote Testimony is denied; 4. The Motion to Strike Administrator's Rule 253 List is denied; and 5. The Motion to Bar All Testimony on Counts 3-6 & to Bar Amendment of Rule 253 Disclosure is denied.	WatsonA
04/09/2024	Record	Respondent's reply to Administrator's objection to strike Rule 253 & motion for stay/continuance per Rule 219 filed and proof of service filed.	CerinoC
04/09/2024	Record	Respondent's amended notice to take discovery deposition and certificate of service filed.	CerinoC
04/10/2024	Motion	Respondent's motion to stay proceedings and to remove chair for cause and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
04/10/2024	Motion	Administrator's motion to quash the April 9, 2024	WatsonA

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Lowery, Margaret Jean

<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Entered By</u>
04/10/2024	Motion	notice of deposition of Judge Andrew Gleeson and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
04/10/2024	Record	Respondent's notice of filing/pendency of Federal Lawsuit with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
04/11/2024	Record	Administrator's objection to Respondent's combined motion to stay this proceeding and motion to remove the hearing panel chair for cause and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	CerinoC
04/11/2024	Record	Respondent's answer to Administrator's objection to deposition of Gleeson and motion to reconsider prior Order and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
04/12/2024	Record	Order entered with proof of service filed: Respondent's Motion is denied.	ThomeM
04/12/2024	Record	Order entered with proof of service filed: The Administrator's Motion is granted, with the following requirements: a. Counsel for the Administrator and Respondent shall meet and confer to schedule a date for the deposition of Judge Andrew Gleeson, and that the deposition may occur after the close of discovery, if necessary; b. The deposition may be conducted remotely; and c. The deposition may only be recorded/transcribed by a certified court reporter pursuant to Rule 206.	ThomeM
04/12/2024	Record	Respondent's notice of emergency appeal and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
04/12/2024	Record	Respondent's second amended witness list/disclosure and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
04/12/2024	Motion	Respondent's motion to compel Administrator to complete discovery and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
04/15/2024	Phase	Supreme Court	ThomeM
04/15/2024	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	ThomeM
04/15/2024	Motion	Copy of Movant Judge Andrew Gleeson's motion to quash deposition and subpoena issued to Judge Andrew Gleeson and proof of service filed.	WatsonA
04/16/2024	Deadline	Administrator's objection to Respondent's motion to compel Administrator to complete discovery and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	CerinoC
04/16/2024	Hearing	Pre-hearing conference held by telephone before the Chairperson of a Hearing Panel. Present: Panel Member: Jose A. Lopez Jr., Chair. Administrator by:	WatsonA

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<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Entered By</u>
04/17/2024	Record	Rachel C. Miller, Counsel. Respondent, Pro se. Pre-hearing conference concluded. Hearing remains scheduled for May 2 and May 3, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. Order entered with proof of service filed: 1. The Administrator's Motion to Bar is granted, with the following requirements: a. The deposition of Mark Pointer may proceed after the close of discovery. Counsel for the Administrator and Respondent shall meet and confer to schedule a date for the deposition. b. The deposition may not be video recorded. If necessary, the deposition may be audio recorded by a certified court reporter for the sole purpose of aiding with transcription. No portion of any such recording may be disseminated, posted on social media, or otherwise published. No other audio recording is permitted. 2. Respondent's Motion to Compel Administrator to Complete Discovery is denied; and 3. Respondent's Motion for Stay/Continuance Per Rule 219 is denied.	WatsonA
04/19/2024	Record	(UNDER SEAL) Pursuant to Hearing Board Order filed 4/23/24. Letter with heading titled Vanschoyck Family Medicine filed 4/19/24.	WatsonA
04/19/2024	Motion	Respondent's motion to continue hearing and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
04/19/2024	Record	The Administrator's objection to Respondent's motion to continue hearing and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
04/22/2024	Record	Respondent's reply to Administrator's objection to continuance and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
04/22/2024	Record	Respondent's no link for pretrial/no ability to appear and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
04/22/2024	Record	Order entered with proof of service filed: Respondent's Motion to Continue Hearing is denied. Respondent has not met the standards necessary to justify a continuance. Commission Rule 272 states that "No hearing or prehearing conference shall be continued at the request of any party except upon written motion supported by affidavit." Respondent's motion is not supported by affidavit. In addition, a party requesting a continuance for medical reasons must support the request with competent medical testimony stating the nature of the party's medical problems and the reasons why the party cannot attend the scheduled hearing. See In re Marriage	WatsonA

Lowery, Margaret Jean

<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Entered By</u>
		of Ward, 282 Ill. App. 3d-423, 430-31, 668 N.E.2d 149 (1996), In re Marriage of Gallagher, 256 Ill. App. 3d 439, 442, 628 N.E.2d 389 (1993), In re Duric, 2015PR00052, M.R. 030734 (May 18, 2021) (Hearing Bd. at 3; Review Bd. at 7-12). The physician's letter Respondent provided does not meet this standard, nor has Respondent provided medical records supporting her motion. Further, Respondent has continued to file motions and other pleadings despite her contention that she has been unable to practice law since April 11, which contradicts her claimed inability to prepare for the hearing in this matter.	
04/22/2024	Motion	Respondent's motion to continue hearing and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
04/22/2024	Record	(UNDER SEAL) Pursuant to Hearing Board Order filed 4/23/24, attachments from Respondent's motion to continue hearing filed 4/22/24.	WatsonA
04/22/2024	Record	The Administrator's objection to Respondent's motion to continue and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
04/23/2024	Motion	Order entered with proof of service filed: Respondent's Motion to Continue Hearing is denied for the same reasons her previous motion to continue was denied. She has not provided sufficiently detailed information about the nature of her medical condition and why she is unable to appear at hearing.	ThomeM
04/23/2024	Motion	Respondent's motion to seal medical records from public and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
04/23/2024	Hearing	Pre-hearing conference held by telephone before the Chairperson of a Hearing Panel. Present: Panel Member: Jose A. Lopez Jr., Chair. Administrator by: Rachel C. Miller, Counsel. Respondent, Pro se. Pre-hearing conference concluded. Hearing remains scheduled for May 2 and May 3, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.	WatsonA
04/23/2024	Record	Order entered with proof of service filed: 1. The Chair having considered Respondent's Motion to Seal Medical Records (Motion), and the Administrator having no objection to the request to file the medical record attached to the Motion under seal, Respondent's request to file said medical record under seal is granted. The following documents that Respondent previously filed shall also be sealed: the letter from Respondent's physician filed on April 19, 2024; the same physician's	WatsonA

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<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Entered By</u>
		letter filed again on April 22, 2024; and the affidavits from Respondent and her physician filed on April 22, 2024. Should Respondent file additional medical records, they shall be sealed. All other requests contained in the Motion are denied; 2. The hearing in this matter remains scheduled for May 2 and 3, 2024, commencing at 9:30 a.m. each day, at the Springfield offices of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission, located at 3161 West White Oaks Drive, Suite 301; and 3. In conformance with the Clerk of the Commission's procedures for submitting exhibits electronically, prior to the hearing each party shall submit electronic copies of the documentary exhibits to be uploaded on the Commission's iPads. Alternatively, each party shall appear at the hearing with five (5) paper copies of all documentary exhibits prepared in conformance with Commission Rule 276. Regardless of whether exhibits are submitted in electronic or paper form, each party shall provide a paper copy of that party's table of exhibits to the Chair and opposing counsel at the commencement of the hearing.	
04/24/2024	Motion	Respondent's motion for continuance for cause and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
04/25/2024	Record	Report of proceedings of pre-hearing conference held on April 23, 2024 received.	ThomeM
04/25/2024	Record	Administrator's objection to Respondent's motion to continue and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
04/25/2024	Record	(UNDER SEAL) Pursuant to Hearing Board Order filed 4/23/24, (UNDER SEAL) attachments from Respondent's motion for sanctions against Administrator filed 4/25/24.	WatsonA
04/25/2024	Record	(UNDER SEAL) Pursuant to Hearing Board Order filed 4/23/24, attachments from Administrator's objection to Respondent's motion to continue (exhibit 1 emails) filed 4/25/24.	WatsonA
04/25/2024	Record	(UNDER SEAL) Pursuant to Hearing Board Order filed 4/23/24, attachment Respondent's Motion for Continuance & Motion to Remove Chair & Hearing Board for Cause filed 4/25/24.	WatsonA
04/25/2024	Motion	Respondent's motion for continuance & motion to remove Chair & Hearing Board for cause and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
04/25/2024	Motion	Respondent's motion for sanctions against	WatsonA

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Lowery, Margaret Jean

<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Entered By</u>
04/26/2024	Record	Administrator and notice of filing with proof of service filed. (UNDER SEAL) Pursuant to Hearing Board Order filed 4/23/24, attachments from Administrator's objections to Respondent's motion for sanctions against Administrator [sic] filed April 26, 2024.	WatsonA
04/26/2024	Record	Administrator's objection to Respondent's motion to continue date and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
04/26/2024	Record	Administrator's objections to Respondent's motion for sanctions against Administrator [sic] and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
04/26/2024	Record	Administrator's objection to Respondent's motion to remove the Hearing Panel Chair & Hearing Board for cause and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
04/29/2024	Record	Order entered with proof of service filed: Respondent's Motions are denied.	ThomeM
04/29/2024	Record	Order entered with proof of service filed: Respondent's Motion is denied.	ThomeM
04/29/2024	Record	Order entered with proof of service filed: Respondent's Motion for Continuance for Cause is denied for the same reasons her previous motions to continue were denied. She has not provided sufficiently detailed information about the nature of her medical condition and why she is unable to appear at hearing.	WatsonA
05/01/2024	Disposition	Supreme Court order entered May 1, 2024: IT IS ORDERED that the motion to quash subpoena duces tecum and notice of deposition issued to him to take place on April 12, 2024, is allowed. Order Entered by the Court. Neville, J., took no part. Overstreet, J., took no part. Letter from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	WatsonA
05/01/2024	Motion	Respondent's motion for continuance due to temporary disability and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
05/01/2024	Record	(UNDER SEAL) Pursuant to Hearing Board Order filed 4/24/24, attachment Respondent's motion for continuance due to temporary disability filed 5/1/24.	WatsonA
05/02/2024	Record	Administrator's objection to Respondent's motion for continuance due to temporary disability and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
05/02/2024	Motion	Order entered with proof of service filed: Respondent's Motion for Continuance Due to Temporary Disability is denied for the reasons stated pursuant a written order to come. Nevertheless, pursuant to Respondent's previous	ThomeM

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Lowery, Margaret Jean

<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Entered By</u>
		request and in the interests of justice and efficiency, the Hearing Panel will permit Respondent to appear at the May 2 and 3, 2024, hearing remotely. The Clerk shall provide remote appearance information to Respondent by email and shall contact Respondent by phone to inform her of the entry of this Order. The hearing will commence at 10:30 a.m. on May 2, 2024.	
05/02/2024	Record	Order entered with proof of service filed: The Hearing scheduled for May 3, 2024, is hereby vacated.	ThomeM
05/02/2024	Hearing	Contested hearing held before a Panel of the Hearing Board. Present: Panel members: Jose A. Lopez, Jr., Chair, Martha M. Ferdinand and Elizabeth Delheimer. Administrator by Rachel C. Miller, Counsel. Respondent, pro se did not appear or participate. Witnesses called and testimony taken. Hearing concluded and matter taken under advisement.	ThomeM
05/02/2024	Record	Date under advisement - Hearing Board	ThomeM
05/02/2024	Deadline	Order entered with proof of service filed: 1. The Administrator is directed to file any prior orders or opinions imposing discipline on the Respondent, that are not already in evidence on or before May 9, 2024; 2. The Administrator may file written argument not to exceed five pages in length regarding the effect to be given to the prior discipline on or before May 9, 2024; and 3. Within seven days after the filing of prior disciplinary orders or opinions, the Respondent may file a written argument not to exceed five pages in length regarding the effect to be given to the prior discipline.	ThomeM
05/03/2024	Record	Administrator's argument under Commission Rule 277 regarding the effect to be given Respondent's prior discipline and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
05/10/2024	Record	Order entered with proof of service filed: In an Order dated May 2, 2024, the Chair denied Respondent's Motion for Continuance Due to Temporary Disability and stated that the reasons for the denial would be set forth in an additional order. Accordingly, the reasons for the denial are as follows: Commission Rule 272 provides that a hearing may be continued at the Chair's discretion, but no hearing shall be continued "except upon written motion supported by affidavit. No hearing shall be continued at the request of a party except under extraordinary circumstances." Ms. Lowery has	WatsonA

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		<p>requested to continue the hearing or stay the proceedings in this matter at least nine times, and each time she has failed to prove the requisite “extraordinary circumstances.” See In re Duric, 2015PR00052, M.R. 030734 (May 10, 2021) (Review Bd. at 8) (the party seeking the continuance bears the burden to show “extraordinary circumstances”). On October 23, 2023, the Hearing Board scheduled Ms. Lowery's hearing in this matter for May 2 and 3, 2024. After 4:00 p.m. on May 1, 2024, Ms. Lowery filed a Motion for Continuance Due to Temporary Disability (Motion). The Motion included 27 pages of attachments, including an affidavit of Patrick VanSchoyck, M.D., dated April 29, 2024; a letter from Patrick VanSchoyck, M.D., dated May 18, 2023; a screenshot of the results of a CT scan on December 11, 2023; a screenshot of the results of an ECG on April 15, 2024; a screenshot of lab-testing results of blood collected on April 15, 2024; patient information sheets about prescription opioids and sepsis from St. Francis Hospital, printed on April 15, 2024; an Anesthesia Postprocedure Evaluation from St. Francis Hospital on April 26, 2024; a screenshot of the results of a retrograde pyelogram on April 26, 2024; and an affidavit of Respondent dated April 29, 2024. All but one of these exhibits fail to constitute competent, credible, and/or reliable evidence, and the remaining exhibit fails to establish “extraordinary circumstances” as required by Commission Rule 272. First, the CT scan, ECG, blood test, and retrograde pyelogram screenshots are not reliable evidence because none of these purported medical records contain Respondent's name or otherwise identify that they are her test results. More important, even if they were Respondent's test results, they contain no information that would establish that Respondent was unable to appear for her hearing on May 2, 2024. Second, although Respondent's name is printed at the top of the patient information sheets, these merely contain general information and do not indicate that Respondent was prescribed opioids or diagnosed with sepsis. While Respondent (or someone on her behalf) has represented that she is taking opioids, Respondent has never provided proof of a prescription or medical record</p>	

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		<p>indicating that she is taking opioids. Thus, these are also not reliable evidence. Third, even if a year-old medical opinion were considered relevant to the current Motion, the authenticity of the May 2023 letter from Dr. VanShoyck is questionable, as the images of the first two pages differ substantially in form from the third page, which is the only page containing Dr. VanShoyck's name or signature. Next, the Hearing Board wonders why Respondent waited until the late afternoon of May 1, 2024 - that is, the eve of the hearing - to file her Motion when Dr. VanShoyck's affidavit was dated two days prior. Regardless, Dr. VanShoyck's April 29, 2024, affidavit is not competent evidence because it lacks foundation for the facts reported and the medical opinions based on those facts. Like Dr. VanShoyck's April 24, 2024, affidavit and April 14, 2024, letter - which the Hearing Board rejected as insufficient support for Respondent's previous motions to continue - the April 29 affidavit lacks any statement that Dr. VanShoyck personally witnessed the events he describes in his affidavit or that he personally examined Respondent to form the basis for his purported medical opinions. Moreover, Dr. VanShoyck's April 29 affidavit is contradicted by hospital records. The affidavit states: "On April 25, 2024 [Respondent] saw the Clinical Director of St. Francis Hospital who ordered her into emergency surgery on April 26, 2024. She had sepsis and was going into septic shock. ... When a patient becomes septic, they become confused, agitated, run a fever and can present with delirium[.]" However, the hospital records provided by Respondent contain no indication that she was diagnosed with sepsis. The April 26, 2024, Anesthesia Postprocedure Evaluation listed hematuria and kidney stone as her only diagnoses and described her procedure as a kidney stone extraction with ureteral stent placement. It further indicated that Respondent's temperature was a normal 97.5 degrees Fahrenheit at 1:45 p.m. on April 26, 2024, and that she was cleared for discharge that day with a pain score of "1," which presumably is the lowest level of pain. In addition, the hospital records contain nothing about post-surgery recovery time or activity restrictions, contrary to Dr.</p>	

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		<p>Van Shoyck's claim that Respondent required six weeks' recuperation time, during which she could not prepare for, travel to, or participate in a hearing. Dr. VanShoyck's claims in his affidavit are further undermined by the fact that Respondent signed an eight-page, 30-paragraph affidavit on April 29, 2024, which she attached to her Motion. Although Respondent asserted in her affidavit that she has had “a raging systemic infection which has prevented her from preparing her case properly since December of 2023,” she has filed over 30 motions, plus many other responsive pleadings and discovery requests, since then. Her active participation in this matter belies her claim that she has been unable to prepare for her hearing. See Duric, 2015PR00052 (Review Bd. at 12) (attorney's continued practice of law, which contradicted his alleged health concerns, was a valid basis for denying his continuance request). Moreover, Respondent's affidavit suffers from credibility issues similar to Dr. VanShoyck's. For example, she states that, on April 25, 2024, her doctors “realized Ms. Lowery had overwhelming sepsis and was headed into septic shock with death imminet [sic] ... resulting without surgery.” Yet, the hospital records provided by Respondent contain no indication that she was suffering from sepsis either before or after her kidney stone removal, or that this surgery was anything but routine and successful.</p> <p>In sum, the only competent, credible, and reliable evidence accompanying Respondent's Motion is the April 26, 2024, Anesthesia Postprocedure Evaluation, and it does not demonstrate the “extraordinary circumstances” required by Commission Rule 272. Respondent thus failed to meet her burden of showing that a continuance of her hearing was warranted. Nonetheless, because Respondent is a pro se litigant, the Hearing Board determined that it would be appropriate to give her some leeway and afford her an opportunity to present her case. Thus, in the interests of both justice and efficiency, and with no objection from the Administrator, the Hearing Board granted leave for Respondent to appear at her May 2, 2024 hearing remotely. The hearing start was delayed by one hour, to</p>	

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		10:30 a.m., in order to allow the Clerk to notify Respondent of the Order and provide remote appearance information. Neither Respondent nor anyone on her behalf appeared remotely at any point during the hearing, which proceeded in Respondent's absence.	
05/14/2024	Record	Report of proceedings of Hearing held on May 2, 2024 received.	ThomeM
05/23/2024	Record	Supreme Court order entered May 23, 2024: 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.	WatsonA
05/23/2024	Disposition	Mandate entered May 23, 2024.	WatsonA
12/12/2024	Disposition	Report and Recommendation of the Hearing Board recommending Respondent be disbarred filed.	WatsonA
12/12/2024	Record	Notice to review with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
12/26/2024	Motion	Respondent's motion for additional time to file exception & request to withdraw opinion from publication and notice of filing filed.	WatsonA
12/27/2024	Motion	Respondent's motion for additional time with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
12/27/2024	Record	Respondent's notice of initial exceptions with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
01/02/2025	Record	Administrator's objection to Respondent's combined motion for extension of time and motion to withdraw opinion [sic] from publication and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
01/02/2025	Motion	Respondent's addendum to motion request for additional time & request to file this motion under seal filed.	ThomeM
01/02/2025	Phase	Review Board	ThomeM
01/02/2025	Record	Respondent-Appellant's notice of initial exception with certificate of service filed.	ThomeM
01/02/2025	Record	Respondent's response to Administrator's objection with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
01/02/2025	Record	Respondent's notice of Rule 11 violation with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
01/06/2025	Record	Order entered with proof of service filed: Respondent's request for additional time to file exceptions is denied as moot, as Respondent has already filed exceptions. Respondent's request to withdraw the Hearing Board Report and Recommendation from publication and her	ThomeM

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01/06/2025	Record	request to seal her pleadings identified above are denied. Notice to the Review Board of Respondent-Appellant's notice of exceptions to the report and recommendation of the Hearing Board with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
01/06/2025	Hearing	Order entered: 1) Respondent-Appellant's brief is due on or before February 6, 2025; 2) The Administrator-Appellee's brief is due on or before March 13, 2025; 3) Respondent-Appellant's reply brief, if any, is due on or before March 27, 2025; 4) Oral argument in this matter is scheduled for May 9, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., at the offices of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission located at One Prudential Plaza, 130 East Randolph Drive, Suite 1500, Chicago, IL 60601; and 5) Motions for extensions are not favored and will be allowed only in the most extreme and compelling circumstances. A request for a change in this briefing schedule shall be filed no later than five (5) business days before the date on which the brief is due. On the day the motion is filed, a copy shall be served on opposing counsel by e-mail and United States mail. Prior to filing such a request the moving party shall contact counsel for the other party and the request shall state whether the other party agrees or opposes the request. The party opposing the request shall file a brief explanation of its position, no later than three (3) business days after the request is filed.	WatsonA
01/07/2025	Motion	Administrator-Appellee's motion to substitute counsel, appearance of Steven R. Splitt as counsel for the Administrator and notice of filing and proof of service filed.	CerinoC
01/15/2025	Record	Order entered: 1) The Administrator-Appellee's Motion is granted; and 2) The appearance of Steven R. Splitt as Counsel for the Administrator in this matter is hereby filed instanter.	WatsonA
01/15/2025	Record	Additional appearance of Benjamin L. Boroughf as counsel for the Administrator and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
02/05/2025	Motion	Respondent-Appellant's motion to stay & or additional time and notice of filing filed. (Brief due February 6, 2025; requesting to and including March 15, 2025).	ThomeM
02/07/2025	Record	The Administrator-Appellee's response to Respondent-Appellant's motion for stay & or additional	ThomeM

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02/07/2025	Record	time and notice of filing with proof of service filed. Respondent-Appellant's reply to Administrator's response to additional time with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
02/07/2025	Deadline	Order entered: 1) Respondent-Appellant's Motion for Stay is denied; 2) Respondent-Appellant's Motion for additional time is granted, in part; 3) Respondent-Appellant's brief is due on or before March 14, 2025; 4) The Administrator-Appellee's brief is due on or before April 18, 2025; 5) Respondent-Appellant's reply brief, if any, is due on or before May 2, 2025; 6) Oral argument in this matter remains scheduled for May 9, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., at the offices of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission, located at One Prudential Plaza, 130 East Randolph Drive, Suite 1500, Chicago, Illinois 60601; and 7) Motions for extensions are not favored and will be allowed only in the most extreme and compelling circumstances. A request for a change in this briefing schedule shall be filed no later than five (5) business days before the date on which the brief is due. On the day the motion is filed, a copy shall be served on opposing counsel by e-mail. Prior to filing such a request the moving party shall contact counsel for the other party and the request shall state whether the other party agrees or opposes the request. The party opposing the request shall file a brief explanation of its position, no later than three (3) business days after the request is filed.	ThomeM
03/14/2025	Motion	Respondent-Appellant's motion to disqualify, motion for stay, motion for new trial with proof of service filed (e-mailed copy with exhibits).	ThomeM
03/14/2025	Motion	Respondent-Appellant's motion to disqualify, motion for stay, motion for new trial with proof of service filed (e-filed copy without exhibits).	ThomeM
03/18/2025	Deadline	The Administrator-Appellee's response to Respondent's "motion to disqualify motion for stay motion for new trial" and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
03/19/2025	Motion	Respondent-Appellant's motion to produce transcript of Inquiry Board filed.	ThomeM
03/19/2025	Hearing	Order entered: 1) Respondent-Appellant's Motion To Disqualify is denied; 2) Respondent-Appellant's Motion For Stay is denied; and 3) Respondent-Appellant's Motion For New Trial is denied. On the Chair's own motion and pursuant to Commission Rules 302 and	ThomeM

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		304, 4) Respondent-Appellant's brief is due on or before April 22, 2025. Final extension. If the Appellant should encounter an issue with e-File, the Clerk of the Commission is directed to accept the filing of the brief by email. If the Appellant fails to file a brief by the aforementioned due date, the Appellant's exceptions will be stricken, and this matter will proceed as if those exceptions had not been filed; 5) The Administrator-Appellee's brief is due on or before May 27, 2025; 6) Respondent-Appellant's reply brief, if any, is due on or before June 10, 2025; 7) All appellate briefs must comply with the ARDC Rules, including Rule 302, which sets forth the requirements, format, contents, and limitations of the appellate briefs. The Review Board may strike any brief or portion thereof that does not conform to the Rules, pursuant to Rule 302(i); 8) The oral argument scheduled for May 9, 2025, is vacated; and 9) Oral argument in this matter is rescheduled to July 11, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., at the offices of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission, located at One Prudential Plaza, 130 East Randolph Drive, Suite 1500, Chicago, Illinois 60601; and 10) Motions for extensions are not favored and will be allowed only in the most extreme and compelling circumstances. A request for a change in this briefing schedule shall be filed no later than five (5) business days before the date on which the brief is due. On the day the motion is filed, a copy shall be served on opposing counsel by e-mail. Prior to filing such a request, the moving party shall contact counsel for the other party and the request shall state whether the other party agrees or opposes the request. The party opposing the request shall file a brief explanation of its position, no later than three (3) business days after the request is filed.	
03/20/2025	Record	Respondent-Appellant's Review Board brief with proof of service filed (postmarked March 14, 2025).	ThomeM
03/21/2025	Record	The Administrator-Appellee's response to Respondent's "motion to produce transcript of Inquiry Board" and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
03/21/2025	Motion	Respondent-Appellant's motion/notice of withdrawal of brief and exhibits with notice of filing and proof of service filed.	WatsonA

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03/21/2025	Record	Respondent-Appellant's reply to transcript request with notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
03/25/2025	Record	The Administrator-Appellee's response to Respondent's "motion/notice of withdrawal of brief and exhibits" with notice of filing and proof of service filed.	CerinoC
03/25/2025	Record	Order entered: Respondent-Appellant's Motion is denied. In the Response, the Administrator states that there is a transcript of Respondent's September 12, 2023 sworn statement before the Inquiry Board, which is in the Certified Record, as Administrator's Exhibit 46; the Administrator also states that Respondent has access to the Certified Record and that transcript. (Response at 1.) Therefore, Respondent's motion requesting production of that transcript is denied. In the Response, the Administrator also states, "there is no transcript pertaining to the Inquiry Board's deliberations which culminated in their decision to vote to file the disciplinary complaint against Respondent, and, therefore, there is no such transcript to produce to her." (Id. at 2.) We also note that Illinois Supreme Court Rule 766(a) states, "Confidentiality and Privacy[:] the following matters ... shall be private and confidential: ... proceedings before the Inquiry Board." Based on the Administrator's representation that no other transcript exists, and given that the Inquiry Board's proceedings are private and confidential pursuant to Rule 766(a), Respondent's motion requesting the production of additional transcripts is denied. IT IS ORDERED: Respondent-Appellant's Motion2 is granted in part and denied in part. Respondent's request for permission to withdraw her brief is granted, without objection by the Administrator. The previous Order issued by this Board on March 19, 2025 remains in effect, and Respondent's appellate brief is due on or before April 22, 2025 as set forth in that Order. All briefs must conform to Commission Rule 302. All other requests and suggestions contained in Respondent's Motion2 are denied.	ThomeM
03/25/2025	Motion	Respondent-Appellant's motion to reconsider transcript request with notice of filing and proof of service filed.	WatsonA
03/26/2025	Record	The Administrator-Appellee's objection to Respondent's motion to reconsider transcript request and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM

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03/26/2025	Record	Respondent-Appellant's reply to Administrator's objections with notice of filing and proof of service filed.	WatsonA
03/27/2025	Motion	Respondent-Appellant's motion for ADA accommodation and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
03/27/2025	Motion	Respondent-Appellant's motion for remote appearance and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
03/27/2025	Record	The Administrator-Appellee's response to Respondent-Appellant's motion for ADA accommodation and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
03/28/2025	Record	Order entered: I. Having considered Respondent-Appellant's Motion To Reconsider Transcript Request (Motion), the Administrator's Objection To Respondent's "Motion to Reconsider Transcript Request" and Respondent-Appellant's Reply To Administrators Objection, IT IS ORDERED: Respondent-Appellant's Motion is denied. II. Having considered Respondent-Appellant's Motion for ADA Accommodation (Motion2), and the Administrator-Appellee's Response To Respondent-Appellant's Motion, IT IS ORDERED: 1. Respondent-Appellant's Motion2 is granted in part and denied in part. 2. Respondent's request that a paper copy of the certified record be provided to her is granted. A paper copy of the certified record will be provided to Respondent as a courtesy, in order to ensure that the proceeding moves expeditiously. 3. Respondent's request that the paper copy be bound, tabbed, indexed, and mailed via certified mail is denied. 4. The Clerk of the Commission is directed to print a copy of the certified record and ship it to Respondent at 7122 South Sheridan Road, Suite 2-1110, Tulsa, OK 74133, as requested by Respondent, via UPS or a comparable delivery or mail service. 5. Respondent's request that the briefing time be extended is granted, as follows: a. Respondent-Appellant's brief is due on or before May 2, 2025. This is a final extension; b. The Administrator-Appellee's brief is due on or before June 6, 2025; c. Respondent-Appellant's reply brief, if any, is due on or before June 20, 2025. d. Oral argument in this matter remains scheduled for July 11, 2025, at 9:30	ThomeM

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		a.m., at the offices of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission, located at One Prudential Plaza, 130 East Randolph Drive, Suite 1500, Chicago, Illinois 60601. 6. All briefs must conform to Commission Rule 302. 7. Motions for extensions are not favored and will be allowed only in the most extreme and compelling circumstances. 8. To be clear, this Board is not ruling on any issues relating to the Americans with Disabilities Act. The production of the paper copy does not in any way indicate a ruling by this Board concerning any issues relating to the Americans with Disabilities Act, and does not have any precedential value concerning that Act. III. Having considered Respondent-Appellant's Motion For Remote Appearance (Motion3) and Counsel for the Administrator having advised the Clerk of the Commission that he has no objection, IT IS ORDERED: 1. Respondent-Appellant's request for permission to attend the oral argument by video conference or telephone is granted. 2. Respondent is permitted to attend the Oral Argument virtually, by video conference or telephone, because she resides outside of Illinois. The Clerk of the Commission shall provide Respondent with access information and instructions for joining the proceeding remotely. Again, to be clear, this Board is not ruling on any issues relating to the Americans with Disabilities Act. Allowing Respondent to attend the oral argument virtually does not in any way indicate a ruling by this Board concerning any issues relating to the Americans with Disabilities Act, and does not have any precedential value concerning that Act.	
04/30/2025	Motion	Respondent-Appellant's motion for citation clarification, additional time to conform citations, and review of brief necessity and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
05/01/2025	Motion	Respondent-Appellant's motion for summary judgment and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
05/01/2025	Motion	Respondent-Appellant's motion to object to Review Board Composition with notice of filing and proof of service filed.	WatsonA
05/02/2025	Record	Administrator's combined objection to Respondent's "motion for citation clarification, additional time to	WatsonA

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05/02/2025	Motion	conform citations, and review of brief necessity" and "motion for summary judgment" and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
05/02/2025	Record	Respondent-Appellant's motion to address ARDC's refusal to respond or rule with notice of filing and proof of service filed.	WatsonA
05/02/2025	Record	Administrator-Appellee's objection to Respondent's "motion to object to Review Board composition" and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
05/02/2025	Record	Administrator-Appellee's objection to Respondent's "motion to address ARDC's refusal to respond or rule" and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
05/02/2025	Record	Order entered: 1. Respondent's Motion is granted in part and denied in part. 2. Respondent's request to reset the filing date to May 5, 2025, is granted, over the Administrator's objection. Accordingly, a. Respondent-Appellant's brief is due on or before May 5, 2025, and must conform to Commission Rule 302. This is the final extension. Motions for extensions are not favored and will be allowed only in the most extreme and compelling circumstances; b. The Administrator-Appellee's brief is due on or before June 9, 2025; and c. Respondent-Appellant's reply brief, if any, is due on or before June 23, 2025. 3. Oral argument in this matter remains scheduled for July 11, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., at the offices of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission, located at One Prudential Plaza, 130 East Randolph Drive, Suite 1500, Chicago, Illinois 60601. As previously ordered on March 28, 2025, Respondent is permitted to attend the Oral Argument virtually, by video conference or telephone, because she resides outside of Illinois. The Clerk of the Commission shall provide Respondent with access information and instructions for joining the proceeding remotely. 4. All other requests in the Respondent's Motion are denied. 5. To be clear, this Board is not ruling on any issues relating to the Americans with Disabilities Act in the Motion, and this Order does not have any precedential value concerning that Act.	WatsonA
05/05/2025	Record	Respondent-Appelllate [sic] brief of Marggaret [sic] Jean Lowery filed.	ThomeM
05/05/2025	Record	Order entered: 1. Respondent's Motion for Summary Judgment is denied; 2. Respondent's Motion to Object	ThomeM

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05/06/2025	Motion	to Review Board Composition is denied; 3. Respondent's Motion to Address ARDC's Refusal to Respond or Rule is denied as moot; and 4. To be clear, this Board is not ruling on any issues relating to the Americans with Disabilities Act, and this Order does not have any precedential value concerning that Act.	ThomeM
05/09/2025	Motion	Respondent-Appellant's motion to supplement exhibit for brief with notice of filing and proof of service filed.	CerinoC
05/09/2025	Record	Administrator-Appellee's objection to Respondent's "motion to supplement exhibit for brief" with notice of filing and proof of service filed.	ThomeM
05/09/2025	Motion	Respondent-Appellant's reply to Administrator's objection to obstruct justice with notice of filing and proof of service filed.	CerinoC
05/13/2025	Record	Respondent-Appellant's motion to submit offer of proof for exhibit #11 with notice of filing and proof of service filed.	ThomeM
05/14/2025	Motion	The Administrator-Appellee's objection to Respondent's "motion to submit offer of proof for exhibit #11 and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
05/14/2025	Record	Respondent-Appellant's motion to disqualify with notice of filing and proof of service filed.	ThomeM
05/14/2025	Record	Order entered: 1. Respondent's Motion to Supplement is granted; 2. Respondent's Motion to Submit Offer of Proof is denied; 3. We make no finding at this time concerning whether Respondent's Exhibit 11 is part of the evidence previously presented before the Hearing Board, or whether that exhibit will be considered by the Review Board; and 4. The briefing schedule will remain the same as previously ordered on March 28, 2025.	ThomeM
05/14/2025	Record	Order entered: 1) The Chairperson of the Review Board hereby designates a panel of the Review Board members consisting of: Esther J. Seitz, Chair, Juan R. Thomas and Ashley N. Greer Shambley to hear and determine the matter of In re: Margaret Jean Lowery, Commission No. 2023PR00060; and 2) Oral argument in this matter is scheduled for July 11, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., at the offices of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission, located at One Prudential Plaza, 130 East Randolph Drive, Suite 1500, Chicago, Illinois 60601, as previously noticed to the parties; and 3) As previously ordered on March 28, 2025, Respondent is permitted to attend the Oral Argument	ThomeM

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05/14/2025	Record	virtually, by video conference or telephone, because she resides outside of Illinois. The Clerk of the Commission shall provide Respondent with access information and instructions for joining the proceeding remotely. Respondent-Appellant's objection to Review Board composition with notice of filing and proof of service filed.	WatsonA
05/14/2025	Motion	Respondent-Appellant's motion to reconsider denial of offer of proof with notice of filing with proof of service and Reply to Administrator's objection to motion to submit offer of proof for exhibit #11 with certificate of service filed.	WatsonA
05/15/2025	Record	Respondent-Appellant's reply to Administrator's combined response and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
05/15/2025	Record	Respondent-Appellant's amended offer of proof and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
05/15/2025	Motion	Respondent-Appellant's motion to reconsider denial of offer of proof with notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
05/15/2025	Record	Administrator-Appellee's combined response to Respondent's "objection to Review Board composition" and Respondent's "motion to reconsider denial of offer of proof and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
05/20/2025	Record	Order entered 1. Respondent's Motion to Reconsider is denied; 2. As to the motion entitled, "Respondent's Objection to Review Board Composition," Respondent's objections are noted. However, the Review Board Panel will remain in place, as set forth in the Order dated May 14, 2025, and the Administrator's counsel is not disqualified; and 3. The briefing schedule will remain the same as previously ordered on March 28, 2025.	WatsonA
05/20/2025	Record	Administrator-Appellee's objection to Respondent's "amended offer of proof" and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
05/28/2025	Record	Order entered: 1. Respondent's Motion to Disqualify is denied; and 2. Respondent's Amended Offer of Proof is stricken.	WatsonA
06/09/2025	Motion	Respondent-Appellant's motion to strike portions of Administrator-Appellee's brief and Hearing Board Report with notice of filing and proof of service filed.	ThomeM
06/09/2025	Record	Brief of Administrator-Appellee and notice of filing	ThomeM

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Lowery, Margaret Jean

<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Entered By</u>
06/09/2025	Motion	with proof of service filed. Respondent-Appellant's motion to ARDC Review Board for recusal and written opinion with notice of filing and proof of service filed.	ThomeM
06/11/2025	Record	Administrator-Appellee's combined objection to Respondent's "Motion to ARDC Review Board for Recusal and Written Opinion" and "Motion to Strike Portions of Administrator-Appellee's Brief and Hearing Board Report" and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
06/12/2025	Record	Respondent-Appellant's reply to Administrator's objection and motion to strike aggravation references with notice of filing and proof of service filed.	ThomeM
06/17/2025	Motion	Respondent-Appellant's request to correct the record pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 361(a)(6) to add exhibit #13 and correct cover page with notice of filing and proof of service filed.	ThomeM
06/17/2025	Record	Order entered: Respondent's Motion for Recusal is denied.	ThomeM
06/17/2025	Record	Order entered: Respondent's Motion to Strike is denied.	ThomeM
06/17/2025	Record	Order entered: 1. The Administrator-Appellee's Request to Substitute is granted. 2. The Clerk of the Commission is directed to replace the previously filed cover page of the Administrator-Appellee's Appellate Brief by substituting it with the blue cover page attached to the Request to Substitute, pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 361(e). 3. The Clerk of the Commission is directed to file in the record the Administrator-Appellee's Request to Substitute and the Respondent's Objection, which were both submitted to the Clerk via email.	ThomeM
06/17/2025	Record	E-mail from Counsel for the Administrator to the Clerk of the Commission dated June 10, 2025, enclosing a letter with a request to substitute the cover page of their Appellee's brief filed on June 9, 2025 and the blue cover filed.	ThomeM
06/17/2025	Record	Email from Respondent objecting to the Administrator's request to substitute page dated June 10, 2025 filed.	ThomeM
06/24/2025	Motion	Respondent-Appellant's petition for supervisory order with notice of filing and proof of service filed.	CerinoC
06/25/2025	Phase	Supreme Court	ThomeM
06/25/2025	Motion	Copy of Movant's petition for supervisory order pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 383 with notice of	ThomeM

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<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Entered By</u>
06/25/2025	Motion	filing with proof of service filed. Copy of Movant's motion to seal confidential medical records with notice of filing and proof of service filed.	ThomeM
06/25/2025	Record	Order entered: 1. Respondent's Notice of Petition for Supervisory Order is denied for lack of jurisdiction; 2. Respondent's Request to Correct is granted in part and denied in part; 3. Respondent's request to substitute a revised cover page for the current cover page of Respondent's Appellate Brief is granted. We note that the current cover page contains a typographical error; 4. The Clerk of the Commission is directed to replace the previously filed cover page of Respondent's Appellate Brief with the cover page attached to Respondent's Request to Correct, pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 361(e); 5. Respondent's request to add a document, which Respondent has entitled "Exhibit #13" ("hereinafter referred to as "proposed new Exhibit 13") is denied. The proposed new Exhibit 13, which is attached to Respondent's Request to Correct, appears to be duplicative of Respondent's Exhibit 11, which has already been filed. (See Review Board Order, dated May 14, 2025, granting Respondent's Motion to Supplement Exhibit for Brief.); 6. As previously stated in the May 14, 2025 Order, we make no finding at this time concerning whether Respondent's Exhibit 11 is part of the evidence previously presented before the Hearing Board, or whether that exhibit will be considered by the Review Board; and 7. Respondent's arguments concerning the interpretation and requirements of Rule 361 have no merit and are rejected.	ThomeM
06/25/2025	Motion	Respondent-Appellant's motion to file reply brief with reply brief and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
06/25/2025	Motion	Respondent-Appellant's motion to file exhibits under seal for reply brief with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
06/26/2025	Record	The Administrator-Appellee's combined response to Respondent's "motion to file reply brief" and Respondent's "motion to file exhibits under seal for reply brief" and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
07/01/2025	Record	Copy of the Administrator's objection to Respondent's motion for supervisory order and notice of filing with	ThomeM

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<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Entered By</u>
07/01/2025	Record	proof of service filed. Copy of the Administrator's response to Respondent's motion to seal confidential medical records and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
07/01/2025	Motion	Copy of Movant's emergency application for stay and to strike Review Board Orders and notice of filing and proof of service filed.	ThomeM
07/01/2025	Deadline	Order entered: 1. Respondent's Motion to File is granted in part and denied in part. 2. Respondent's request that the Commission accept the filing of Respondent's Reply Brief, dated June 24, 2025, is granted. We note that Respondent's Reply Brief is attached to her Motion to File and is hereby filed instanter. 3. Respondent is denied permission to file the exhibits attached to the Reply Brief, for the reasons discussed below. Those exhibits are stricken from the record at this time. Respondent is granted permission to re-file those exhibits, consistent with the directions set forth below. 4. We note that this is Respondent's first request for permission to file her Reply Brief after the due date. We also note that Respondent has failed to file a supporting affidavit with her motion, as required by Commission Rule 302(c). Nevertheless, we grant Respondent's request to file her Reply Brief, in the interests of justice and efficiency, so that all of Respondent's arguments may be considered. We do not rely on, or make any findings concerning, the arguments set forth in the Motion to File. 5. Respondent's Motion to Seal is denied and the exhibits attached to that motion are stricken from the record, and Respondent is granted permission to file a new motion to seal records, with exhibits, consistent with the directions set forth below. 6. Respondent's Motion to Seal requests the sealing of over 1,000 pages. Many of the records which Respondent requests to have sealed seem to be published and otherwise publicly available. It is incumbent upon Respondent, as the party seeking the seal, to articulate a specific reason for each and every record she requests to have sealed. Because Respondent failed to do this, her Motion to Seal is denied; and the exhibits Respondent filed with that motion, as well as the exhibits Respondent filed with her Motion to File, are also stricken from the record. 7. If Respondent	ThomeM

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<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Entered By</u>
		chooses to pursue her sealing request, she is directed to submit, on a record-by-record basis, specific reasons that justify the imposition of a seal. Any renewed request for sealing, and all proposed exhibits, must be filed no later than Monday, July 7, 2025. Respondent is directed to file any exhibits for which she is requesting a seal, separately from any exhibits for which she is not requesting a seal. 8. Filing duplicative exhibits is discouraged, which includes filing exhibits that were attached to Respondent's opening brief, and filing any exhibit more than once. Respondent is directed to review her exhibits carefully in order to avoid filing duplicative exhibits. We note that the Administrator's Response states, "[T]he majority of the exhibits that are appended to Respondent's Reply Brief were already appended to her Appellant's Brief." (Adm. Response at par. 2.) 9. We make no findings at this time concerning whether any of Respondent's exhibits are part of the evidence previously presented before the Hearing Board, or whether any of Respondent's exhibits will be considered by the Review Board. 10. Oral argument remains scheduled for July 11, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., at the offices of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission, located at One Prudential Plaza, 130 East Randolph Drive, Suite 1500, Chicago, Illinois 60601. 11. Respondent is permitted to attend the Oral Argument virtually, by video conference. The Clerk of the Commission shall provide Respondent with access information and instructions for joining the proceeding remotely.	
07/01/2025	Record	Appellate reply brief of Margaret Jean Lowery with notice of filing and proof of service filed.	ThomeM
07/02/2025	Motion	Respondent-Appellant's motion to substitute written arguments under ADA with notice of filing and certification filed.	ThomeM
07/07/2025	Record	Respondent-Appellant's objection to & notice of compliance with July 1, 2005, order with notice of filing and proof of service filed.	WatsonA
07/07/2025	Record	The Administrator-Appellee's objection to Respondent's "motion to substitute written arguments under ADA" and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
07/07/2025	Record	Respondent-Appellant's reply to Administrators ADA objection & motion to strike for violation of federal law	ThomeM

Lowery, Margaret Jean

<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Entered By</u>
07/08/2025	Motion	with notice of filing and proof of service filed. Respondent-Appellant's emergency motion for stay objection to release of any documents submitted under sseal (sic), notice of withdraw documents pending appeal and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
07/08/2025	Record	Order entered: 1. Respondent's Motion is denied for the reasons stated below. 2. Respondent has failed to explain why she is entitled to such extraordinary relief, and she has failed to specifically identify the precise relief she is seeking. 3. Respondent has also failed to provide any legal precedent that provides support her request for this extraordinary relief. Although Respondent cites various cases in her Reply, none of those cases resulted in changing the format of oral argument. 4. Respondent claims that her medical condition makes it impossible for her to participate remotely, by video conference, in the Oral Argument on July 11, 2025. Respondent states in her Motion, "My disabilities make oral participation impossible due to post-sepsis syndrome." (Mtn. at 1.) However, Respondent has failed to provide credible medical support for that claim. 5. Respondent failed to attach any medical records or other supporting documents to her Motion or Reply. Instead, she cites to the Hearing Board Report (C.2582-83), which describes two affidavits filed by Dr. Patrick VanSchoyck in 2024. (Hearing Bd. Report at 3-4.) However, those affidavits, which are more than a year old, do not provide support for Respondent's argument because Dr. VanSchoyck did not state that Respondent is unable to participate remotely in the Oral Argument on July 11, 2025. 6. In addition, as the Administrator points out, Respondent's Motion is untimely under Commission Rule 304 and Respondent has failed to provide any justification for her belated request. 7. In her Motion, Respondent also argues, "As a person under disability, counsel no longer feels safe appearing before this Board." (Mtn. at 2.) However, Respondent has been offered the opportunity to appear at the Oral Argument remotely, by video conference, which presents no risk to Respondent's safety. 8. Oral argument remains scheduled for July 11, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., at the offices of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission, located at	ThomeM

Lowery, Margaret Jean

<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Entered By</u>
07/08/2025	Record	<p>One Prudential Plaza, 130 East Randolph Drive, Suite 1500, Chicago, Illinois 60601. Respondent is permitted to attend the Oral Argument virtually, by video conference. The Clerk of the Commission has provided Respondent with access information and instructions for joining the proceeding remotely. 9. In the interests of efficiency, Respondent is directed to file a document no later than Wednesday, July 9, 2024, with the following information: (1) whether she has received access information and instructions for joining the Oral Argument remotely; and (2) whether she will appear at the Oral Argument, either remotely or in person. We note that Respondent requested oral argument, and Respondent has not filed a notice waiving oral argument, pursuant to Commission Rule 304(a).</p> <p>Order entered: 1. Respondent's Request is granted in part and denied in part. 2. The Clerk of the Commission shall only seal electronic pages 6-100 and 417-428 attached to Respondent's Request, which consists of medical records or information. All other pages remain public.</p>	ThomeM
07/08/2025	Record	<p>(UNDER SEAL) Attachments from Respondent's Objection to & Notice of Compliance with July 1, 2025, Order with a copy of the Review Board Order entered on July 8, 2025 filed.</p>	ThomeM
07/09/2025	Deadline	<p>The Administrator-Appellee's objection to Respondent's "emergency motion for stay[,] objection to release of any documents submitted under seal[,] notice of withdraw [sic] documents pending appeal" and notice of filing with proof of service filed.</p>	ThomeM
07/10/2025	Record	<p>Order entered: 1. Respondent's Motion is granted in part and denied in part. 2. The documents attached to Respondent's Request (filed on July 7, 2025), which were not sealed pursuant to the July 1, 2025 Order, are hereby stricken from the record at this time, as requested by Respondent. 3. The Clerk of the Commission shall strike all documents attached to Respondent's Request, (filed on July 7, 2025), except those documents sealed pursuant to the Order issued on July 8, 2025. The sealed documents include electronic pages 6-100 and 417-428 attached to the Request, which documents include medical records or medical information. All other documents attached to</p>	ThomeM

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<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Entered By</u>
		Respondent's Request are hereby stricken from the record, based on Respondent's request. 4. Respondent's request for a stay is denied as moot. 5. Oral argument remains scheduled for July 11, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., at the offices of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission, located at One Prudential Plaza, 130 East Randolph Drive, Suite 1500, Chicago, Illinois 60601. 6. Respondent is permitted to attend the Oral Argument virtually, by video conference. The Clerk of the Commission has provided Respondent with access information and instructions for joining the proceeding remotely.	
07/10/2025	Record	Order entered: 1. The email from Respondent to the Clerk of the Commission dated July 10, 2025 is attached hereto and is filed of record. 2. The Oral Argument remains scheduled for July 11, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., at the offices of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission, located at One Prudential Plaza, 130 East Randolph Drive, Suite 1500, Chicago, Illinois 60601. 3. Respondent is permitted to attend the Oral Argument virtually, by video conference. The Clerk of the Commission has provided Respondent with access information and instructions for joining the proceeding remotely (copies attached).	ThomeM
07/10/2025	Record	Respondent-Appellant's notice of no Teams link received and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
07/11/2025	Motion	Respondent-Appellant's motion to vacate the Hearing Board argument & move to strike Administrator's argument and reset arguments, request transcript & preserve record and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
07/11/2025	Motion	Respondent's motion to vacate HB Report & RB orders (July 1, 2025 & June 25, 2025 & December 12, 2024) with notice of filing and proof of service filed.	WatsonA
07/11/2025	Motion	Copy of Administrator's motion for leave to file instanter Administrator's objection to Respondent's emergency applications for stay and to strike Review Board Orders and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
07/11/2025	Motion	Copy of Movant's motion to vacate HB report & RB orders (July 1, 2025 & June 25, 2025 & December 12, 2024) and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
07/11/2025	Motion	Copy of Movant's motion to vacate oral argument,	ThomeM

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<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Entered By</u>
07/11/2025	Motion	strike Administrator's argument, and preserve record and notice of filing with proof of service filed. Copy of Movant's emergency [sic] motion to seal record, remove Review Board, stay oral arguments for good cause, & vacate orders and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
07/11/2025	Motion	Copy of Movant's motion to maintain sealing of medical records and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
07/11/2025	Record	Oral argument presented before a Panel of the Review Board. Present: Panel members Esther J. Seitz, Chair, Juan R. Thomas and Ashley N. Greer Shambley. Administrator-Appellee by Benjamin L. Boroughf, Counsel. Respondent-Appellant, pro se. Matter taken under advisement.	ThomeM
07/11/2025	Record	Date under advisement - Review Board	ThomeM
07/14/2025	Disposition	Supreme Court order entered July 14, 2025: Motion by Movant, pro se, for a supervisory order. Denied. Order entered by the Court. Neville, J., took no part. Overstreet, J., took no part.	ThomeM
07/14/2025	Record	Supreme Court order entered July 14, 2025: Motion by Movant, pro se, to seal confidential medical records instanter. Allowed. Order entered by the Court. Neville, J., took no part. Overstreet, J., took no part.	ThomeM
07/14/2025	Motion	Copy of Respondent's motion to seal medical records and for ADA accommodation and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
07/14/2025	Motion	Respondent-Appellant's motion to seal medical records and for ADA accommodations with notice of filing filed.	WatsonA
07/15/2025	Record	Administrator-Appellee's response to Respondent's "motion to vacate Hearing [sic] Board argument & move to strike Administrators [sic] argument and reset arguments, requests transcript & preserve record" and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
07/16/2025	Record	Copy of the Administrator's objection to Respondent's "motion to vacate oral argument, strike Administrator's argument, and preserve record" and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
07/16/2025	Record	Copy of the Administrator's objection to Respondent's "Motion to Vacate HB Report & RB Orders (July 1, 2025 & June 25, 2025 & December 12, 2024)" and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM

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<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Entered By</u>
07/17/2025	Record	Supreme Court order entered July 17, 2025: Emergency application by Movant, pro se, to stay proceedings in Commission No. 2023PR00060 pending resolution of the motion for supervisory order, and to strike Review Board orders. Denied. Order entered by the Court.	WatsonA
07/18/2025	Record	<p>Neville, J., took no part. Overstreet, J., took no part.</p> <p>Order entered: 1. Respondent's Motion re HB Report - Motion 1 is denied. 2. Respondent's Motion re Arguments - Motion 2 is denied in part and granted in part. 3. Respondent's request for a transcript of the oral argument is granted. The Clerk of the Commission is directed to have the oral argument heard on July 11, 2025 transcribed. 4. The Clerk shall advise the parties when the transcript has been received by the Clerk. Thereafter, the parties may file a written motion identifying any requested redactions of confidential information that the parties deem necessary. Proposed redactions should be identified by page and line number, and the specific words at issue should be set forth in the motion. 5. Respondent's request for the full audio recording is denied. Respondent has not shown good cause for providing the recording. 6. Respondent's request to "[p]reserve all case records for appeal," is denied as moot. Records are maintained pursuant to Commission Rule 237, which states, "The electronic record is designated as the official record of proceedings. The complaint and all subsequent pleadings and other documents shall be filed with the Clerk. The Clerk shall maintain an electronic record of all such documents for each proceeding, which shall constitute the master file for each proceeding. The Clerk may dispose of paper versions of documents as part of an electronic record." 7. Respondent's Motion to Seal - Motion 3 is denied, but Respondent is granted leave to file a revised motion, consistent with the directions set forth below. 8. If Respondent elects to file a revised motion, Respondent shall identify, on a record-by-record basis and with specificity each record that she considers a medical record, which she requests be sealed. Respondent shall identify where each of those documents is located, including the page number, so that each document can be easily located. If the same document appears in multiple locations, each location</p>	ThomeM

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<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Entered By</u>
07/18/2025	Record	<p>shall be identified. 9. The revised motion shall address only those documents that Respondent previously filed with the Review Board that were not stricken and were not sealed, which she considers to be medical records, and which she requests be sealed. 10. Respondent is granted leave to file one revised motion, limited to addressing the issue of sealing, consistent with the directions set forth above. While we agree that it is appropriate to seal medical records, as we have previously done, it is Respondent's responsibility to properly identify the records that she believes should be sealed. 11. We note that the records at issue were filed publicly by Respondent, without first requesting or obtaining a sealing order. Respondent was responsible for making the records public in that she failed to follow proper procedures concerning the sealing of records. 12. As a general matter, we note that we do not view articles, treatises, and similar materials as being confidential, where those documents do not contain any personal identifying information or medical information specifically identifying Respondent. 13. Respondent's request for an ADA accommodation is denied.</p> <p>Order entered: 1. Post-argument motions, petitions, requests, notices, and similar documents shall not be filed with or considered by the Review Board, except under compelling and extraordinary circumstances, supported by affidavit, and with leave of the Review Board. 2. This Order does not apply to Respondent's filing a revised motion concerning her request to seal documents, or to Respondent's filing a motion requesting redactions of confidential information in the transcript of the oral argument held on July 11, 2025.</p>	ThomeM
07/21/2025	Record	<p>Amended order entered: 1. Respondent's Motion re HB Report - Motion 1 is denied. 2. Respondent's Motion re Arguments - Motion 2 is denied in part and granted in part. 3. Respondent's request for a transcript of the oral argument is granted. The Clerk of the Commission is directed to have the oral argument heard on July 11, 2025 transcribed. 4. The Clerk shall advise the parties when the transcript has been received by the Clerk. Thereafter, the parties may file a written motion identifying any requested redactions of confidential information that the parties deem necessary. Proposed</p>	ThomeM

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redactions should be identified by page and line number, and the specific words at issue should be generally described for identification purposes. (Note: the highlighted words in this paragraph amend the prior Order.) 5. Respondent's request for the full audio recording is denied. Respondent has not shown good cause for providing the recording. 6. Respondent's request to "[p]reserve all case records for appeal," is denied as moot. Records are maintained pursuant to Commission Rule 237, which states, "The electronic record is designated as the official record of proceedings. The complaint and all subsequent pleadings and other documents shall be filed with the Clerk. The Clerk shall maintain an electronic record of all such documents for each proceeding, which shall constitute the master file for each proceeding. The Clerk may dispose of paper versions of documents as part of an electronic record." 7. Respondent's Motion to Seal - Motion 3 is denied, but Respondent is granted leave to file a revised motion, consistent with the directions set forth below. 8. If Respondent elects to file a revised motion, Respondent shall identify, on a record-by-record basis and with specificity each record that she considers a medical record, which she requests be sealed. Respondent shall identify where each of those documents is located, including the page number, so that each document can be easily located. If the same document appears in multiple locations, each location shall be identified. 9. The revised motion shall address only those documents that Respondent previously filed with the Review Board that were not stricken and were not sealed, which she considers to be medical records, and which she requests be sealed. 10. Respondent is granted leave to file one revised motion, limited to addressing the issue of sealing, consistent with the directions set forth above. While we agree that it is appropriate to seal medical records, as we have previously done, it is Respondent's responsibility to properly identify the records that she believes should be sealed. 11. We note that the records at issue were filed publicly by Respondent, without first requesting or obtaining a sealing order. Respondent was responsible for making the records public in that she failed to

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<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Entered By</u>
07/21/2025	Motion	follow proper procedures concerning the sealing of records. 12. As a general matter, we note that we do not view articles, treatises, and similar materials as being confidential, where those documents do not contain any personal identifying information or medical information specifically identifying Respondent. 13. Respondent's request for an ADA accommodation is denied.	ThomeM
07/22/2025	Record	Respondent-Appellant's motion to prohibit reference to apology or aggravation and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
07/24/2025	Record	Supreme Court order entered July 22, 2025: Motion by Respondent for leave to file objection to emergency application to stay proceedings in Commission No. 2023PR00060 and to strike Review Board orders Instanter. Denied as Moot. Order entered by Justice Cunningham.	ThomeM
07/24/2025	Record	Supreme Court order entered July 24, 2025: Motion by Movant, pro se, to vacate oral argument, strike Administrator's argument, and preserve record. Denied. Order entered by the Court. Neville, J., took no part. Overstreet, J., took no part.	ThomeM
07/24/2025	Record	Supreme Court order entered July 24, 2025: Motion by Movant, pro se, to vacate Hearing Board report and Review Board orders of July 1, 2025, June 25, 2025, and December 12, 2024. Denied. Order entered by the Court. Neville, J., took no part. Overstreet, J., took no part.	ThomeM
07/25/2025	Record	Supreme Court order entered July 25, 2025: Motion by Movant, pro se, to maintain sealing of medical records. Denied. Order entered by the Court. Neville, J., took no part. Overstreet, J., took no part.	ThomeM
07/25/2025	Record	Supreme Court order entered July 25, 2025: Emergency motion by Movant, pro se, to seal record, remove Review Board, stay oral arguments for good cause, and vacate orders. Denied. Order entered by the Court. Neville, J., took no part. Overstreet, J., took no part.	ThomeM
07/25/2025	Record	Supreme Court order entered July 25, 2025: Motion by Movant, pro se, to seal medical records and for ADA accommodation. Denied. Order entered by the Court. Neville, J., took no part. Overstreet, J., took no part.	ThomeM
07/29/2025	Record	Order entered: 1. Respondent's Motion is denied. Having been advised by the Clerk of the Commission that the Report of Proceedings held on July 11, 2025	ThomeM

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		has been received, IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT: 2. The Clerk shall provide a copy of the Report of Proceedings with service of this order on the parties. 3. The parties are granted leave to file a written motion identifying any requested redactions of confidential information that the parties deem necessary on or before August 12, 2025. Proposed redactions should be identified by page, line and word number (ex: page 15, line 14, words 2, 3 and 5). 4. If no motion is filed, the Report of Proceedings will be saved with the official Clerk's electronic record in accordance with Commission Rule 237.	
08/12/2025	Motion	Respondent-Appellant's notice of withdrawal of all medical record exhibits and limitation on remaining evidence with notice of filing filed.	WatsonA
08/13/2025	Record	The Administrator-Appellee's response to Respondent's "notice of withdrawal of all medical record exhibits and limitation on remaining evidence" and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
08/15/2025	Phase	Supreme Court	WatsonA
08/15/2025	Record	Copy of letter to Respondent from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	WatsonA
08/15/2025	Motion	Copy of Respondent's petition to vacate disciplinary orders due to actual & ongoing fraud by ARDC Administrator(s) & Commissioners with notice of filing filed.	WatsonA
08/18/2025	Record	Order entered: 1. Respondent's Motion to Withdraw Exhibits is denied. 2. Consistent with the Order filed on July 18, 2025, Respondent is granted leave to file a motion to seal medical records that complies with the directions set forth below. 3. If Respondent elects to file a motion to seal medical records that complies with the directions set forth below, that motion shall be filed no later than September 2, 2025. 4. If Respondent fails to file a motion to seal medical records on or before September 2, 2025, in compliance with the directions set forth below, all materials that are currently in the record, which have not been stricken or sealed, shall remain public. 5. If Respondent elects to file a motion to seal medical records, Respondent shall identify, on a record-by-record basis and with specificity each record that she considers a medical record, which she requests be sealed. Respondent shall identify where each of	ThomeM

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		those documents is located, including the page number, so that each document can be easily located. If the same document appears in multiple locations, each location shall be identified. Respondent shall do so no later than September 2, 2025. 6. The motion to seal medical records shall address only those documents that Respondent previously filed with the Review Board that were not stricken and were not sealed, which she considers to be medical records, and which she requests be sealed. 7. Respondent is granted leave to file one motion (the motion to seal medical records), which is limited to addressing the issue of sealing medical records, consistent with the directions set forth above. While we agree that it is appropriate to seal medical records, as we have previously done, it is Respondent's responsibility to properly identify the records that she believes should be sealed. 8. We note that the records at issue were filed publicly by Respondent, without first requesting or obtaining a sealing order. Respondent was responsible for making the records public in that she failed to follow proper procedures concerning the sealing of records. 9. As a general matter, we note that we do not view articles, treatises, and similar materials as being confidential, where those documents do not contain any personal identifying information or medical information specifically identifying Respondent.	
08/18/2025	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	WatsonA
08/19/2025	Record	Copy of the Administrator's objection to Respondent's "petition to vacate disciplinary orders due to actual & ongoing fraud by ARDC Administrator(s) & Commissioners" and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
08/19/2025	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	WatsonA
08/19/2025	Motion	Respondent-Appellant's motion to compel Chair/ARDC Review Board to state on the record their knowledge of fraud and discovery denials by August 20, 2025 with notice of filing filed.	WatsonA
08/20/2025	Record	Order entered: The Clerk of the Commission is directed to provide the redacted version of the transcript to the	ThomeM

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<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Entered By</u>
08/20/2025	Record	parties of record. Order entered: 1. Respondent's Motion to Compel is denied. 2. Based on our careful review of the record, we find that the Administrator has not committed any fraud or wrongdoing, and has not acted in bad faith.	ThomeM
08/21/2025	Motion	Copy of Respondent's motion for disqualification of certain Illinois Supreme Court Justices, their Commissioners and voidance of ARDC Proceedings under Illinois Supreme Court Rule 2.11 with proof of service filed (without exhibits).	ThomeM
08/22/2025	Record	Copy of letter from Clerk of the Supreme Court to Respondent filed.	ThomeM
08/22/2025	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	ThomeM
08/25/2025	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	ThomeM
08/25/2025	Record	Copy of letter to Respondent from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	ThomeM
08/25/2025	Motion	Copy of Respondent's motion to compel filing of response to objection with notice of filing and proof of service filed.	ThomeM
08/26/2025	Motion	Respondent's motion to disqualify Review Board under Rule 2.11, and for explicit reasoning in a signed order with notice of filing and proof of service filed.	ThomeM
08/26/2025	Record	Copy of the Administrator's objection to Respondent's "motion for disqualification of certain Illinois Supreme Court Justices, their Commissioners and voidance of ARDC proceedings under Illinois Supreme Court Rule 2.11" and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
08/28/2025	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	ThomeM
08/28/2025	Motion	Copy of Respondent's motion for court access and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
08/28/2025	Motion	Copy of Respondent's motion to strike with notice of filing and proof of service filed.	ThomeM
08/28/2025	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	ThomeM
08/28/2025	Record	Copy of letter to Respondent from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	ThomeM

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Lowery, Margaret Jean

<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Entered By</u>
08/28/2025	Record	Copy of letter to Respondent from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	WatsonA
09/02/2025	Motion	Respondent-Appellant's objection to transcript tampering and motion for instant removal of redacted transcript for spoliation of evidence with notice of filing filed.	WatsonA
09/02/2025	Record	Copy of letter to Respondent-Appellant from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	WatsonA
09/02/2025	Motion	Copy of Respondent's emergency supplemental motion for emergency protective order, need to remove Board for cause and cause to dismiss proceedings with notice of filing filed.	WatsonA
09/03/2025	Motion	Respondent-Appellant's motion to vacate clairvoyant order and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
09/03/2025	Record	Order entered: Respondent's Motion to Disqualify is denied.	ThomeM
09/03/2025	Motion	Copy of Respondent's motion to vacate clairvoyant order and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
09/04/2025	Record	Corrected order entered: Respondent's Motion to Disqualify is denied.	ThomeM
09/04/2025	Record	Order entered: Respondent's Motion to Vacate is denied. However, a corrected Order concerning Respondent's Motion to Disqualify the Review Board has been filed, dated on the date it was filed, namely, September 3, 2025.	ThomeM
09/04/2025	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	ThomeM
09/05/2025	Record	Respondent's notice of exhaustion of Administrative remedies and preservation of record of fraud and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
09/05/2025	Record	Corrected order entered: Respondent's Motion to Vacate is denied. However, a corrected Order concerning Respondent's Motion to Disqualify the Review Board has been filed, dated September 4, 2025.	ThomeM
09/05/2025	Record	Copy of Administrator's objection to Copy of Respondent's "emergency supplemental motion for emergency protective order, need to remove Board for cause[,] and cause to dismiss proceedings" and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
09/08/2025	Motion	Copy of Respondent's motion to remove Justice Joy Cunningham for cause and to strike and vacate all orders tainted by fraud and conflict of interest with	WatsonA

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02/17/2026

Lowery, Margaret Jean

<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Entered By</u>
09/08/2025	Record	notice of filing filed. Supreme Court order entered September 8, 2025: Motion by Margaret Jean Lowery for court access and to require Clerk to accept all pleadings for filing. Denied. Order entered by Justice Cunningham.	ThomeM
09/08/2025	Record	Copy of the Administrator's objection to Respondent's "Motion to Vacate Clairvoyant Order" and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
09/09/2025	Record	Respondent-Appellant's standing objection and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
09/09/2025	Motion	Copy of Respondent's motion to remove Review Board for cause & all orders with notice of filing filed.	WatsonA
09/09/2025	Motion	Copy of Respondent's motion to preserve record Court repeated denial of access with notice of filing filed.	WatsonA
09/10/2025	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	WatsonA
09/10/2025	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	WatsonA
09/10/2025	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	WatsonA
09/11/2025	Record	Order entered: 1. Respondent's Motion for Removal is granted in part and denied in part. Respondent's request that the redacted transcript be removed from the record is granted. The unredacted transcript is now the official transcript of record. All other requests set forth in the Motion for Removal are denied. We note that the transcript was redacted in order to protect Respondent's privacy concerning certain personal information that appears in the transcript. 2. Respondent's Standing Objection is denied and dismissed.	ThomeM
09/15/2025	Record	Copy of the Administrator's objection to Respondent's "motion to remove Review Board for cause & all orders" and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
09/19/2025	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	ThomeM
09/19/2025	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	ThomeM
09/22/2025	Record	Supreme Court order entered September 22, 2025: IT IS	WatsonA

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Lowery, Margaret Jean

<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Entered By</u>
09/22/2025	Record	ORDERED that the motion to vacate disciplinary orders is denied. Order entered by the Court. Neville, J., took no part. Overstreet, J., took no part. Supreme Court order entered September 22, 2025: IT IS ORDERED that the renewed motion for disqualification of certain Illinois Supreme Court Justices and voidance of ARDC proceedings is denied. Order entered by the Court. Neville, J., took no part. Overstreet, J., took no part.	WatsonA
09/23/2025	Record	Supreme Court order entered September 23, 2025: IT IS ORDERED that the motion to compel the Clerk to file reply to Administrator's objection to petition to vacate ARDC disciplinary orders is denied as moot. Order entered by the Court. Neville, J., took no part. Overstreet, J., took no part.	WatsonA
09/23/2025	Record	Supreme Court order entered September 23, 2025: IT IS ORDERED that the motion to strike the objections by the Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission is denied. Order entered by the Court. Neville, J., took no part. Overstreet, J., took no part	WatsonA
09/23/2025	Record	Supreme Court order entered September 23, 2025: IT IS ORDERED that the motion to strike the Administrator's objection to respondent's motion to strike the objections by the Administrator and request for federal intervention is denied. Order entered by the Court. Neville, J., took no part. Overstreet, J., took no part.	WatsonA
09/23/2025	Record	Supreme Court order entered September 23, 2025: IT IS ORDERED that the emergency supplemental motion for emergency protective order, removal of Review Board for cause and for dismissal of ARDC proceedings is denied. Order entered by the Court. Neville, J., took no part. Overstreet, J., took no part.	WatsonA
09/23/2025	Record	Supreme Court order entered September 23, 2025: IT IS ORDERED that the motion to vacate the Review Board's September 3, 2025, denial of petitioner's motion to disqualify the Review Board is denied. Order entered by the Court. Neville, J., took no part. Overstreet, J., took no part.	WatsonA
09/25/2025	Record	Supreme Court order entered September 25, 2025: IT IS ORDERED that the motion to remove Justice Cunningham and to vacate all orders entered by Justice Cunningham in this matter is denied. Order entered by	WatsonA

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Lowery, Margaret Jean

<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Entered By</u>
09/25/2025	Record	the Court. Neville, J., took no part. Overstreet, J., took no part. Supreme Court order entered September 25, 2025: IT IS ORDERED that the motion to remove the Review Board and vacate all orders is denied. Order entered by the Court. Neville, J., took no part. Overstreet, J., took no part.	WatsonA
09/25/2025	Record	Supreme Court order entered September 25, 2025: IT IS ORDERED that the motion to preserve the record is denied. Order entered by the Court. Neville, J., took no part. Overstreet, J., took no part.	WatsonA
10/03/2025	Disposition	Report and Recommendation of the Review Board rejected Respondent's arguments, and affirmed the Hearing Board's evidentiary rulings, findings of fact, and findings of misconduct and proof of service filed.	ThomeM
10/08/2025	Motion	Respondent-Appellant's motion to stay proceedings and to direct certification and release of the Review Board record with notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
10/08/2025	Record	Supreme Court order entered October 8, 2025: IT IS ORDERED that the motion for summary judgment on pending motion to vacate disciplinary orders is denied as moot. Order entered by the Court. Neville, J., took no part. Overstreet, J., took no part.	WatsonA
10/08/2025	Record	Supreme Court order entered October 8, 2025: IT IS ORDERED that the motion to amend the motion to vacate disciplinary orders is denied as moot. Order entered by the Court. Neville, J., took no part. Overstreet, J., took no part.	WatsonA
10/08/2025	Record	Supreme Court order entered October 8, 2025: IT IS ORDERED that the motion to amend the motion to vacate disciplinary orders is denied as moot. Order entered by the Court. Neville, J., took no part. Overstreet, J., took no part.	WatsonA
10/15/2025	Record	Administrator's objection to Respondent's "motion to stay proceedings and to direct certification and release of the Review Board record" and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
10/16/2025	Motion	Respondent-Appellant's motion to address fraud and enforce the Americans with Disabilities Act with notice of filing and proof of service filed.	WatsonA
10/21/2025	Record	Order entered: To the extent that the Review Board has jurisdiction to rule on Respondent's Motion (or any issue raised in Respondent's Motion), that Motion is	ThomeM

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Lowery, Margaret Jean

<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Entered By</u>
10/27/2025	Record	denied. Order entered: To the extent that the Review Board has jurisdiction to rule on Respondent's Motion (or any issue raised in Respondent's Motion), that Motion is denied.	ThomeM
11/07/2025	Phase	Supreme Court	ThomeM
11/07/2025	Record	Copy of Respondent's appeal by right no leave and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
11/13/2025	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	ThomeM
11/14/2025	Motion	Copy of Respondent's motion to declare paper copy filing requirement unconstitutional as applied under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Fourteenth Amendment and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
11/17/2025	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	ThomeM
11/20/2025	Record	Copy of Administrator's response to Respondent's "motion to declare paper copy filing requirement unconstitutional as applied under title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Fourteen Amendment" and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
11/20/2025	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	WatsonA
11/21/2025	Motion	Copy of Respondent's motion to stay proceedings pending transcript authentication per Illinois Supreme Court Rule 371(b) and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
11/21/2025	Motion	Copy of Respondent's motion to prohibit substantive rejection of filings by the Clerk & to order Clerk to file reply as a matter of right and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
11/21/2025	Record	Copy of the Administrator's answer to Respondent's petition for leave to file exceptions and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
11/21/2025	Record	Date under advisement - Supreme Court	ThomeM
11/24/2025	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	ThomeM

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Lowery, Margaret Jean

<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Entered By</u>
11/24/2025	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	ThomeM
11/24/2025	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	ThomeM
11/24/2025	Motion	Copy of Respondent's motion to strike or, in the alternative, stay the Administrator's answer brief and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
11/25/2025	Record	Copy of the Administrator's objection to Respondent's "motion to strike or, in the alternative, stay the Administrator's answer brief and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
11/25/2025	Record	Copy of the Administrator's response to Respondent's "motion to prohibit substantive rejection of filings by the Clerk & to order Clerk to file reply as a matter of right" and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
11/25/2025	Record	Copy of the Administrator's objection to Respondent's "motion to stay proceedings pending transcript authentication per Illinois Supreme Court Rule 371(b) and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
11/25/2025	Record	Supreme Court order entered November 25, 2025: Motion by respondent Margaret Jean Lowery to declare the requirement for paper copy filing unconstitutional pursuant to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the 14th Amendment and other relief. Denied as Moot. On the Court's own motion, the requirement for respondent Margaret Jean Lowery to submit thirteen (13) paper copies of her petition for leave to file exceptions is waived. Order entered by Justice Theis.	ThomeM
11/26/2025	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	ThomeM
11/26/2025	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	ThomeM
11/26/2025	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	ThomeM
12/01/2025	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	ThomeM
12/01/2025	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and	ThomeM

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Lowery, Margaret Jean

<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Entered By</u>
12/01/2025	Motion	Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed. Copy of Respondent's motion to dismiss for lack of jurisdiction based on denial of Title II access and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
12/01/2025	Record	Copy of Respondent's motion to require production of jurisdictional and ADA access orders necessary for a valid proceeding and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
12/02/2025	Record	Supreme Court order entered December 2, 2025: Motion by Margaret Jean Lowery to stay disciplinary proceedings pending transcript authentication pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 371(b). Denied. Order entered by Justice Cunningham.	WatsonA
12/03/2025	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	ThomeM
12/03/2025	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	ThomeM
12/03/2025	Record	Supreme Court order entered December 3, 2025: IT IS ORDERED that the motion to strike the Administrator's answer brief is Denied. Order entered by the Court.	ThomeM
12/03/2025	Motion	Copy of Respondent's motion to waive fees and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
12/03/2025	Record	Copy of Respondent's certified questions on jurisdiction & ADA access and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
12/03/2025	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	ThomeM
12/03/2025	Motion	Copy of Respondent's motion to compel court [sic] access under the ADA with notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
12/03/2025	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	WatsonA
12/03/2025	Motion	Copy of Respondent's motion to recuse with notice of filing and proof of service filed.	WatsonA
12/04/2025	Record	Supreme Court order entered December 4, 2025: IT IS ORDERED that the motion to prohibit rejection of filings by the Clerk and to order Clerk to file reply is denied. Order entered by the Court.	ThomeM

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Lowery, Margaret Jean

<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Entered By</u>
12/05/2025	Record	Copy of the Administrator's objection to Respondent's "Motion to Require Production of Jurisdictional and ADA Access Orders Necessary for a Valid Proceeding" and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
12/05/2025	Record	Copy of Administrator's objection to Respondent's motion to dismiss for lack of jurisdiction based on denial of Title II access and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
12/05/2025	Motion	Copy of Respondent's motion to strike void order entered December 2, 2025 with notice of filing filed.	WatsonA
12/05/2025	Motion	Copy of Respondent's motion to disqualify the Administrator for structural constitutional conflict with notice of filing filed.	WatsonA
12/05/2025	Motion	Copy of Respondent's motion to declare the ARDC system unconstitutional & to vacate all orders issued under the unconstitutional structure with notice of filing filed.	WatsonA
12/08/2025	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	ThomeM
12/08/2025	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	ThomeM
12/08/2025	Record	Copy of Administrator's objection to Respondent's "motion to recuse Justice Cunningham" and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
12/08/2025	Record	Copy of Administrator's objection to Respondent's motion to request "certified questions on jurisdiction & ADA access and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
12/08/2025	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	WatsonA
12/08/2025	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	WatsonA
12/08/2025	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	WatsonA
12/08/2025	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	WatsonA
12/09/2025	Record	Copy of the Administrator's response to Respondent's	ThomeM

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Lowery, Margaret Jean

<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Entered By</u>
12/09/2025	Motion	"motion to compel court [sic] access under the ADA and notice of filing with proof of service filed. Copy of Respondent's motion for sanctions and for certification of structural defect to the Illinois Supreme Court with notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
12/10/2025	Record	Supreme Court order entered December 10, 2025: IT IS ORDERED that the motion to require production of jurisdictional and ADA access orders is denied. Order entered by the Court. Neville, C.J., took no part. Overstreet, J., took no part.	WatsonA
12/10/2025	Record	Supreme Court order entered December 10, 2025: IT IS ORDERED that the motion to dismiss for lack of jurisdiction based on denial of Title II access is denied. Order entered by the Court. Neville, C.J., took no part. Overstreet, J., took no part.	WatsonA
12/11/2025	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	WatsonA
12/11/2025	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	WatsonA
12/11/2025	Record	Copy of Administrator's objection to Respondent's "motion to disqualify the Administrator for structural constitutional conflict and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
12/11/2025	Record	Copy of Administrator's objection to Respondent's "motion to strike void order entered December 2, 2025" and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
12/11/2025	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	WatsonA
12/11/2025	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	WatsonA
12/11/2025	Record	Copy of Administrator's objection to Respondent's "motion to declare the ARDC system unconstitutional & to vacate all orders issued under the unconstitutional structure and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
12/15/2025	Record	Copy of Administrator's objections to Respondent's "motion for sanctions and for certification of structural defect to the Illinois Supreme Court" and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
12/15/2025	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and	WatsonA

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02/17/2026

Lowery, Margaret Jean

<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Entered By</u>
12/16/2025	Record	Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed. Supreme Court order entered December 16, 2025: Motion by Margaret Jean Lowery to recuse Justice Cunningham. Denied. Order entered by Justice Cunningham.	ThomeM
12/16/2025	Record	Supreme Court order entered December 16, 2025: Motion by Margaret Jean Lowery to waive all filing and copy fees. Allowed. Order entered by Justice Theis.	WatsonA
12/16/2025	Record	Supreme Court order entered December 16, 2025: Motion by Margaret Jean Lowery to strike order entered December 2, 2025. Denied. Order entered by Justice Theis.	WatsonA
12/18/2025	Motion	Copy of Respondent's motion for access to the record, certification whether a certified record exists, and certification of each Justice's ability to participate for quorum purposes and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
12/18/2025	Record	Supreme Court order entered December 18, 2025: That the motion for certification of questions on jurisdiction and ADA access is denied. Order entered by the Court.	ThomeM
12/18/2025	Record	Supreme Court order entered December 18, 2025: That the motion to compel court access under the ADA is denied. Order entered by the Court.	ThomeM
12/18/2025	Record	Supreme Court order entered December 18, 2025: That the motion to disqualify the Administrator for structural constitutional conflict is denied. Order entered by the Court.	ThomeM
12/18/2025	Record	Supreme Court order entered December 18, 2025: That the motion to declare the ARDC unconstitutional and to vacate all orders entered in this matter is denied. Order entered by the Court.	ThomeM
12/23/2025	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	ThomeM
12/23/2025	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	ThomeM
12/23/2025	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	ThomeM
12/23/2025	Record	Copy of Administrator's objection to Respondent's "motion for access to the record, certification whether a	ThomeM

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02/17/2026

Lowery, Margaret Jean

<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Entered By</u>
12/23/2025	Motion	certified record exists, and certification of each Justice's ability to participate for quorum purposes" and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
12/23/2025	Motion	Copy of Respondent's motion for leave to supplement exceptions and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
12/29/2025	Motion	Copy of Respondent's motion to declare rules governing attorney discipline unconstitutional and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
12/29/2025	Record	Supreme Court order entered December 29, 2025: That the motion for sanctions against the Administrator and for certification of structural defect to the Illinois Supreme Court is denied. Order entered by the Court. Neville, C.J., took no part. Overstreet, J., took no part.	ThomeM
12/29/2025	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	ThomeM
12/31/2025	Record	Supreme Court order entered December 31, 2025: IT IS ORDERED that the motion for access to the record, certification whether a certified record exists, and certification of each justice's ability to participate for quorum purposes is denied. Order entered by the Court. Neville, C.J., took no part. Overstreet, J., took no part.	WatsonA
12/31/2025	Motion	Copy of Respondent's motion to stay pending Supreme Court review and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
12/31/2025	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	ThomeM
01/02/2026	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	WatsonA
01/02/2026	Record	Copy of Administrator's objection to motion to declare rules governing attorney discipline unconstitutional and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
01/05/2026	Motion	Copy of Respondent's motion to direct accountability by ordering entry of determinative evidence into the record and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
01/05/2026	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	WatsonA
01/05/2026	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme	WatsonA

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Lowery, Margaret Jean

<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Entered By</u>
01/05/2026	Record	Court filed. Copy of Administrator's objection to Respondent's "motion to stay pending Supreme Court review" and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
01/06/2026	Record	Copy of Respondent's supplement to the record regarding jurisdictional defects, due process violations, ADA exclusion, and coercive preservation of authority and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
01/06/2026	Record	Supreme Court order entered January 6, 2026: Motion by Margaret Jean Lowery for leave to supplement petition for leave to file exceptions instanter. Allowed. Order entered by Justice Theis.	WatsonA
01/07/2026	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	ThomeM
01/08/2026	Record	Supreme Court order entered January 8, 2026: That the motion to declare the rules governing attorney discipline unconstitutional is denied. Order entered by the Court. Neville, C.J., took no part. Overstreet, J., took no part.	ThomeM
01/08/2026	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	ThomeM
01/08/2026	Record	Copy of the Administrator's objection to Respondent's "motion to direct accountability by ordering entry of determinative evidence into the record" and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
01/13/2026	Motion	Copy of Respondent's motion to adopt new constitutional test for applicatin [sic] to bar regulation & request that it be validated through Scotus appeal and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
01/13/2026	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	WatsonA
01/15/2026	Record	Supreme Court order entered January 15, 2026: Motion by Margaret Jean Lowery to stay proceedings pending Supreme Court review. Denied. Order entered by the Court.	ThomeM
01/15/2026	Record	Supreme Court order entered January 15, 2026: Motion by Margaret Jean Lowery to order entry of determinative evidence into the record. Denied. Order entered by the Court.	ThomeM
01/15/2026	Record	Copy of Respondent's motion to stay publication of	ThomeM

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Lowery, Margaret Jean

<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Entered By</u>
01/15/2026	Disposition	disciplinary order pending appellate review and notice of filing with proof of service filed. Supreme Court order entered January 15, 2026: Petition by respondent for leave to file exceptions to the report and recommendation of the Review Board. Denied. Respondent Margaret Jean Lowery is disbarred, as recommended by the Review Board. Order entered by the Court. Neville, C.J., took no part. Overstreet, J., took no part.	ThomeM
01/15/2026	Disposition	Mandate entered January 15, 2026.	ThomeM
01/15/2026	Status Activity	Close proceeding case	ThomeM
01/16/2026	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	ThomeM
01/16/2026	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	ThomeM
01/16/2026	Record	Copy of the Administrator's response to Respondent's "motion to adopt new constitutional test for applicatin [sic] to bar regulation & request that it be validated through SCOTUS appeal and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM
01/21/2026	Record	Certification to Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission from Clerk of the Supreme Court filed.	WatsonA
01/21/2026	Record	Copy of Administrator's response to Respondent's "motion to stay publication of disciplinary order pending Appellate review" and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	WatsonA
01/21/2026	Record	Supreme Court order entered January 21, 2026: Motion by Margaret Jean Lowery to adopt new constitutional test for application to bar regulation and request that it be validated through Supreme Court of the United States appeal. Denied. Order entered by Justice Theis.	ThomeM
01/27/2026	Record	Supreme Court order entered January 27, 2026: Motion by Margaret Jean Lowery to stay publication of January 15, 2026 disciplinary order pending appellate review. Denied as Moot. Order entered by Justice Cunningham.	ThomeM
01/29/2026	Phase	Concluding Procedures	BrownA
02/03/2026	Record	Copy of the Administrator's statement of costs pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 773 and notice of filing with proof of service filed.	ThomeM

Lowery, Margaret Jean
