

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS

In the Matter of:)	
)	
RHONDA CRAWFORD,)	Supreme Court No. M.R.
)	
Attorney-Respondent,)	Commission No. 2016PR00115
)	
No. 6281226.)	

PETITION FOR INTERIM SUSPENSION
PURSUANT TO SUPREME COURT RULE 774(a)(2)

Jerome Larkin, Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission by his attorneys, Wendy J. Muchman and Shelley M. Bethune, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 774(a)(2), and this Court’s inherent and plenary authority over the practice of law and the administration of the Courts, respectfully requests that this Court issue a rule for Respondent, Rhonda Crawford, to show cause why she should not be suspended until further order of the Court or suspend Respondent on the Court’s own motion, and restrain and enjoin Respondent from taking the judicial oath of office or assuming the office of judge, or take such other action as this Court deems just, for having engaged in conduct which threatens irreparable harm to the public, the legal profession and to the orderly administration of justice. In support, the Administrator states:

I. SUMMARY

1. A three-count complaint is pending before the Hearing Board of the Commission against Respondent in *In the Matter of Rhonda Crawford*, 2016PR00115. (Exh. 1, Complaint.) The complaint alleges that on August 11, 2016, in Courtroom 098 of the Markham courthouse (“Courtroom 098”), Respondent engaged in criminal conduct, conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation, and conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice when she knowingly and falsely donned Judge Valarie Turner’s judicial robe during the 1:00 p.m.

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court call, took the bench, and purported to preside over the remaining cases on the call, notwithstanding the fact that she was not, and has never been, a judge. (See Exhs. 2, 3 and 4 respectively, affidavits of Luciano Panici, Jr., Officer Derrell White, and Kendrah Blackshear.) Additionally, on two occasions on August 11, 2016, Respondent failed to correct Judge Turner's introduction of her as a judge to persons in Courtroom 098 whom she had never met before. At the time of this misconduct, Respondent was employed by the Office of Chief Judge as a staff attorney assigned to the Honorable Marjorie C. Laws, the Presiding Judge of the Sixth Municipal District. Respondent is currently an unopposed candidate on the ballot for the November 2016 general election for the office of judge in the Circuit Court of Cook County, First Judicial Subcircuit, and has refused to voluntarily remove her name from the ballot.

2. The evidence in this matter shows that Respondent's misconduct and her position as an unopposed candidate for the office of judge in the Circuit Court of Cook County and her refusal to remove her name from the ballot demonstrates that continued practice by Respondent threatens irreparable injury to the public, the legal profession, and the orderly administration of justice. Moreover, persuasive evidence exists to support the allegations in the complaint. The evidence consists of Respondent's admissions and affidavits of the Judge Laws; the Honorable Luciano Panici; Luciano Panici, Jr., the prosecutor for the Village of Dolton; Derrell White, a part-time police officer for the Village of Dolton; and Kendrah Blackshear.

II. PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

3. On October 7, 2016, the Administrator filed a complaint with the Hearing Board alleging that on August 11, 2016, Respondent engaged in criminal conduct, conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation, and conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice when she put on a judicial robe and purported to preside over at least three cases in

Courtroom 098 without having the authority to do so and made a misrepresentation to the Administrator in a sworn statement during the investigation of that conduct. (Exh. 1.)

III. PERSUASIVE EVIDENCE SUPPORTS THE CHARGES

4. In August 2011, the Office of Chief Judge Timothy Evans, the Chief Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County, hired Respondent as a staff attorney and assigned her to work at the Daley Center courthouse. (Exh. 5, Affidavit of Judge Laws.) In May 2015, Respondent was transferred to Markham, at which time Judge Laws became her supervisor. (Exh. 5.) Respondent's job responsibilities included research for the judges in the Sixth Municipal District. (Exh. 6, Respondent's sworn statement, pp. 16:21-17:3, 21:22-22:9.)

5. In March 2016, Respondent won the primary election for the office of judge in the First Judicial Subcircuit of the Circuit Court of Cook County. (Exh. 5.) Respondent is unopposed on the ballot for the November 8, 2016 general election. (Exh. 5.) If elected on November 8, 2016, Respondent would be scheduled to be sworn in as a judge on December 5, 2016.

6. At some time in March 2016, Judge Laws told Respondent that as long as she did not have any outstanding assignments, she could observe how the different judges at Markham handled their calls. (Exh. 5, Exh. 6, pp. 36:15-37:7.)

7. On August 11, 2016, shortly before 9:00 a.m., Respondent went to Courtroom 098 at the Markham courthouse ("Courtroom 098") and sat in the witness box located to the left of the judge's bench. (Exh. 2, Exh. 6, p. 37:19-23; Exh. 7, Affidavit of Jack Kelly and pictures of Courtroom 098.) The judge assigned to Courtroom 098 that day was Judge Valarie Turner, and Respondent went to observe Judge Turner handle the court call. (Exh. 6, p. 34:9-19.)

8. On August 11, 2016, Luciano Panici, Jr. (“Panici, Jr.”), the prosecutor for the Village of Dolton, was the prosecutor assigned to Courtroom 098, and he arrived to Courtroom 098 at approximately 9:00 a.m. (Exh. 2.) Respondent was sitting in the witness box when Panici, Jr. arrived. (Exh. 2; Exh. 7.)

9. The court calls in Courtroom 098 on August 11, 2016 were scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m, 10:30 a.m., and 1:00 p.m. (Exh. 2.) During the 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. calls, Respondent remained seated in the witness box while Judge Turner handled the cases. (Exh. 2.)

10. At approximately 12:00 p.m., the court recessed for lunch. (Exh. 2.) At that time, Judge Turner introduced Panici, Jr. to Respondent and asked, “Have you met Judge Crawford?” (Exh. 2.) Respondent did not correct Judge Turner’s statement that she was a judge, and Panici, Jr., who had not previously met Respondent, therefore believed that Respondent was a new judge at Markham. (Exh. 2.)

11. Shortly before 1:00 p.m., Panici, Jr. returned to Courtroom 098 for the afternoon call. Officer Derrell White (“White”), a part-time Village of Dolton police officer, also arrived to Courtroom 098 at approximately 1:00 p.m. (Exh. 3, Affidavit of Officer Derrell White.) White sat in the chairs located to the left of and slightly behind the witness box, where Respondent was again seated. (Exh. 3; Exh. 7.)

12. Judge Turner began the 1:00 p.m. call and initially handled the cases. (Exhs. 2 & 3.) Near the end of the call, Judge Turner announced, “We’re going to switch judges.” (Exh. 4, Affidavit of Kendrah Blackshear.) At that time, Judge Turner stood up and gave her judicial robe to Respondent, who put on the robe and sat down on the judge’s chair behind the bench. (Exhs. 2, 3 & 4, Exh. 6, pp. 31:6-32:19.) Respondent did not decline to accept Judge Turner’s robe or otherwise indicate that she was not a judge. (Exhs. 2, 3 & 4; Exh. 6, pp. 38:21-39:10.)

As a result of his introduction to Respondent earlier that day, Panici, Jr. believed Respondent was a new judge at Markham and did not question her authority to hear the remaining cases on the call. (Exh. 2.)

13. While wearing Judge Turner's robe and sitting in the judge's chair behind the bench, Respondent purported to hear the remaining matters on the 1:00 p.m. call as Judge Turner stood behind her. (Exhs. 2, 3 & 4; Exh. 6, pp. 31:6-34:7.) While Respondent was wearing Judge Turner's robe and sitting on the bench, the court clerk called the case of defendant Maliq Giles ("Giles"), ticket YE-334-458. (Exh. 2.) Respondent asked Giles if he had his insurance card, but he did not have it. (Exh. 6, p. 33:6-8.) On the motion of Giles, Respondent purported to continue the matter to October 26, 2016 and reflected her purported continuance by writing "MD 10-26-16" on the back of ticket YE-334-458. (Exh. 6, pp. 44:24-45:14; Exh. 8, Ticket YE-334-458, Maliq Giles.)

14. As the call continued, the clerk called the case of defendant Angel LaSalle ("LaSalle"), ticket YB-701-075. (Exh. 2.) When LaSalle stepped up to the bench, Respondent said to LaSalle, "Officer is not in court." (Exh. 6, p. 33:15-19.) Panici, Jr. made a motion to continue the matter, and Respondent turned to Judge Turner and asked, "Can I deny his motion?" (Exh. 2.) Judge Turner replied, "Yes, you can deny the motion." (Exh. 2.) Respondent then purported to deny Panici, Jr.'s motion and Panici, Jr. made a motion to non-suit the matter. (Exh. 2.) Respondent purported to grant Panici, Jr.'s motion to non-suit the matter and told LaSalle his ticket had been dismissed. (Exh. 6, p. 49:8-11.) Respondent reflected her purported dismissal by writing "ONIC" (Officer Not In Court) and "MCNS" (Motion City Non-Suit) on the back of ticket YB-701-075. (Exh. 6, p. 47:18-22; Exh. 9, Ticket YB-701-705, Angel LaSalle.)

15. At some point while Respondent was wearing Judge Turner's robe and sitting on the bench, the case of defendant Kendrah Blackshear, ticket YE-250-620, was called. (Exh. 4.) The Village of Dolton had issued Blackshear a traffic ticket on June 17, 2016 for her alleged failure to have a valid driver's license. (Exh. 4.) Blackshear stepped up to the bench before Respondent, believing that she was a judge. (Exh. 4.) Blackshear presented a valid driver's license to Panici, Jr., who then made a motion to non-suit the matter. (Exh. 4.) Respondent purported to grant the motion. (Exh. 4; Exh. 10, Ticket YE-250-620, Kendrah Blackshear.)

16. At the conclusion of the 1:00 p.m. call, after White had observed Respondent seated at the judge's bench, wearing a judicial robe and ruling on tickets, White approached Respondent to congratulate her, thinking that she was a judge. (Exh. 3, Affidavit of Officer Derrell White.) White asked Respondent if she would be assigned to Markham and Respondent replied that she was in Markham now, but would probably be assigned downtown. (Exh. 3.)

17. On August 11, 2016, at approximately 1:30 p.m., Panici Jr. left Courtroom 098 and went to the chambers of his father, the Honorable Luciano Panici. (Exh. 2; Exh. 11, Affidavit of Judge Luciano Panici.) Panici, Jr. told his father that he had just stepped up in front of a new judge and that he was surprised she did not know how to rule on a routine motion to continue. (Exhs. 2 & 11.) Judge Panici asked what new judge Panici, Jr. was referring to because there were no new judges at Markham. (Exhs. 2 & 11.) When Panici, Jr. indicated that he meant Respondent, Judge Panici informed Panici, Jr. that Respondent was not a judge. (Exhs. 2 & 11.) Judge Panici instructed Panici, Jr. to immediately report the incident to the presiding judge at Markham, Judge Laws. (Exhs. 2 & 11.)

18. Panici, Jr. then went to Judge Laws' office and requested to speak with her. (Exh. 2.) Panici, Jr. informed Judge Laws of what had just occurred in Courtroom 098. (Exhs. 2 & 5.)

Judge Laws became very upset and left her office to find Respondent and Judge Turner. (Exhs. 2 & 5.)

19. Judge Laws found Judge Turner in Judge Camille Willis' office, and she asked, "Val, is it true you let Rhonda Crawford wear your robe and hear cases?" (Exh. 5.) Judge Turner replied, "I thought she was a judge." (Exh. 5.) Judge Laws told Judge Turner to stay in Judge Willis' office until she returned. (Exh. 5.)

20. Judge Laws went to Courtroom 098 with Kara Srsha, the Court Coordinator at Markham, and, as they arrived, Respondent was coming out of the courtroom. (Exh. 5.) Judge Laws told Respondent, "You've been reported" as they walked back into Courtroom 098. (Exh. 5; Exh. 6, p. 51:3-9.) At that time, Respondent knew immediately that Judge Laws was referring to the fact that she took the bench wearing Judge Turner's robe. (Exh. 6, p. 53:13-18.) Judge Laws asked Respondent what tickets she had purported to rule on, and Respondent pointed to two tickets on the court clerk's desk. (Exh. 5.) Judge Laws asked Respondent if she had written on the back of the tickets and Respondent indicated that she had. (Exh. 5.) Judge Laws then told Respondent to meet her upstairs, and Judge Laws left to find Judge Turner. (Exh. 5.)

21. Judge Laws went back to Judge Willis' office and told Judge Turner that her conduct would have to be reported to the Judicial Inquiry Board. (Exh. 5.)

22. Judge Laws left Judge Willis' office and saw Respondent in the hallway. At that time, Respondent said, "I did it. I did it." (Exh. 5; Exh. 6, p. 53:1-9.) Judge Laws asked Respondent, "Why would you want to risk your career for something like this?" and Respondent replied, "It's the robe isn't it? He's just mad because I denied his motion for continuance." (Exh. 5; Exh. 6, p. 52:1-5.) Judge Laws told Respondent she would have to report the incident and Respondent replied, "Wow." (Exh. 5.)

23. Judge Laws then immediately reported Respondent's conduct and Judge Turner's conduct to Chief Judge Evans. (Exh. 5.)

24. On August 12, 2016, Judge Laws informed the Clerk's Office and the Sheriff's Office of the incident. On August 15, 2016, Judge Laws sent a report of Judge Turner's conduct to the Judicial Inquiry Board and a report of Respondent's conduct to Human Resources for the Office of the Chief Judge. (Exh. 5.) The Office of the Chief Judge and Panici Jr. both reported Respondent's conduct to the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission. (Exh. 5.)

25. On August 26, 2016, Respondent was terminated from her position as staff attorney with the Office of the Chief Judge. (Exh. 6, pp. 59:24-60:5.)

26. As a result of Judge Laws' investigation into what occurred on August 11, 2016, Judge Laws placed the below three traffic tickets back on the court's docket. On September 1, 2016, Judge Laws heard the matters and dismissed them *nunc pro tunc* to August 11, 2016:

- a) YE-250-620 (Kendrah Blackshear)
- b) YB-701-075 (Maliq Giles)
- c) YE-334-458 (Angel LaSalle)

(Exh. 12, Transcripts of Judge Laws.) On the same date, the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County sent letters to Kendrah Blackshear, Maliq Giles, and Angel LaSalle informing them that their tickets had been dismissed. (Exh. 13, Letters to Defendants.)

27. On September 23, 2016, Counsel for the Administrator issued a subpoena for Judge Turner's appearance and sworn testimony at the Commission's Chicago office on September 29, 2016 in connection with the investigation initiated based on the reports of Panici, Jr. and the Office of the Chief Judge. (Exh. 14, Subpoena to Judge Valarie Turner.) Counsel for the Administrator thereafter agreed to reschedule Judge Turner's appearance at the request of her counsel.

28. At her sworn statement, Respondent maintained that everyone in the courtroom knew she was not a judge, despite the evidence to the contrary, including her interactions with Judge Turner (who introduced Respondent as a judge) and Officer White, (who congratulated Respondent and asked about her future assignment). (Exh. 6, pp. 39:15-40:22, pp. 56:15-57:5.) Rather than showing genuine remorse, Respondent fluctuated between acknowledging that she made mistakes on August 11, 2016 and insisting that she did nothing wrong, in part asserting that her conduct was excused because Judge Turner was standing behind her. (Exh. 6, p. 60:10-61:22, pp. 89:11-91:23.) In addition, on September 22, 2016, the morning of her sworn statement, Respondent gave a press conference, at which time she implied that she had done nothing wrong because “the judge stood over [her] the entire time” and she was “always under the direction of a judge.” (Exh. 15, Transcript of Press Conference and Website of Press Conference Video; see at <http://www/chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/ct-judge-clerk-speaks-out-20160922-story.html>.) However, as Respondent acknowledged, there is nothing in the Court’s rules that allows would-be judges to carry out the functions of a judicial officer under the supervision of an acting judge as its Rule 711 allows law students to perform certain legal services under the supervision of a licensed attorney. (Exh. 6, pp. 70:13-74:16.) At the press conference, Respondent stressed that she intends to win the election and become a judge. (Exh. 15, p. 4.)

29. As of the date of filing of this petition, Respondent is an unopposed candidate on the ballot for the November 2016 general election for the office of judge. (Exh. 5.) Although Counsel for the Administrator inquired of Respondent and her counsel at the outset of the Administrator’s investigation whether Respondent would voluntarily remove her name from the ballot, Respondent has declined to do so, and has indicated that she intends to become a judge.

(Exh. 6, p. 61:10-15; Exh. 15.) If Respondent is elected on November 8, 2016, she is expected to be sworn in as a judge on December 5, 2016.

IV. ARGUMENT

30. Rule 774(a)(2) allows the Administrator to petition the Court to issue a rule to show cause, and provides that the Court may suspend an attorney, where a complaint has been voted by the Inquiry Board; the attorney-respondent has committed a violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct involving fraud or moral turpitude or threatening irreparable injury to the public, his or her clients, or to the orderly administration of justice; and there appears to be persuasive evidence to support the charges. In addition to a suspension pursuant to the Administrator's petition for a rule to show cause, Rule 774(a) provides that during the pendency of a disciplinary proceeding the court may suspend an attorney on its own motion.

31. Respondent's misconduct meets the requirements for an interim suspension under Rule 774(a)(2). The Inquiry Board has voted that a complaint be filed against Respondent, and that complaint is pending before the Hearing Board. (Exhibit 1). Respondent's own admissions and the supporting affidavits of Panici, Jr., Judge Panici, Judge Laws, Kendrah Blackshear, and Derrell White provide persuasive evidence to support the charges that Respondent engaged in criminal conduct, conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation, and conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice. The available evidence demonstrates that Respondent engaged in dishonest and fraudulent conduct when, on August 11, 2016, she knowingly purported to preside over cases in a courtroom at the Markham courthouse without the authority to do so, and when she failed to correct Judge Turner's introduction of her as judge to the people in Courtroom 098. Moreover, Respondent's refusal to remove her name from the ballot for the November 8, 2016 general election for the office of judge, and her insistence that everyone in the courtroom knew she was not a judge in spite of every indication to the contrary, poses a threat of

irreparable injury to the public, the legal profession, and the orderly administration of justice, due to Respondent's failure to understand the importance of the judicial oath and the gravity of her conduct.

32. Respondent's lack of judgment in impersonating a judge, her subsequent dishonesty in failing to correct those who misunderstood her role, her lack of genuine remorse about the prejudice her actions have caused to the legal system, (for example when Judge Laws had to recall the tickets at issue,) and her failure to voluntarily remove her name from the judicial ballot, reflect her fundamental lack of eligibility to maintain a license to practice law. When the Character and Fitness Committee, appointed by this Court, determines that an applicant is eligible to practice law in this State pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 708, the Committee considers a number of factors, including the following: ... (3) the ability to exercise good judgment in conducting one's professional business; (4) the ability to conduct oneself with the highest degree of honesty, integrity, and trustworthiness in all professional relationships and with respect to all legal obligations; (5) the ability to conduct oneself with respect for and in accordance with the law and Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct; ...and (10) the ability to conduct oneself properly and in a manner that engenders respect for the law and the profession. (Sup. Ct. Rule 708(c).) Respondent's conduct is not limited to what occurred on August 11, 2016 in Courtroom 098. It includes her subsequent insistence that the fact that Judge Turner was standing behind her mitigates her conduct, her dishonesty in failing to correct the misimpression of those who thought she was a judge, her refusal to remove her name from the ballot, and her ill-advised decision to hold a press conference that only brought further embarrassment to the legal profession. (Exhs. 2, 3, 4, 6, p. 61:10-15, & 15.) These actions demonstrate Respondent's fundamental lack of eligibility to maintain a license to practice law, insofar as they reflect

Respondent's lack of good judgment, lack of honesty and integrity, lack of respect for the law and the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct, and lack of ability to conduct herself in a manner that engenders respect for the law and profession. (Sup. Ct. Rule 708(c).)

33. It is not unprecedented in this State for this Court to enjoin an attorney from taking the oath of office as a judge. In *In re Joseph Edward McDermott*, M.R. 4121, 86 CH 255 (November 26, 1986), this Court restrained and enjoined Joseph McDermott from taking the oath of office as a judge or from otherwise entering upon the duties of a judge in the Circuit Court of Cook County until good cause was shown. *In re Joseph Edward McDermott*, M.R. 4121, 86 CH 255 (November 26, 1986). McDermott was under investigation by the United States Attorney, was the subject of an investigation by the Commission, and had been found to be in contempt of court in grand jury proceedings in the Northern District of Illinois for refusing to testify. During the course of the criminal proceedings in *United States v. LeFevour*, 84 CR 837, an individual, James LeFevour, testified that on numerous occasions McDermott paid money on his own behalf and that of other attorneys in order to obtain favorable rulings on cases. On November 4, 1986, McDermott was elected to the office of judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County, and he was scheduled to assume the duties of circuit judge on December 1, 1986. In order to prevent irreparable injury to the public and to the administration of justice as a consequence of McDermott assuming the office of judge, this Court ordered, on November 19, 1986, that McDermott show cause why he should not be suspended from the practice of law until further order of the court and restrained from taking the oath or assuming office as a circuit court judge. On November 26, 1986, this Court entered an order restraining and enjoining McDermott from taking the oath of office as a judge until further order of the Court and until good cause was demonstrated for the vacation of the Order and continuing the rule to show cause until further

order of court. On December 17, 1986, the Court allowed the motion by Joseph Edward McDermott pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 762 to strike his name from the roll of attorneys licensed to practice law in Illinois.

34. As this Court did in *McDermott*, the facts of the present case warrant an interim suspension against Respondent in order to prevent irreparable injury to the legal profession, the public and to the administration of justice as a result of Respondent assuming the office of judge. Further, the facts warrant this Court to enjoin and restrain Respondent from taking the oath or assuming the office of judge on December 5, 2016 in the event of her eventual election.

35. Section 11 of Article VI of the 1970 Constitution of the State of Illinois provides, in relevant part, as follows:

No person shall be eligible to be a Judge or Associate Judge unless he is a United States citizen, a licensed attorney-at-law of this State, and a resident of the unit which selects him.

If Respondent is suspended from the practice of law, she will not be eligible to be a judge in Illinois, since she will not be able to practice law and, therefore, will not meet the eligibility requirements of the Constitution of the State of Illinois. In construing provisions of a constitution, it is a general rule that the words shall be given the meaning which they bear in ordinary use. *People ex rel. Watseka Tel. Co. v. Emmerson*, 302 Ill. 300 (1922). The constitution should be read and understood according to the most natural and obvious meaning of the language, in order to avoid eliminating or extending its operation, and where words of the constitution are clear, explicit, and unambiguous, there is no need for a court to engage in construction. *Maddux v. Blagojevich*, 233 Ill. 2d 508, 523 (2009). Additionally, this Court's decision in the case of *Applebaum v. Rush Univ. Med. Ctr.*, 231 Ill. 2d 429 (2008), while factually unrelated to the issues before the Court in this case, has some language that is

instructive on the meaning of the word “licensed” in the context of Illinois attorneys. In that case, which involved whether or not a lawyer’s registration status rendered his filing of a complaint for a client a nullity, the Court stated that a valid license to practice law requires the attorney not be disciplined for conduct relating to the person’s “skill, fitness or competency to practice law.” 231 Ill. 2d at 441. This petition alleges facts demonstrating that Respondent does not have the fitness, in as much as she lacks the ability to conduct herself in a manner that engenders respect for the law and the profession, the judgment, and the honesty, to maintain a valid license.

36. Other courts have resolved similar situations and determined that a lawyer suspended from the practice of law is not entitled to be a judge. In February 1973, the Supreme Court of New Hampshire ordered that Mack Mussman could not continue to sit as a justice of the Littleton District Court where he was suspended from the practice of law in New Hampshire. *In re Mussman*, 113 N.H. 54 (1973). The court noted that if Mussman was not entitled to confidence in his integrity as a lawyer, public confidence in him as a judge was unwarranted. *Id.* at 57. The court concluded that in the interest of preserving the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary, justice required that Mussman should not continue to sit as a justice of the Littleton court. *Id.*

37. Similarly, in August 2016, the United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana determined that a disbarred lawyer could not serve in the position of judge. *Lehman v. Individual Members of the Ind. Electoral Comm’n*, No. 3:16-CV-458-JVB-CAN, 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 104470 (N.D. Ind. August 8, 2016). On February 19, 2014, the Supreme Court of Indiana suspended Joseph Lehman from the practice of law, effective April 3, 2014. *Lehman*, at 1. On July 13, 2016, Lehman asked the District Court to order the Indiana Electoral

Commission to place his name on the upcoming general election ballot for the office of judge. *Id.* On July 21, 2016, the Supreme Court of Indiana disbarred Lehman. *Id.* The District Court reasoned that because Lehman had been disbarred, he was ineligible to serve in the position of judge under the Indiana Constitution, which provides that a judge “shall have been duly admitted to practice law by the Supreme Court of Indiana.” *Id.* at 2.

38. In 2009, the Florida Supreme Court determined that a circuit court judge-elect who was suspended from the practice of law could not be commissioned to assume the role of a judge since, as a result of his suspension, he did not satisfy the constitutional eligibility requirement of that office that he be “a member of the bar.” *In re Advisory Opinion to Governor Re Elected Judge*, 17 So.3d 265 (2009)¹. The Florida Supreme Court noted that based on cases from other state supreme courts, it is the “common sense understanding” that where bar membership is an eligibility requirement for judicial office, one may not be a judge in a court in which one’s own practice as a lawyer would be disallowed. See *State ex. Rel. Willis v. Monfort*, 93 Wash. 4, 159 P. 889, 891 (1916) *267 (“No person is eligible to the office of judge of the superior court unless...he is, at the time he becomes a candidate or is required to qualify as such judge, entitled practice in the courts of this state.”); see also *Johnson v. State Bar of Cal.*, 10 Cal. 2d 212, 72 P.2d 1191, 1193 (1937) (“[c]ertainly an attorney who has been suspended from the practice of law during this period cannot successfully claim to be eligible.”); *Cornett v. Judicial Ret. & Removal Comm’n*, 625 S.W. 2d 564 (KY. 1981) (stating that a person under temporary suspension from the practice of law cannot serve as a judge).

39. Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 774(a), in order to protect the public and uphold the integrity of the profession, the Administrator requests that this Court issue a rule for

¹ Although advisory opinions are not binding judicial precedent in Florida, they are frequently very persuasive and usually adhered to by courts in that state. *Barley v. S. Fla. Water Mgmt. Dist.*, 823 So. 2d 73, 82 (Fla. 2002).

Respondent to show cause why she should not be suspended until further order of the Court and, if this Court determines that the rule to show cause should be enforced, that the Court also restrain and enjoin Respondent from taking the judicial oath of office or assuming the office of judge on December 5, 2016.

V. CONCLUSION

40. Based on the information set forth above, and the pending disciplinary case against Respondent, *In the Matter of Rhonda Crawford*, 2016PR00115, the Administrator has established grounds for this Court to suspend Rhonda Crawford until further order of the court and restrain and enjoin her from taking the judicial oath of office or assuming the office of judge. A suspension until further order of the Court pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 774(a) is required for the purposes of protecting the public, the integrity of the profession and the administration of justice.

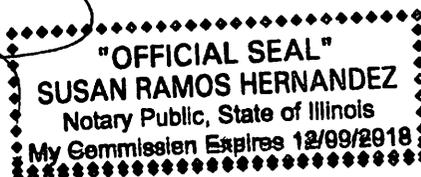
VERIFICATION

I, Wendy J. Muchman, an attorney, being first duly sworn, state that the allegations contained in the Administrator's Petition for Interim Suspension Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 774 are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Wendy J. Muchman
Wendy J. Muchman

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 13th day of October, 2016

Susan Ramos Hernandez
NOTARY PUBLIC



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ADMINISTRATOR'S EXHIBIT 1

FILED

OCT - 7 2016

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

**ATTY REG & DISC COMM
CHICAGO**

In the Matter of:

RHONDA CRAWFORD,

Attorney-Respondent,

No. 6281226.

Commission No.

2016PR00115

COMPLAINT

Jerome Larkin, Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission, by his attorney, Wendy J. Muchman and Shelley M. Bethune, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 753(b) complains of Respondent, Rhonda Crawford, who was licensed to practice law in Illinois on November 6, 2003, and alleges that Respondent has engaged in the following conduct, which subjects Respondent to discipline pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 770:

COUNT I

(Dishonesty as a result of handling cases on a judge's call while dressed in judicial robes and seated on the judge's chair behind the bench)

1. From August 2011 to August 2016, Respondent was employed as a Law Clerk/Staff Attorney for Office of the Chief Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County. From August 2011 until May 2015, Respondent worked at the Daley Center Courthouse and was responsible for research and writing assignments given to her by Chief Judge Timothy Evans. In May 2015, Respondent was transferred to the Markham Courthouse in the Sixth Municipal District ("Markham"), where she maintained her position as Law Clerk/Staff Attorney and was responsible for research and writing assignments given to her by any of the judges at Markham. Judge Marjorie Laws ("Judge Laws"), the presiding judge in Markham, was Respondent's

supervisor at Markham.

2. At no time has Respondent held the office of Judge or Associate Judge in Illinois pursuant to Article VI of the 1970 Illinois Constitution. As a result, at no time was Respondent authorized to act as a Judge or Associate Judge in a Circuit Court of this State of Illinois.

3. In March 2016, Respondent won the primary election for the office of judge in the Circuit Court of Cook County, First Judicial Subcircuit. Respondent is currently unopposed on the general election ballot for November 2016. Subsequent to winning the primary election, Respondent began observing judges at Markham during their court calls in preparation for the likely possibility that she would be elected to the office of judge in November 2016.

4. On August 11, 2016, Judge Valarie Turner ("Judge Turner") was assigned to Courtroom 098 in Markham ("Courtroom 098") for court calls scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 1:00 p.m. On August 11, each of the three court calls involved traffic tickets that had been issued in the Village of Dolton. The Village of Dolton prosecutor working in Courtroom 098 that day was Luciano Panici, Jr. ("Panici, Jr.").

5. On August 11, 2016, at approximately 9:00 a.m., Respondent was seated in the witness box to the left of the judge's bench in Courtroom 098. Shortly thereafter, Judge Turner entered Courtroom 098 wearing her judicial robe, took the bench, and began the 9:00 a.m. call. Respondent remained seated in the witness box throughout the 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. calls, between which there was no recess.

6. At approximately 12:00 p.m., the court recessed for lunch. At that time, Judge Turner introduced Respondent to Panici, Jr. and asked, "Have you met Judge Crawford?" Respondent did not correct Judge Turner's statement that she was a judge. Panici, Jr. introduced himself to Respondent and left Courtroom 098.

7. Judge Turner's statement that Respondent was a judge in paragraph six, above, was false because Respondent was not a judge on August 11, 2016, nor has she ever been a judge.

8. Respondent knew that Judge Turner's statement in paragraph six, above, was false because she knew she was not a judge. Respondent's failure to correct Judge Turner's statement in paragraph six, above, was dishonest and misleading.

9. At approximately 1:00 p.m., Panici, Jr. returned to Courtroom 098 for the afternoon call beginning at 1:00 p.m. At that time, Officer Derrell White also arrived at Courtroom 098 for the afternoon call. Officer White sat in a chair in a row of chairs located to the left of and slightly behind the witness box. Respondent again sat in the witness box to the left of the judge's bench. Judge Turner began the afternoon call at approximately 1:00 p.m.

10. At some time near the end of the 1:00 p.m. call, Judge Turner announced to the people in Courtroom 098, "We're going to switch judges" and gave her judicial robe to Respondent. Respondent did not correct Judge Turner's reference to her as a judge and put on Judge Turner's robe in plain view of the people in Courtroom 098.

11. Judge Turner's reference to Respondent as a judge in paragraph ten, above, was false because Respondent was not a judge on August 11, 2016, nor has she ever been a judge.

12. At the time Judge Turner referred to Respondent as a judge in paragraph ten, above, Respondent knew Judge Turner's statement was false because she knew she was not a judge. Respondent's failure to correct Judge Turner's reference to her as a judge in front of the people in Courtroom 098 was dishonest and misleading.

13. After putting on Judge Turner's robe, Respondent sat down on the bench and began purporting to preside over at least three cases on the 1:00 p.m. call. Judge Turner stood

behind Respondent.

14. As a result of Judge Turner's previous introduction of Respondent, at the time Respondent put on Judge Turner's robe and began purporting to preside over cases, Panici Jr. believed Respondent was a judge.

15. After Respondent had put on Judge Turner's robe and sat on the bench, the court clerk called the case of defendant Maliq Giles ("Giles"), ticket YE-334-458. At Giles' request, Respondent purported to continue the matter until October 26, 2016. Respondent reflected her purported decision by writing "MD 10-26-16" on the back of ticket YE-334-458.

16. After Giles' matter, the court clerk called the case of defendant Angel LaSalle ("LaSalle"), ticket YE-334-458. When LaSalle stepped up to the bench, Respondent said to LaSalle, "Officer is not in court." Panici, Jr. then made a motion to continue the matter. Respondent turned to Judge Turner and asked, "Can I deny his motion?" Judge Turner replied, "Yes, you can deny the motion" and Respondent purported to deny the motion. Panici, Jr. then made a motion to non-suit the matter, which Respondent purported to grant. Respondent then reflected her purported decision by writing "ONIC" (Officer Not In Court) and "MCNS" (Motion City Non-Suit) on the back of ticket YE-334-458.

17. At some point while Respondent was wearing Judge Turner's robe and seated on the bench, she called the case of defendant Kendrah Blackshear ("Blackshear"), ticket YE-250-620. Blackshear stepped up to the bench before Respondent and presented a valid driver's license. Panici, Jr. made a motion to non-suit the matter and Respondent purported to grant the motion.

18. At the time Blackshear stepped up in front of Respondent, described in paragraph 17, above, Blackshear believed Respondent was a judge as a result of the facts that Respondent

was wearing a judicial robe, sitting behind the bench in the Judge's chair, and presiding over cases being called by the clerk.

19. After the 1:00 p.m. call concluded, Respondent returned Judge Turner's judicial robe to her. At that time, Officer White approached Respondent to congratulate her on her judgeship. Officer White asked Respondent if she would be assigned to Markham and Respondent replied that she was in Markham now but would probably be assigned downtown.

20. Respondent's statement to Officer White referenced in paragraph 19, above, was false and misleading because she was not a judge assigned to Markham on August 11, 2016.

21. Respondent knew that her statement to Officer White referenced in paragraph 19, above, was false and misleading because she knew she was not a judge assigned to Markham.

22. After being apprised of what had occurred, Judge Laws conducted an investigation of Respondent's conduct. As a result of that investigation, Judge Laws placed all three tickets referred to in paragraphs 15-17, above, back on the court's docket. On September 1, 2016, Judge Laws heard all three matters, tickets YE-334-458 (Giles), YE-334-458 (LaSalle), and YE-250-620 (Blackshear). Panici, Jr. was the prosecutor and motioned to non-suit each matter. Judge Laws granted the motions and dismissed the tickets nunc pro tunc to August 11, 2016.

23. By reason of the conduct described above, Respondent has engaged in the following misconduct:

- a. conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation, by conduct including donning a judicial robe and purporting to preside over the remainder of the court call on August 11, 2016 in Courtroom 098 without the authority to do so, purporting to enter judicial orders without authority to do so, and conduct including failing to correct Judge Turner's reference to her as a judge, in

violation of Rule 8.4(c) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010); and

- b. conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice, by conduct including presiding over matters on August 11, 2016 when she had no authority to do so and causing the court to have to conduct an investigation and call back the three cases to put them back on the Court's docket, in violation of Rule 8.4(d) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010).

COUNT II

(Criminal conduct of official misconduct and false personation of public officer)

24. The Administrator re-alleges paragraphs one through 22 of Count I, above.

25. At all times alleged in this complaint, there was in full force and effect Section 33-3(a)(2) of the Illinois Compiled Statutes, which states that a public employee commits official misconduct, a Class 3 felony, when, in her official capacity, she knowingly performs an act which she knows she is forbidden by law to perform.

26. At all times alleged in this complaint, there was in full force and effect Section 17-2(b)(2) of the Illinois Compiled Statutes, which states that a person commits a false personation, a Class A misdemeanor, if she knowingly and falsely represents herself to be a public official or public employee.

27. By reason of the conduct described above, Respondent has engaged in the following misconduct:

- a. committing a criminal act that reflects adversely on the lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a lawyer in other respects, by engaging in the crimes of official misconduct and false personation of a public officer, in violation of Section 33-3 and Section 32-5 of the Illinois Compiled Statutes, and in violation of Rule 8.4(b) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010).

COUNT III
(False statements in a disciplinary investigation)

28. The Administrator re-alleges paragraphs one through 22 of Count I, above.

29. On August 12, 2016, the Administrator received a request for investigation of Respondent from Panici, Jr. related to Respondent's conduct on August 11, 2016. Based on the information in Panici, Jr.'s request for investigation, the Administrator initiated investigation number 2016IN03486 into Respondent's conduct.

30. On September 22, 2016, Respondent appeared at her counsel's office to give her sworn statement in relation to investigation number 2016IN03486. At that sworn statement, Respondent made the following statements regarding her conduct on August 11, 2016:

- a. That putting on Judge Turner's robe did not mislead people in Courtroom 098 to think that she was, in fact, a judge; and
- b. That it was clear, based on how things were happening in Courtroom 098 on August 11, 2016, that Judge Turner was trying to teach Respondent.

31. Respondent's statements in paragraph 30, above, were false because Respondent knew that Judge Turner had introduced her as "Judge Crawford" to Panici, Jr. earlier that day and that Judge Turner announced to Courtroom 098 that they would be "switching judges," and that, therefore, the people in Courtroom 098 thought she was a judge.

32. At the time Respondent made the statements referred to in paragraph 30, above, she knew that her statements were false.

33. By reason of the conduct described above, Respondent has engaged in the following misconduct:

- a. conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation, by conduct including giving false testimony at her sworn statement on September 22, 2016,

in violation of Rule 8.4(c) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010).

WHEREFORE, the Administrator requests that this matter be referred to a panel of the Hearing Board of the Commission, that a hearing be conducted, and that the Hearing Panel make findings of fact, conclusions of fact and law, and a recommendation for such discipline as is warranted.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerome Larkin, Administrator
Attorney Registration and
Disciplinary Commission

By: 
Shelley M. Bethune

Shelley M. Bethune
Counsel for the Administrator
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Chicago, Illinois 60601
Telephone: (312) 565-2600
Email: sbethune@iadc.org
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ADMINISTRATOR'S EXHIBIT 2

AFFIDAVIT OF LUCIANO PANICI, JR.

1. My name is Luciano Panici, Jr. I am employed by the Law Offices of Dennis G. Gianopolus, P.C. and as part of my employment I prosecute traffic violations for the Village of Dolton. My office has been employed by the Village of Dolton in this capacity since 2013.

2. Prior to August 10, 2016 I did not know Respondent. On August 10, 2016, at approximately 9:00 a.m., I noticed someone I now know to be Respondent in Courtroom 098 at the Markham Courthouse ("Courtroom 098"). She was sitting in the witness box to the left of the Judge's bench. I did not speak to Respondent on August 10, 2016.

3. On August 11, 2016, at approximately 9:00 a.m., I again saw Respondent in Courtroom 098, sitting in the witness box to the left of the Judge's bench. There were three court calls scheduled for August 11, 2016, starting at 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 1:00 p.m. The Judge assigned to Courtroom 098 that day was Judge Valarie Turner.

4. I proceeded to handle the 9:00 a.m. court call and the 10:30 a.m. court call. During both court calls, Respondent remained seated in the witness box.

5. At approximately 12:00 p.m., the court recessed for lunch. At that time, Judge Turner introduced me to Respondent asking me, "Have you met Judge Crawford?" I shook Respondent's hand and introduced myself. Respondent did not correct Judge Turner's introduction of her as Judge Crawford. Therefore, I believed at that time that Respondent was a judge.

6. I returned from lunch and began the 1:00 p.m. court call. When the call started, Judge Turner was seated on the bench. Near the end of the court call, I was approached by an unknown female causing me to turn away from the bench to briefly speak to her. When I turned

back to the bench, I saw Respondent zipping up Judge Turner's robe, which Respondent had put on. Respondent then sat down on the bench and Judge Turner stood behind her.

7. Respondent presided over two or three tickets. I am certain that Respondent presided over the following two tickets:

- a. YE-334-458 (Maliq Giles)
- b. YB-701-075 (Angel LaSalle)

8. The clerk called Maliq Giles, and Respondent continued Ticket YE-334-458 until October 26, 2016.

9. The clerk then called Angel LaSalle, Ticket YB-701-075. The police officer was not in court. I made a motion to continue the matter. Respondent asked Judge Turner, "Can I deny his motion?" Judge Turner replied, "Yes, you can deny the motion." Respondent denied my motion to continue and I presented a motion to non-suit the matter.

10. My father is Judge Luciano Panici, and he is also assigned to the Markham courthouse. At the end of the 1:00 p.m. call, I left Courtroom 098 and went to my father's chambers.

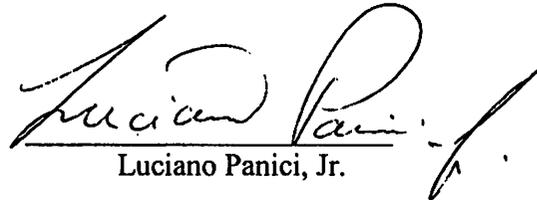
11. My father was doing work on his computer. I told my father I had appeared before a new judge and that I was surprised she didn't know what to do with a routine motion to continue. My father turned toward me. He looked surprised. He said, "A new judge? In Markham? We don't have any new judges here. Who was it?" When I told him it was Rhonda Crawford, my father immediately advised me that Respondent is not a judge. He told me to go report the matter to Judge Marjorie Laws, the presiding judge of Markham.

12. Thereafter, I immediately went to Judge Laws' chambers and informed her of what had just happened during the 1:00 p.m. call.

13. Judge Laws looked surprised and upset and left to go figure out what had occurred.

14. On August 12, 2016, I reported the incident to the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission and the Judicial Inquiry Board.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.


Luciano Panici, Jr.

Subscribed and sworn to before me

this 3rd day of October, 2016.


NOTARY PUBLIC



ADMINISTRATOR'S EXHIBIT 3

AFFIDAVIT OF DERRELL WHITE

1. My name is Derrell White. I have been a part-time Dolton police officer for the past eight years. Prior to being hired by the Village of Dolton, I was a Chicago police officer for 30 years.

2. On August 11, 2016, at approximately 1:00 p.m., I arrived at Courtroom 098 in the Markham courthouse ("Courtroom 098") for a 1:00 p.m. court call. I sat in the chairs to the left of and slightly behind the judge's bench with Officer Sandy Garrett. I saw a woman, who I now know was Rhonda Crawford ("Respondent"), sitting in the witness box to my right.

3. Near the end of the 1:00 p.m. call, Judge Valarie Turner gave her robe to Respondent, who put it on, sat down, and handled the remaining cases on the call. Judge Turner stood behind Respondent while Respondent handled the rest of the cases.

4. After the 1:00 p.m. call ended, I approached Respondent, thinking she was a judge, and congratulated her. I asked her if she would be assigned to Markham. Respondent stated that she is in Markham now, but would probably be assigned downtown.

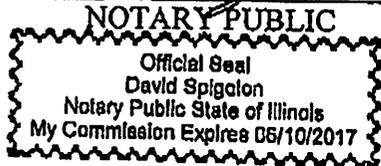
FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

Derrell White
Derrell White

Subscribed and sworn to before me

this 5 day of OCTOBER, 2016.

[Signature]



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ADMINISTRATOR'S EXHIBIT 4

AFFIDAVIT OF KENDRAH BLACKSHEAR

1. My name is Kendrah Blackshear.
2. On August 11, 2016, I went to Courtroom 098 at the Markham courthouse ("Courtroom 098") because I had received a traffic ticket, Ticket YE-250-620, for failure to have a valid driver's license and it was scheduled on the 1:00 p.m. court call in that courtroom.
3. When I entered Courtroom 098, I saw a woman, who I now know was Rhonda Crawford ("Respondent"), sitting in the witness box to the left of the judge's bench. I had never met or seen Respondent prior to August 11, 2016.
4. A judge I now know to be Judge Valarie Turner began the court call at approximately 1:00 p.m. Sometime during the court call, Judge Turner said, "We're going to switch judges." Then I saw Respondent put on Judge Turner's robe and sit down on the bench. Respondent never said she was not a judge so, at that time, I thought she was a judge.
5. Respondent called my case and I stepped up to the bench. I provided a valid driver's license to the prosecutor. The prosecutor then made a motion to dismiss the ticket, which Respondent granted.
6. While Respondent was on the bench, I did not see or hear Judge Turner and Respondent talking.

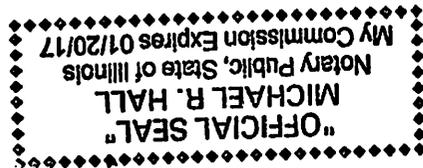
FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

Kendrah Blackshear
 Kendrah Blackshear

Subscribed and sworn to before me

this 5th day of October, 2016.

Michael R. Hall
 NOTARY PUBLIC



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ADMINISTRATOR'S EXHIBIT 5

AFFIDAVIT OF JUDGE MARJORIE LAWS

1. My name is Judge Marjorie Laws. Since 2009, I have served as presiding judge of the Sixth Municipal District Courthouse in Markham ("Markham"). I have been a judge since 1996.

2. In 2004, I met Respondent when she was a Cook County Assistant State's Attorney. I had very occasional contact with her between 2004 and 2011, typically when she needed help looking for a job.

3. Beginning in August 2011, Respondent was employed by the Office of the Chief Judge as a Staff Attorney/Law Clerk. She worked at the Daley Center Courthouse and was assigned to Chief Judge Timothy Evans. In May 2015, Respondent was transferred to the Markham Courthouse and, as a result, I was her supervisor. Respondent's job responsibilities included research and writing assignments, from any of the judges at Markham courthouse.

4. In March 2016, Respondent won the primary election for the office of judge in the Circuit Court of Cook County First Judicial Sub circuit. Respondent was originally unopposed on the general election ballot for November 2016. I believe at this point in time there may be a write-in candidate.

5. In March 2016, I told Respondent that as long as she did not have any outstanding assignments, she could observe the judges in Markham in order to prepare herself for her seemingly inevitable election to the bench. Thereafter, Respondent did not seek my permission before observing a judge.

6. Judge Valarie Turner is a judge assigned to Markham.

7. On August 11, 2016, Judge Turner was assigned to Courtroom 098 at Markham for court calls beginning at 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 1:00 p.m.

8. On August 11, 2016, at approximately 1:30 p.m., Luciano Panici, Jr., the prosecutor for the Village of Dolton, came to my office requesting to speak with me. Mr. Panici told me that Respondent had been observing Judge Turner in Courtroom 098 during the 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. calls, but that during the 1:00 p.m. call, Respondent put on Judge Turner's judicial robe, sat on the bench, and presided over at least two tickets. Mr. Panici's report caused me great concern and I left my office to find Respondent and Judge Turner.

9. I went to Respondent's office but she was not there. I found Judge Turner in Judge Camille Willis' chambers and I asked her, "Val, is it true you gave Rhonda your robe and let her preside over tickets?" Judge Turner replied, "I thought she was a judge." I told Judge Turner that Respondent was not a judge and I instructed Judge Turner to stay in Judge Willis' chambers and wait for me to return.

10. I then went to Courtroom 098 with Kara Srsha, the Court Coordinator at Markham, and saw Respondent coming out of Courtroom 098. As Respondent, Srsha, and I walked back into Courtroom 098, I told Respondent, "You've been reported." I asked Respondent why she put on a robe when she is not a judge and asked her how many tickets she had presided over. Respondent then pointed to the following two tickets on the court clerk's desk:

- a. YE-334-458 (Maliq Giles)
- b. YB-701-075 (Angel LaSalle)

I asked Respondent if she had written on the back of the two tickets and she indicated that she had.

11. I told Respondent to go upstairs and that I would see her upstairs. I went back to Judge Willis' chambers to find Judge Turner. I told Judge Turner that this situation would have to be reported to the Judicial Inquiry Board.

12. I left Judge Willis' chambers and saw Respondent in the hallway. At that time, Respondent said, "I did it. I did it." I asked Respondent, "Why would you want to ruin your career for something like this?" I also informed Respondent that she had no authority to hear cases. Respondent replied to me, "It's the robe, isn't it? He's just mad because I denied his motion for continuance." I informed Respondent that this situation would be reported and that she is not allowed to enter any courtroom. Respondent replied, "Wow."

13. Thereafter, I immediately reported the incident to Chief Judge Timothy Evans. Later, I received a phone call from the Lawyer's Assistance Program ("LAP") regarding Judge Turner and I said I would have Judge Turner contact LAP. I then referred Judge Turner to LAP.

14. On August 12, 2016, I reported the incident to the Clerk's Office and the Cook County Sheriff's Office. On August 16, 2016, I sent a report to the Judicial Inquiry Board and Human Resources for the Office of the Chief Judge. Human Resources for the Office of the Chief Judge informed the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission.

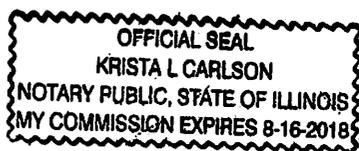
15. On August 15, 2016, I called Respondent and told her not to report to work. I also removed Judge Turner from further court calls.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

Marjorie P. Laws
Judge Marjorie Laws

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 4th day of October, 2016.

Krista L. Carlson
NOTARY PUBLIC



ADMINISTRATOR'S EXHIBIT 6

BEFORE THE
ILLINOIS ATTORNEY REGISTRATION
AND
DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
RHONDA CRAWFORD) No. 2016IN3486
)
Attorney-Respondent)
No. 6281226)

The Sworn Statement of
RHONDA CRAWFORD called by the Administrator for
examination, pursuant to the provisions of the
Illinois Code of Civil Procedure and the Rules
of the Illinois Supreme Court and Attorney
Registration and Disciplinary Commission, taken
before Annette Washington, Notary Public and
Certified Shorthand Reporter, within and for
the County of Cook and State of Illinois, at
One North LaSalle Street, Suite 300, Chicago,
Illinois, on the 22nd day of September 2016, at
1:30 p.m.

1 APPEARANCES:

2 MR. JEROME LARKIN,

3 Administrator,

4 BY: MS. SHELLEY BETHUNE

5 MS. WENDY J. MUCHMAN

6 130 East Randolph Drive

7 Chicago, Illinois 60601

8 (312) 565-2600

9 Appeared on behalf of the Administrator;

10

11 COLLINS BARGIONE & VUCKOVICH,

12 BY: MR. GEORGE COLLINS

13 MR. ADRIAN VUCKOVICH

14 One North LaSalle Street, Suite 300

15 Chicago, Illinois 60602

16 (312) 372-7813

17 Appeared on behalf of the Attorney-Respondent.

18

19 Also Present:

20 Jack Kelly

21 (Senior Investigator)

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I N D E X

WITNESS	PAGE NO.
RHONDA CRAWFORD	
Examination by Ms. Bethune	4
Examination by Ms. Muchman	62

E X H I B I T S

ADMINISTRATOR'S EXHIBIT NO.	MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION
1 Packet of documents	42
Bates Stamp 1	42
Bates Stamp 3	44
Bates Stamp 4	45
Bates Stamp 5	47
Bates Stamp 6	47

1 (Witness Sworn.)

2 MS. BETHUNE: This is the Sworn
3 Statement of Rhonda Crawford taken in relation
4 to Commission Number 2016IN03486.

5 My name is Shelley Bethune and I
6 am the attorney for the Administrator.
7 Miss Crawford has appeared pursuant to
8 agreement and is appearing with counsel, George
9 Collins, and Adrian Vuckovich.

10 This statement is being taken
11 pursuant to the Illinois Code of Civil
12 Procedure, the Supreme Court Rules and the
13 rules of the ARDC.

14 RHONDA CRAWFORD,
15 having been first duly sworn, was examined and
16 testified as follows:

17 EXAMINATION

18 BY MS. BETHUNE:

19 Q. Miss Crawford, if at any time you
20 do not hear me or understand my question,
21 please let know and I'll either repeat it or
22 rephrase it; is that fair?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Miss Crawford, what documents, if

1 any, have you reviewed in preparation for this
2 statement?

3 A. I received a subpoena that had
4 statements from Judge Laws, Lou Panici, Jr., a
5 Cook County Sheriff's deputy and a court clerk.
6 And there were also some tickets.

7 Q. Is that subpoena that you
8 mentioned the subpoena you received from the
9 ARDC?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And what tickets are you referring
12 to?

13 A. There were traffic tickets that I
14 reviewed.

15 Q. Those were included with the
16 subpoena?

17 A. I don't know if they were with the
18 subpoena, but my attorney had some traffic
19 tickets.

20 Q. So your attorney gave you those
21 tickets?

22 A. I looked at them, but he didn't
23 give them to me.

24 Q. All right. And have you talked to

1 anyone regarding the statement or the fact that
2 it's taking place other than your attorney?

3 A. No.

4 Q. What is your --

5 A. Well, we did a press conference
6 today.

7 Q. All right.

8 A. I did not mention that the
9 statement was taking place today, but we did
10 mention that there was an ARDC investigation.

11 Q. And who was the press conference
12 with?

13 A. My attorney, Victor Henderson, and
14 various media outlets.

15 Q. Do you know which media outlets
16 there were?

17 A. I don't know all of them. I do
18 know that Channel 9, Channel 7, SunTimes,
19 Tribune.

20 Q. What time was this statement?

21 A. 10:30 this morning.

22 Q. And did you discuss with your
23 attorney, Victor Henderson, that this statement
24 was happening today?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. What is your current home address?

3 A. 363 Hoxie Avenue, Calumet City,
4 Illinois 60409.

5 Q. How long have you lived there?

6 A. Since 1999.

7 Q. Who do you live with at that
8 address?

9 A. Myself.

10 Q. Are you married?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Are you divorced?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Do you have any children?

15 A. No.

16 Q. And when did you first become
17 licensed to practice law in Illinois?

18 A. 2003. November of 2003.

19 Q. Are you or were you licensed in
20 any other states?

21 A. No, I don't think I ever applied
22 for reciprocity anywhere, so no, I didn't get
23 any other licenses.

24 Q. Are you admitted to practice in

1 any federal jurisdictions?

2 A. Early on I believe I got licensed
3 here, but I've never done any federal work.
4 But not any other jurisdictions.

5 Q. When you say "here," do you mean
6 the Northern District of Illinois?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Have you been a defendant or a
9 respondent in any civil litigation in the last
10 five years?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Where did you go to law school?

13 A. Chicago Kent College of Law.

14 Q. And what year did you attend?

15 A. 2000 to 2003.

16 Q. Is there any specific area of law
17 that you focused on?

18 A. Well, I did receive a certificate
19 in litigation and alternative dispute
20 resolution.

21 Q. And where did you go to undergrad?

22 A. I went to several schools, but I
23 graduated from Chicago State University.

24 Q. Could you give me a time line of

1 -- including the other schools?

2 A. Yes. I started -- I went to
3 Xavier University of Louisiana my first year,
4 which was 1989 to 1990. I transferred to the
5 University of Illinois at Chicago in 1990
6 until, I believe, January of '93, when I went
7 to Chicago State, and I graduated in 1996.

8 Q. Okay. Why did you transfer from
9 Xavier to the University of Illinois in
10 Chicago?

11 A. Financial reasons.

12 Q. How about from University of
13 Illinois to Chicago State University?

14 A. I applied to the nursing program
15 and was not accepted, and I left to go to
16 Chicago State to attend their nursing program.

17 Q. You applied to the University of
18 Illinois at Chicago's nursing program and
19 that's the one you were not accepted to?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And so what was your degree that
22 you graduated with?

23 A. Bachelor of science in nursing.

24 Q. And do you have an active nursing

1 license now?

2 A. It's not active.

3 Q. When did it become inactive?

4 A. I'm not sure of the exact date.

5 Maybe 2005.

6 Q. Why did it become inactive?

7 A. I had to pay -- the date may not
8 be right. I did maintain it for a few years
9 after law school, but in addition to having to
10 pay to renew the license, they began to require
11 some additional classes in order to renew, and
12 I chose not to do that, in addition to what I
13 had to do to maintain the law license.

14 Q. Okay. Did you ever work as a
15 nurse?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And what years were you actively
18 working as a nurse?

19 A. From 1996 until I started law
20 school in 2000.

21 Q. And where did you work?

22 A. Christ, Rush, and Northwestern.

23 Q. Is that -- is Christ a hospital?

24 A. Yes. Christ Hospital and Medical

1 Center in Oak Lawn, Rush University Medical
2 Center, and Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

3 Q. Can you give me the dates that you
4 worked at each of those places?

5 A. I worked at Christ from 1996, I
6 believe around November of 1996 until, I
7 believe, January of 1999. And then I worked at
8 Rush from January of '99 until June...

9 Q. You can give me an approximate
10 time.

11 A. I'm sorry. I didn't look back at
12 my resume before we started. January to June,
13 I believe, of 1999. And then I went to
14 Northwestern, and I worked there until I left
15 to go to law school in August of 2000.

16 Q. Why did you leave from Christ
17 Hospital in 1999?

18 A. I wanted to do something
19 outpatient instead of working on the patient
20 care unit that I was working on. And I
21 received a job offer for a position at
22 Northwestern -- I'm sorry, at Rush working for
23 their cardiology department doing procedures,
24 as opposed to a patient care unit.

1 Q. Okay. And why did you leave from
2 Rush University to go to Northwestern?

3 A. I thought at the time that Rush
4 was having some financial problems in their
5 cardiology department where I worked. And I'm
6 a single person, I couldn't afford to be out of
7 work, so I began to look for another job when I
8 began to believe they had some financial
9 problems.

10 Q. Okay. Were you ever the subject
11 of disciplinary action with respect to your
12 nursing license?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Other than your law and nursing
15 licenses, do you have any other professional
16 licenses?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Have you received any other type
19 of graduate education other than law school?

20 A. No.

21 Q. All right. We're going to talk
22 about your employment history since you've been
23 admitted to practice in Illinois.

24 So could you give me a time line,

1 starting with your first employment after you
2 were admitted to practice?

3 A. I worked for the Cook County
4 State's Attorney's Office.

5 Q. Could you include some dates, too?

6 A. Sure.

7 Q. Thank you.

8 A. From August of 2003 to June of
9 2004 I worked for the criminal appeals
10 division. June of 2004 I went to work for
11 Anesi Ozmon Rodin Novak & Kohen. I stayed
12 there for approximately nine months.

13 And I did some contract work and
14 some independent work doing real estate
15 closings and some small business litigation
16 from sometime in 2005 until 2011.

17 August 2011 I went to work for the
18 Office of the Chief Judge and I worked there
19 until August of 2016.

20 Q. Why did you leave the State's
21 Attorney's Office?

22 A. I was interested in doing medical
23 malpractice litigation, and a position came up
24 at our firm that did plaintiffs' personal

1 injury. Part of the practice was medical
2 malpractice.

3 Q. Okay. And that would be the Anesi
4 Ozmon firm that you mentioned?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. So you mentioned that you did some
7 contract work and real estate closing, but you
8 also did med/mal; is that what you're saying?

9 A. No, the Anesi Ozmon did med/mal.

10 Q. So what type of law did you
11 practice while you were there?

12 A. Plaintiffs' personal injury. They
13 mostly did construction negligence cases, and
14 they handled some medical malpractice cases,
15 motor vehicle cases.

16 Q. Maybe I misunderstood you because
17 I thought you said that you were doing some
18 real estate closings while you were working
19 there.

20 A. No, not while I was working there.
21 After I left there.

22 Q. Okay. So where did you go after
23 you left there?

24 A. I did contract work for some

1 agencies, various agencies. And I did a few
2 real estate closings during that time.

3 Q. I'm sorry. I misunderstood you.
4 And why did you leave the Anesi
5 Law Firm?

6 A. I didn't feel like the firm was
7 the right fit for me.

8 Q. Do you remember the name of the
9 agency that you worked for where you did the
10 contract work?

11 A. I don't. I worked for several of
12 them. I don't remember.

13 Q. Okay. And you did that for how
14 many years?

15 A. Five or six. It -- not
16 continuously. On and off.

17 Q. And so after you did the contract
18 work, that's when you went to the Office of the
19 Chief Judge?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And that was in 20 --

22 A. '11.

23 Q. '11. All right. How did you come
24 to find out about a position that was open at

1 the Office of the Chief Judge?

2 A. I did not know that they had an
3 opening. I just sent in my resume and
4 eventually they called me in for an interview.

5 Q. All right. And who interviewed
6 you?

7 A. I believe it was Bruce Wisniewski.
8 I know that he was in charge of HR when I
9 started, but I'm not sure if he was the person
10 who interviewed me when I went in for the
11 interview, but I believe he was.

12 Q. Did you have one interview or
13 rounds of interviews?

14 A. One interview.

15 Q. And who hired you?

16 A. Judge Evans.

17 Q. So what was your position and
18 title when you started working?

19 A. Law clerk slash staff attorney.
20 They used both terms.

21 Q. And what were your job duties as a
22 law clerk?

23 A. Well, from August 2011 until late
24 2015 I worked directly for Judge Evans, so I

1 mostly did research and writing for him, but
2 any assignments that he gave me I was
3 responsible for.

4 Q. So were you working directly with
5 Judge Evans?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And did you work with any other
8 judges there?

9 A. I didn't do any assignments for
10 any other judges.

11 Q. How was your work evaluated?

12 A. By Judge Evans. I reported
13 directly to him.

14 Q. And did you have an annual review
15 or anything like that --

16 A. No.

17 Q. -- while you were there?

18 A. No, but he would give me feedback.

19 Q. On each individual assignment?

20 A. Not every one. I gave him lots of
21 things, assignments, but I did not get feedback
22 on everything that I did. But any feedback I
23 got was directly from him.

24 Q. Did you have any problems with

1 members of the staff while you were working at
2 that office?

3 A. Maybe some personality conflicts,
4 but nothing that I would call --

5 Q. Could you elaborate on that a
6 little bit for me?

7 A. He had another staff attorney who
8 I didn't particularly get along with. She quit
9 at some point.

10 MS. BETHUNE: If we could just --
11 if we could just put on the record that Wendy
12 Muchman is now present.

13 MS. MUCHMAN: My apologies.

14 BY MS. BETHUNE:

15 Q. And who was this other staff
16 attorney?

17 A. Sharon Goss.

18 Q. Could you spell the last name if
19 you're able?

20 A. G-o-s-s.

21 Q. And you had some personality
22 conflicts with her you said?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. How long was she working there?

1 A. Prior to my working there or --

2 Q. If you know?

3 A. I don't know.

4 Q. And when did she leave?

5 A. I don't remember.

6 Q. But she left before you did?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Okay. Did anything come of that
9 with HR?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Okay. Was there anything in
12 particular that you can remember regarding the
13 personality conflicts?

14 A. We had a verbal disagreement once.

15 Q. What was that about?

16 A. I was upset that Judge Evans had
17 given an assignment for several of us to work
18 on and I was not included in the -- in the
19 process.

20 Q. All right. And I take it that
21 Miss Goss was assigned?

22 A. Well, we were all assigned, but
23 when they were emailing the documents they were
24 not sent to me to give my input.

1 Q. And who failed to send you the
2 documents?

3 A. The other attorneys who were
4 assigned. Steve, I can't remember his last,
5 name, the acting legal research director.
6 Steve and Laura -- I can't think of her last
7 name. And Sharon.

8 Q. Okay. And so why did you approach
9 Sharon verbally about this as opposed to
10 everyone else on the email chain?

11 A. Well, Steve was there. I actually
12 approached both of them and he just addressed
13 my concerns, but she got angry. And Laura
14 wasn't there.

15 Q. And so what became of this verbal
16 disagreement?

17 A. Nothing. Nothing.

18 Q. Did you have to work with
19 Miss Goss again after that?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And how was that?

22 A. It was okay. We didn't socialize,
23 but we did our jobs.

24 Q. So in May of 2015 you moved to

1 Markham; is that right?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Why did you move to Markham?

4 A. I was told that they needed some
5 additional assistants. They just had one staff
6 attorney who worked there part-time, and she
7 split her time between the Markham courthouse,
8 and I believe it was Maywood. And they were
9 requesting some additional assistance.

10 Q. So you did not request to be
11 transferred?

12 A. No.

13 Q. And would you consider that to be
14 a lateral move or was that a promotion or a
15 demotion, do you know?

16 A. I considered it a lateral move.

17 Q. Was there any change in salary?

18 A. No.

19 Q. And what was your job title when
20 you moved to Markham?

21 A. Staff attorney.

22 Q. Were you assigned to any
23 particular judge in Markham?

24 A. Yes. Judge laws, she is the

1 presiding judge, but I was also told to do work
2 for any of the judges when I wasn't busy doing
3 work for Judge Laws.

4 Q. And so what, exactly, were your
5 job duties in Markham?

6 A. It was mostly research and
7 writing. I set up a couple of LexisNexis
8 training classes for the judges. Anything that
9 they asked for assistance on I did.

10 Q. And when you got an assignment
11 from a judge other than Judge Laws, did you
12 have to have that approved by Judge Laws?

13 A. No, but if she needed something
14 done, her work took precedence over theirs.
15 And I would just fit everything into my
16 schedule if I needed to.

17 Q. How were you given assignments
18 typically?

19 A. It varied depending on the judge.
20 Most of the time they would come to my office
21 and hand me whatever they wanted me to do.
22 Sometimes they put things in my mailbox.
23 Sometimes they called me and told me over the
24 phone what they wanted, or called me and told

1 me to come to their chambers.

2 Q. Where was your office? Did you
3 have an office?

4 A. I did. It was on the second floor
5 of the Markham courthouse.

6 Q. Where was that in relation to the
7 courtrooms?

8 A. It was behind one of the
9 courtrooms, behind courtroom 205. The room
10 number was 205C.

11 Q. And was your work evaluated at
12 Markham?

13 A. I didn't receive any annual
14 evaluations, just by the individual judges,
15 whoever I was doing work for.

16 Q. If you ever had any questions at
17 Markham who would you ask for help?

18 A. It depends on the question, but
19 anybody. Everybody helped. The judges were
20 pretty open, had an open door policy.

21 Q. So you would mainly go to other
22 judges or the judge that gave you the
23 assignment?

24 A. Yes.

1 Q. Did you get along with other staff
2 attorneys there?

3 A. There was only one. Yes, I did.
4 She left earlier this year, but yeah, we got
5 along.

6 Q. Who was that?

7 A. Michelle. I can't think of her
8 last name. I'm sorry.

9 Q. That's okay. She left earlier
10 this year you said?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And did you ever get any
13 promotions or salary increases throughout your
14 entire time at the Office of the Chief Judge?

15 A. I never received a promotion. My
16 salary increased a little bit. I don't know
17 when that happened, though. I wasn't told it
18 was happening, just given an increase.

19 I don't know if it was an annual
20 thing that they did or -- I know that at some
21 point Judge Laws requested a salary increase
22 for me, but I don't know if I received the
23 increase then, but at some point my salary did
24 increase.

1 Q. Did anyone ever complain about
2 your work or your conduct while you were at the
3 Office of the Chief Judge?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Did you work at the Office of the
6 Chief Judge prior to becoming a licensed
7 attorney?

8 A. I -- when I was in law school I
9 worked in the summer as a law clerk, and that
10 was under the umbrella of the chief judge.

11 Q. And can you tell me what years you
12 worked there?

13 A. Sure. It was summer of 2001 and
14 2002, so maybe from May to August of those
15 years.

16 Q. And what did you do from May to
17 August of 2001?

18 A. Research and writing.

19 Q. At what location?

20 A. Daley Center. I worked for Judge
21 Evans. He was, at the time, the Presiding
22 Judge of the Law Division.

23 Q. So were you like, a law clerk or
24 an extern?

1 A. I was a law clerk. I was paid.

2 Q. How much were you paid?

3 A. I don't remember. Maybe -- I
4 don't know, 10 or \$12 an hour.

5 Q. Do you remember how you found out
6 about that position?

7 A. Yes. I talked to one of the
8 judges and she told me that they had a summer
9 program. And there was a -- like an
10 information session about the program at some
11 point during the school year and I went to it
12 and applied.

13 Q. Do you remember what judge you
14 talked to?

15 A. No, I'm sorry. It was a long time
16 ago.

17 Q. And you said you worked for Judge
18 Evans?

19 A. In the summer of 2001.

20 Q. Did you do work that was given --
21 did he give you work or did other judges give
22 you work as well?

23 A. He did. I was assigned to him.
24 It was me and one other student for that

1 summer.

2 Q. So how about summer of 2002?

3 A. I worked for Judge Maddux, who was
4 the Presiding Judge of the Law Division that
5 summer.

6 Q. And so how did you get that
7 position?

8 A. The same program.

9 Q. Same salary or pay, I should say?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Hourly. And so Judge Maddux, was
12 he the only one that assigned you work?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And your job duties were research
15 and writing?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. So was it your goal when you were
18 graduating from law school to go back to work
19 for the Office of the Chief Judge?

20 A. I wouldn't say it was my goal
21 initially, but I enjoyed working for the chief
22 judge's office.

23 Q. And why did you decide to run for
24 judge?

1 A. It was something that I had always
2 wanted to do. I had worked for the Court and
3 respected a lot of the judges that I worked
4 for.

5 Q. Okay. This was your first time
6 running for judge?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Who were your opponents in the
9 primary?

10 A. Anthony Simpkins and Lisa
11 Copeland.

12 Q. Could you spell Lisa's last name?

13 A. I believe it is C-o-p-e-l-a-n-d.

14 Q. Who funded your campaign?

15 A. I received a few small donations,
16 but I mostly funded it.

17 Q. So I want to go back to your time
18 at the Office of the Chief Judge after you were
19 licensed as an attorney.

20 Did you know Judge Valerie Turner
21 prior to beginning work at Markham?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Could you describe any personal
24 relationship that you had with her, if any?

1 A. None.

2 Q. So you never saw her outside of
3 work?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Could you describe your
6 professional relationship with Judge Turner?

7 A. I had never done any assignments
8 for her. I introduced myself to her when I was
9 assigned to the courthouse.

10 And I set up a couple of Lexis
11 training sessions for the judges, and so I went
12 around to all of the judges to discuss their
13 availability based on dates that the Lexis
14 trainer could come out to try to find the most
15 convenient time for the session to take place.

16 Once the date was set, I went
17 around to the judges to let them know when the
18 date was going to be and to ask them if they
19 would be able to attend. And afterwards, I
20 went around to all the judges to get their
21 feedback on whether the class was beneficial,
22 if they had any feedback.

23 And there was a second Lexis class
24 that was set up some months later, and I went

1 back to all of the judges to find out if they
2 were unable to attend the first class, if they
3 would be able to attend the second session.
4 Also for those who did the first class if they
5 wanted to come for a refresher.

6 And then there was a second class
7 on that same day with some more advanced
8 information, so I gave them the information
9 about the class.

10 That was, besides just seeing
11 Judge Turner in the hallways, that was really
12 my only interaction.

13 Q. When were these Lexis trainings
14 set up?

15 A. I don't remember the dates.

16 Q. Can you give me an approximate?

17 A. Sure. Late 2015.

18 Q. Was that the first one?

19 A. Yes. And the second one may have
20 been earlier this year. January or February of
21 this year.

22 Q. Did Judge Turner attend either one
23 of those?

24 A. I don't remember.

1 Q. Did she give you any feedback?

2 A. I don't remember.

3 Q. All right. So I want to move into
4 August 11th, 2016.

5 A. Okay.

6 Q. Can you tell me what happened on
7 that day?

8 A. Sure. I was shadowing with Judge
9 Turner in Courtroom 098. I observed the
10 morning call, took notes. And after the
11 morning call I looked at the tickets to see
12 what she wrote for her rulings.

13 And at the 1:00 o'clock call,
14 again, I was just there observing. And when
15 she got ready to do the last three tickets on
16 the call she turned to -- she took off her robe
17 and handed it to me and said, "Put this on."

18 And then she told me to step up.
19 And she got out of the chair and turned the
20 chair for me to sit down. She stood next to me
21 and she handed me a -- she took the ticket from
22 the clerk. The ticket was actually a motion
23 with two tickets attached.

24 She turned to the second ticket

1 and she said, This is just a driver's license.
2 And I asked the defendant if he had his
3 driver's license. He handed it to the village
4 attorney. The village attorney said that the
5 driver's license was valid, to Motion City,
6 which meant to dismiss it.

7 Judge Turner took his
8 recommendation to dismiss the ticket and she
9 told me to write "Motion City" on the back of
10 the ticket. And then she turned to the first
11 ticket and she said, This is a vehicle
12 registration. And I said, Sir, do you have
13 your -- I think she actually said, "Do you have
14 your vehicle registration"?

15 And he handed documents to the
16 village attorney. It wasn't actually a vehicle
17 registration. He didn't have it, but he said
18 he had sold the vehicle and he had a title for
19 a new vehicle. They had a conversation.

20 MS. MUCHMAN: Who is "They."

21 THE WITNESS: The village attorney
22 and the defendant. And the village attorney
23 said that he would accept the documents, and
24 indicated that he wanted to dismiss the

1 tickets.

2 And Judge Turner said, "Motion
3 City," and I wrote that on the ticket and
4 handed it back to her. She looked at it,
5 handed it to the clerk.

6 And she took the next ticket and
7 she told me it was a -- an insurance. I asked
8 the defendant if he had his insurance card. He
9 didn't have an insurance card for that date,
10 and the village attorney recommended that he
11 get another date to come in. And Judge Turner
12 said to me to give him -- she said to write,
13 motion defendant, and the date for the call.
14 So I wrote that.

15 And she took the ticket back, and
16 took the next ticket. And she looked at the
17 charge and she said, "Officer is not in court."
18 And I repeated what the judge said to the
19 defendant, "Officer is not in court."

20 And the village attorney said that
21 he wanted to get a continuance, or to get
22 another date. And Judge Turner said, "Motion
23 denied." I related that to the village
24 attorney that the motion is denied. And she

1 told -- Judge Turner said to write, "Motion
2 City."

3 And I said to the defendant that
4 the ticket was dismissed, handed it -- I handed
5 Judge Turner back the ticket. She gave it to
6 the clerk. And then Judge Turner did the
7 remaining tickets, which were no shows.

8 BY MS. BETHUNE:

9 Q. Okay. So how did you come to be
10 in courtroom 098 that day?

11 A. I was shadowing all of the judges
12 and Judge Turner was the -- with the exception
13 of a judge who had been recently transferred to
14 Markham, Judge Turner was the only Markham
15 judge who I had not shadowed. And she was
16 filling in for the judge that -- the judge who
17 was normally assigned on that date, so I went
18 down there so I could watch her to learn what
19 -- how she handled the courtroom.

20 Q. How many other judges had you
21 shadowed prior to shadowing Judge Turner on
22 August 11th?

23 A. All of the Markham judges except
24 one.

1 Q. Who was that one?

2 A. Judge -- I believe his name was
3 Judge Coughlin. He had recently gotten
4 transferred to Markham.

5 Q. Do you know how to spell his name?

6 A. I think its C-o-u-g-h-l-i-n.

7 Q. What's the time frame that you
8 were shadowing these judges?

9 A. March until August.

10 Q. 2016?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. That was because you won the
13 primary election?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. So what would you typically do
16 when you shadowed a judge?

17 A. I would just sit -- it depended on
18 the courtroom where I sat, but I would usually
19 just sit on the side. If there was no court
20 reporter I might sit in the seat where the
21 court reporter would normally sit.

22 If there was a seat -- an extra
23 seat next to the court clerk I would sit next
24 to the court clerk. Sometimes I would sit in

1 the jury box, or sometimes I would just sit in
2 a chair along the wall. Or sometimes in the
3 back of the courtroom and just observe -- and
4 observe to learn everything about procedure and
5 -- procedural and substantive law.

6 Q. How did you decide which judge to
7 shadow on any particular day?

8 A. Sometimes it -- if they had a busy
9 court call I might choose to go into that
10 courtroom depending on whatever else I was
11 working on. Or if someone had a -- if they
12 said they had an interesting case, if they had
13 a sentencing or trial. It varied from day to
14 day.

15 Q. Did you have to get permission
16 before you shadowed a judge?

17 A. No, but I always went to the judge
18 beforehand and asked them if they were okay
19 with me following them for that day. And prior
20 to starting to shadow, my presiding judge gave
21 me permission, told me to go to all of the
22 courtrooms so I could see how the different
23 judges handled things.

24 Q. So Judge Laws, sometime in March,

1 told you to start shadowing all the judges; is
2 that what you're saying?

3 A. I don't know if "shadowing" is the
4 word she used, but she said you should go to
5 all of the -- see how all of the judges run
6 their courtroom because they all do it a little
7 bit differently.

8 Q. So did you approach Judge Turner
9 prior to shadowing her on August 11th?

10 A. I did not. She came down a little
11 bit late.

12 Q. When would you typically ask a
13 judge if you could shadow them?

14 A. Usually right before. I would
15 usually go to their chambers and ask them.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. Some of the judges I had shadowed
18 more than once, so I would just show up.

19 Q. And so with Judge Turner, and she
20 was late that day on August 11th, what did you
21 do?

22 A. I sat where the court reporter
23 might normally sit. I took notes. I always
24 carried a statute book. I would look at

1 statutes. I was doing that that day.

2 Q. So after the morning call was
3 there any discussion with Judge Turner
4 regarding your shadowing of her that day?

5 A. No.

6 Q. So there was no discussion with
7 Judge Turner regarding your shadowing at all,
8 not even during a lunch break?

9 A. I didn't see her during lunch.

10 Q. And what time did the afternoon
11 call start?

12 A. 1:00 o'clock.

13 Q. So when you came back at -- did
14 you leave the courtroom after the morning call?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. When you came back for the
17 afternoon call where did you sit?

18 A. Where the court reporter might sit
19 if there was a court reporter, but there was no
20 court reporter in that room.

21 Q. And so describe for me when Judge
22 Turner told you to put on her robe, describe
23 what you did.

24 A. I put it on. I put on the robe.

1 Q. What were you thinking?

2 A. Judge Turner said to put on the
3 robe and that's all I was thinking.

4 Q. Were you visible?

5 A. Yes, I was in the front of the
6 courtroom.

7 Q. So she took off her robe and she
8 handed it to you in front of everybody in the
9 courtroom?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And did that give you any concern?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Why not?

14 A. She was the judge.

15 Q. And you didn't think that perhaps
16 putting on a robe would mislead people in the
17 courtroom that you were, in fact, the judge?

18 A. No, we were at the end of the
19 call. The village attorney knew Judge Turner
20 very well. He had indicated earlier that day
21 that he worked with her frequently. I had met
22 him many times prior to that day. He was one
23 of the judge's sons that I worked for, so I had
24 met him many times.

1 Q. And that is Mr. Panici?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And what about anybody else in the
4 courtroom? How many people were there?

5 A. The deputy and the court clerk,
6 who I had also met multiple times, many times.
7 And there were three parties who had been
8 sitting there through the whole call and saw
9 Judge Turner on the bench.

10 Q. Do you know if they witnessed you
11 put the robe on, you putting the robe on?

12 A. Yes, I -- we were at the front of
13 the courtroom and she was elevated so they
14 could clearly see her.

15 Q. So you weren't concerned that
16 those three parties that you had never met
17 before or interacted with before might be
18 misled into thinking that you were, in fact,
19 the judge?

20 A. No, I thought it was clear, based
21 on how things were happening that she was
22 trying to teach me.

23 Q. Okay. So can you describe for me
24 when -- where was Judge Turner standing after

1 you sat down on the bench?

2 A. Right next to the chair to my
3 right.

4 Q. So she was standing. And you
5 mentioned that she was telling you some things
6 to say; is that right?

7 A. Yes. She was standing over me the
8 whole time handling the tickets. She was
9 standing between me and the court clerk, so
10 Judge Turner was to my right and the court
11 clerk was to her right. So she was telling me
12 what to say, what to do the whole time. She
13 never left the bench.

14 Q. When she was saying things was it
15 whispering to you?

16 A. No, she was speaking out and she
17 was sometimes talking to the defendants.

18 Q. So what did the clerk do during
19 this time?

20 A. Handed Judge Turner the tickets,
21 took the tickets back from Judge Turner. That
22 was it.

23 Q. Did anybody say anything after you
24 put the judge's robe on and sat down?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Did anyone announce your name?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Was there any recess at all in the
5 court call?

6 A. None.

7 MS. BETHUNE: I'm handing you
8 Exhibit 1. We're marking this as Exhibit 1.

9 (Whereupon, Administrator's
10 Exhibit 1 was marked
11 for identification.)

12 BY MS. BETHUNE:

13 Q. Is this the first ticket that you
14 ruled on?

15 MS. MUCHMAN: We're talking about
16 Exhibit 1.

17 MR. COLLINS: Objection. She
18 didn't say she ruled on any tickets.

19 BY MS. BETHUNE:

20 Q. Is this the first ticket that you
21 looked at as you were sitting on the bench with
22 the judge's robe on?

23 A. I don't recognize this ticket.

24 Q. Okay.

1 MS. MUCHMAN: Is there anything
2 that would refresh your memory? We're talking
3 about Exhibit 1 Bates stamp 1.

4 THE WITNESS: This handwriting is
5 not mine.

6 BY MS. MUCHMAN:

7 Q. Have you reviewed any documents
8 relating to August 11th?

9 A. Yes.

10 MS. MUCHMAN: Can you say for sure
11 whether this is one of the matters that was
12 called while you were wearing Judge Turner's
13 robe?

14 THE WITNESS: I can say for sure it
15 is not.

16 MS. MUCHMAN: What's the basis for
17 that?

18 THE WITNESS: There was no bond
19 forfeiture that came up. I'm looking at the
20 abbreviations on the second page, and this
21 ticket is from Calumet City. It was a Dolton
22 day.

23 And the ticket, the first ticket
24 wasn't an actual ticket. It was a motion with

1 a printout from some tickets with the charges
2 on it. It wasn't an actual ticket. This is an
3 actual ticket.

4 BY MS. BETHUNE:

5 Q. If you turn to Bates stamp Page 3.
6 Is this one of the tickets that you looked at
7 while you were -- that was called while you
8 were wearing Judge Turner's robe?

9 A. Can I go back to the first one? I
10 said it was a Calumet City ticket. I think
11 that's their address. I don't know where this
12 ticket is from, but I still know that there was
13 no bond forfeiture that came up.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. I'm sorry.

16 Q. Going to Bates Stamp Page 3. Is
17 this one of the tickets that was called while
18 you were wearing Judge Turner's robe?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Do you remember if this was the
21 first ticket?

22 A. It was not. It was the second
23 ticket.

24 Q. And how do you remember that this

1 was one of the tickets?

2 A. I recognize my handwriting. I
3 remember that it was for no proof of insurance.

4 Q. Where do you recognize your
5 handwriting?

6 A. Next to Judge Turner's signature
7 where it says, "Motion defendant."

8 Q. Bates stamp Page 4?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. So are you referring to
11 MD 10/26/16?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. So you wrote that?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Do you know who wrote Judge
16 Turner's name on the left-hand column?

17 A. I did not. I don't know who wrote
18 it. I'm assuming that she did.

19 Q. Was that there when you looked at
20 this ticket?

21 A. No.

22 Q. So that got there sometime after
23 you wrote MD 10/26/16?

24 A. It may have been there before, but

1 I don't remember seeing -- I don't remember if
2 her signature was already on the ticket or if
3 she put it on there afterward. I don't know if
4 she put it on there afterwards.

5 Q. So when this -- did you call the
6 defendant to step up to the bench?

7 A. No, the clerk did. They stepped
8 up to the podium where the village attorney
9 was.

10 Q. Can you remind me, is this the --
11 what happened with this ticket?

12 A. The defendant did not have the
13 proof of insurance for the date of the ticket,
14 and the village attorney suggested to Judge
15 Turner that he come back on another date.

16 Q. Okay. And what happened?

17 A. Judge Turner said that he could
18 come back on October 26th.

19 Q. And you relayed that information?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Verbally?

22 A. Yes. Well, I don't -- I don't
23 think I said anything. She told me to write
24 the date on the ticket. The village attorney

1 may have told him the date to come back.

2 Q. So after you wrote the date on the
3 ticket on Bates stamp Page 4, what did you do?

4 A. Handed the ticket back to Judge
5 Turner.

6 Q. What did she do with it?

7 A. Looked at it and gave it to the
8 clerk.

9 Q. So you never said anything to the
10 village attorney?

11 A. I don't believe I did.

12 Q. If we could turn to Bates stamp
13 Page 5, please? Is this is one of the tickets
14 that was called while you were wearing Judge
15 Turner's robe?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. How do you know?

18 A. I recognize some of the writing on
19 the ticket.

20 Q. What writing do you recognize?

21 A. ONIC, Officer Not In Court. And
22 MCNS, Motion City Nonsuit.

23 MS. MUCHMAN: Exhibit 1 Bates stamp
24 6?

1 THE WITNESS: Yes.

2 BY MS. BETHUNE:

3 Q. Can you tell me -- so can you tell
4 me on Bates stamp Page 6 what the handwriting,
5 "FTA 8/11/16," what that means?

6 A. That's Failure to Appear. That's
7 something that Judge Rhodes wrote on the
8 previous court date, which is blurred out on
9 this copy, but at some time in July the person
10 failed to appear and he gave them an August
11 11th court date. And motion to vacate failure
12 to appear granted. Those were from July from
13 Judge Rhodes.

14 Q. Your handwriting is below that,
15 ONIC PNG MCNS?

16 A. Not the PNG.

17 Q. Whose handwriting is that?

18 A. I don't know.

19 Q. And to the left of that under the
20 column, "Judge," it appears to say "8/11/16
21 Turner."

22 A. That looks like V. Turner. She
23 would have written that, or I don't know if
24 somebody else wrote the name, but I'm assuming

1 she wrote it.

2 Q. Did you call this case when this
3 ticket was handed to you?

4 A. No, the clerk was calling the
5 cases.

6 Q. And the defendant was present?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And when it was dismissed did you
9 say that to the defendant?

10 A. After Judge Turner said that it
11 was dismissed, yes.

12 Q. And after you wrote on the back of
13 the ticket on Bates stamp Page 6, what did you
14 do with this ticket?

15 A. Gave it back to Judge Turner.

16 Q. And what did she do with it?

17 A. Gave it to the clerk.

18 Q. And you mentioned that there were
19 three tickets that were given to you while you
20 were wearing Judge Turner's robe?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And the third one, do you see that
23 anywhere in Exhibit 1?

24 A. No.

1 Q. Do you remember who the defendant
2 was in that ticket?

3 A. No.

4 Q. And after the final ticket that
5 you saw, what happened?

6 A. Judge Turner sat back in the chair
7 and did the no show tickets.

8 Q. And what did you do?

9 A. I stood over by the clerk, and
10 after she did the tickets I looked at the back
11 of the tickets to see what she wrote on those
12 tickets.

13 Q. Did you take her robe off?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. You gave it back to her?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And you did that where in the
18 courtroom?

19 A. On the bench.

20 Q. And after the call was over did
21 anyone approach you?

22 MR. COLLINS: You mean in that
23 courtroom?

24 BY MS. BETHUNE:

1 Q. Yes.

2 A. Yes, Judge Laws.

3 Q. Okay. And why did Judge Laws
4 approach you?

5 A. She came in after Judge Turner had
6 already left. I was still looking at the no
7 show tickets that Judge Turner had completed.
8 And she said, "You've been reported." She told
9 me to wait for her upstairs.

10 Q. So Judge Turner left the courtroom
11 and you stayed?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And Judge Laws spoke to you in the
14 courtroom?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And after that did you go upstairs
17 to Judge Laws' office?

18 A. I went to my office. And then at
19 some point I walked around to her office to see
20 if she was back in there. She wasn't. And I
21 went back to my office. And then I was walking
22 down the hallway when she came upstairs.

23 Q. And what did she say to you at
24 that point?

1 A. She said, "Why would you put your
2 career on the line?" I said, "I didn't know
3 that I was." And she said, "I have to report
4 this to the JIB and ARDC." And she said, "Do
5 not go into anymore courtrooms."

6 Q. And prior to that conversation,
7 before you left the courtroom when Judge Laws
8 approached you and she said, "You've been
9 reported," what was your reaction?

10 A. I'm sorry. I don't understand.
11 Reaction to what?

12 Q. You said that Judge Laws came into
13 the courtroom while you were still in there?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And she told you that you've been
16 reported?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. What was your reaction to that?

19 A. I was shocked. I stayed there for
20 a few seconds while she was looking at the
21 tickets. She said, "We're going to have to
22 vacate all of these tickets." And I said to
23 her, "Judge Turner was here. She made all of
24 the rulings."

1 And she asked me if I knew which
2 tickets they were and I picked out -- I was
3 able to locate one of the tickets very quickly
4 because it was right on top. And then she told
5 me -- that's when she told me to wait for her
6 upstairs.

7 And when she came and I was in the
8 hallway I said, "I did it," meaning that I
9 stepped up with Judge Turner.

10 Q. You told her, "I did it," in the
11 hallway?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. When Judge Laws told that you have
14 been reported did you know what that meant?

15 A. Well, I didn't know what the
16 specific report was, but I immediately knew
17 that it was because I went on the bench with
18 Judge Turner.

19 Q. And when you told Judge Laws
20 later, "I did it," how did Judge Laws respond?

21 A. She was angry, kind of animated.
22 And she was saying, "Why would you put your
23 career on the line?" I said, "I didn't know
24 that I was."

1 Q. And other than August 11th have
2 you ever put on a judge's robe before?

3 A. At the store.

4 Q. Have you ever sat on a judge's
5 bench before?

6 A. No. Well, I may have sat up there
7 while the courtroom was empty while I was
8 looking at tickets or something, but not in
9 open court, no.

10 Q. Have you ever signed a judge's
11 name in any way before?

12 A. I haven't.

13 MR. COLLINS: She didn't say she
14 signed a judge's name here.

15 THE WITNESS: I never signed a
16 judge's name.

17 BY MS. BETHUNE:

18 Q. Have you ever written on any other
19 traffic tickets before?

20 A. Some of the no show tickets for
21 failure to appear.

22 Q. When would that be? When would
23 that have been?

24 A. Probably also in August.

1 Q. On August 11th or in August? I
2 didn't hear you.

3 A. No, in August.

4 Q. And in what capacity were you
5 writing on these no show tickets?

6 A. The court call was over and the
7 judge told me to write, "Failure to Appear,"
8 for the people who didn't come in.

9 Q. And tell me what you think -- what
10 judge were these no show tickets before?

11 A. I don't remember. I don't
12 remember.

13 Q. Was it just one time?

14 A. Yes. Yes.

15 Q. Tell me what you think of your
16 decision to put on Judge Turner's robe on
17 August 11th.

18 A. At the time I was there to learn,
19 and I thought she was just trying to teach me
20 how to handle some routine traffic tickets.

21 Q. Would you do anything differently?

22 A. Sure. Of course.

23 Q. What would you do differently?

24 A. Not do it. Not do any of it.

1 Q. And what's your understanding of
2 the process of becoming a judge?

3 A. Well, there is a general election,
4 and then after the general election, a
5 swearing-in ceremony. And then go to new
6 judges school and get an assignment.

7 Q. So you understand that you're not
8 a judge until you've been sworn in?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And you take the oath?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And you understand you don't have
13 authority to hear cases until you are a judge?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Would you agree that anyone that
16 came in that courtroom and saw you wearing the
17 judge's robe and sitting on the bench might
18 think that you were, in fact, a judge?

19 A. If someone had walked in after she
20 had given me her robe and I was already sitting
21 up there, they might think that, but the people
22 who were already there when it happened, no.

23 Q. So you don't think that the
24 exchange of the judge's robe would be

1 misleading at all?

2 A. I didn't think it was misleading.
3 I had been sitting there during the entire
4 call. The people saw her on the bench and they
5 saw me sitting on the side just taking notes.

6 Q. Do you understand that those
7 traffic tickets now have to be reheard or had
8 to be reheard?

9 A. I get --

10 MR. COLLINS: They've been
11 dismissed. They won't be redone.

12 BY MS. BETHUNE:

13 Q. How did you feel about that?

14 MR. COLLINS: And they weren't
15 traffic tickets.

16 THE WITNESS: They were traffic
17 tickets.

18 I'm sorry. Would you repeat your
19 question?

20 BY MS. BETHUNE:

21 Q. How did you feel that those
22 tickets had to be reevaluated by a judge?

23 A. I was, obviously, unhappy about
24 it.

1 Q. I understand that you were
2 terminated from your position as a law clerk at
3 the Office of the Chief Judge; is that right?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Can you explain for me how you
6 lost your job?

7 A. I received a certified letter
8 telling me that I was terminated.

9 Q. I'm sorry, I couldn't quite hear
10 you.

11 A. I received a certified letter
12 telling me that I was terminated. I had to go
13 into the chief judge's office to talk to the
14 labor attorney, and the next day I was
15 terminated.

16 Q. And what day was that?

17 A. I'm not sure.

18 Q. So who did you speak to when you
19 went to the chief judge's office?

20 A. I have no idea. There were two
21 people, two attorneys.

22 Q. How long did this conversation
23 last?

24 A. Thirty minutes to an hour.

1 Q. What type of setting was it?

2 A. A small conference room.

3 Q. So it was just you and two
4 attorneys in a conference room?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And what kind of -- what was the
7 conversation that you had?

8 A. Similar to the conversation that
9 we're having right now.

10 Q. And the next day you received a
11 certified letter that terminated your
12 employment?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And what's your opinion about that
15 decision?

16 A. I don't know how to answer you.
17 I'm sorry. Disappointment.

18 Q. Do you think you did anything
19 wrong?

20 THE WITNESS: Can we take a break?

21 MR. VUCKOVICH: Sure. Take a
22 little break.

23 MS. MUCHMAN: Sure.

24 MR. VUCKOVICH: For the record, the

1 meeting they called a hearing was August 25th.
2 And then the letter was -- they must have
3 deliberated a long time because the letter was
4 delivered on August 26th terminating her
5 employment.

6 MS. BETHUNE: Thank you.

7 (Whereupon a recess was
8 had.)

9 BY MS. BETHUNE:

10 Q. And we were just discussing your
11 opinion that you stated you were disappointed
12 about being terminated from your position as a
13 law clerk. Do you think you did anything
14 wrong?

15 A. No, but I do understand that I
16 made some mistakes.

17 Q. And why do you think you did not
18 do anything wrong?

19 A. I was following the request of the
20 judge. She was standing next to me the entire
21 time, but I do understand how it may have been
22 confusing to someone who was watching from the
23 outside.

24 Q. And are you aware of Rule 5.2 of

1 the Rules of Professional Conduct that state
2 that a lawyer is still responsible for their
3 own conduct even if they're listening to a
4 superior?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Did you think that that applied in
7 this situation at all?

8 A. Oh, sure. I understand that I'm
9 responsible for what I did.

10 Q. And what is your plan regarding
11 your candidacy for judge in November?

12 A. I'm still on the ballot.

13 Q. And why are you still planning to
14 run?

15 A. To become a judge.

16 Q. Is there anything that you would
17 like to add for an inquiry panel that might
18 consider this matter?

19 A. Nothing that I haven't already
20 said. I understand that I made some mistakes,
21 a judgment error on my part, and I take
22 accountability for that.

23 MS. BETHUNE: Okay.

24 MS. MUCHMAN: May I ask some

1 questions, Mr. Collins?

2 MR. COLLINS: Certainly.

3 EXAMINATION

4 BY MS. MUCHMAN:

5 Q. Miss Crawford, I apologize. I
6 think I call you Miss Turner before. I
7 apologize for that.

8 Tell us a little more about your
9 responsibilities as the law clerk for the
10 County.

11 MR. COLLINS: You mean at the
12 Markham courthouse?

13 BY MS. MUCHMAN:

14 Q. Well, in general before you --
15 even before you were transferred to Markham,
16 what were your job responsibilities?

17 A. It was mostly research and
18 writing, but anything that the judge asked me
19 to do.

20 Q. What type of assignments?

21 A. It varied. When I was downtown I
22 monitored the County Board meetings. There was
23 correspondence with the public. There were
24 things that had to go to AOIC from Judge Evans,

1 so sometimes I had to prepare correspondence to
2 the AOIC.

3 Sometimes if I saw something that
4 -- an Appellate Court opinion that was critical
5 of something to do with the Court, I might
6 bring that to the judge's attention and prepare
7 something for him.

8 If I saw something in the news, I
9 might also prepare something. I think there
10 was an incident once where someone requested an
11 interpreter and didn't get one. So it could be
12 any kind of issue that might come up concerning
13 the courts.

14 Q. And what were the responsibilities
15 in Markham?

16 A. The same responsibilities. I
17 didn't have to monitor the County Board
18 meetings, but the other responsibilities were
19 the same. Anything that the judges needed to
20 have done I would be responsible for.

21 And I would also monitor anything
22 that came up related to the Court. Sometimes
23 they would ask me to follow pending cases,
24 cases that were pending in the Appellate Court.

1 Q. For what reason?

2 A. If there was a change in the law
3 that they needed to be aware of sometimes.
4 They had active cases that were pending that
5 were going to be decided. And if the Appellate
6 Court came down with a ruling that would affect
7 their pending cases, I might keep an eye on
8 that to let them know if the law changed or
9 stayed the same.

10 Q. Did you ever watch a case that
11 went up from a particular judge's courtroom to
12 see if the Appellate Court overturned any of
13 the trial judges, or that wasn't part of your
14 responsibilities?

15 A. There was a case that I was
16 monitoring, but I don't remember if the appeal
17 was from one of our judge's cases or just
18 because they had a pending case that was going
19 to be affected by the Appellate Court decision.

20 Q. What were your hours at the time?

21 A. 8:00 to 4:00, but I usually worked
22 -- came in early, worked late.

23 Q. So average day, how many hours?

24 A. Well, 8:00 to 4:00 was required.

1 Q. Yes, I understand.

2 A. But depending on what -- usually
3 came in by 7:30 and I never left at 4:00. I
4 almost never left at 4:00. I usually -- I
5 often left around 5:00, but sometimes I stayed
6 later.

7 Q. I'm sorry I missed it. Where do
8 you live?

9 A. Calumet City.

10 Q. Now, is it fair to say that your
11 job was for the court system, right?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. You were somewhat accountable to
14 the public?

15 A. Sure.

16 Q. You are also accountable to the
17 courts in that position, right?

18 A. Absolutely.

19 Q. And you have -- if you're
20 corresponding with the County Board and the
21 AOIC, there's some confidentiality involved in
22 your work, right?

23 A. Sure.

24 Q. And also doing research for the

1 judges, that's confidential as well?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And did you ever break that
4 confidentiality?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Would you say that your job
7 position required integrity?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. What was your salary when you
10 started?

11 A. 44. Somewhere around 44 and
12 \$47,000.

13 Q. What was your salary when you were
14 terminated in August of this year?

15 A. 54,000, I believe.

16 Q. That comes from the County budget?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. The research assignments that you
19 did for the judges, is there any other kinds of
20 assignments other than what you've described?

21 A. No. I set up the training classes
22 for the Lexis, but nothing that I haven't
23 already talked about.

24 Q. In Markham I heard you say it

1 wasn't a promotion and it wasn't a demotion.
2 It was just sort of a lateral move?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Did it have anything to do with
5 wanting to be closer to home?

6 A. No, I didn't request the transfer.

7 Q. Who told you that you would be
8 transferred?

9 A. Judge Evans.

10 Q. What was your working relationship
11 with Judge Evans?

12 A. I worked directly for him. I
13 reported to him. That was it.

14 Q. Did you ever have any problems
15 getting along with Judge Evans?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Would you say you had a good
18 working relationship with him?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Did he ever criticize you in an
21 evaluation?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Is Judge Evans fair?

24 A. Yes.

1 Q. So let's talk about law school for
2 a minute.

3 You were at Chicago Kent?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Who was your professional
6 responsibility instructor there?

7 A. I don't remember.

8 Q. Vivian Gross?

9 A. I remember her name.

10 Q. Richard Kling?

11 A. He was one of my professors, but I
12 don't think he taught professional
13 responsibility.

14 Q. When did you take the MPRE exam?

15 A. I don't know. I'm sorry.

16 Q. The ethics exam?

17 A. I don't remember if that's
18 something we took second year or third year.

19 Q. Did you pass it?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. The first time?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. What about the Illinois Bar exam?

24 A. Yes, I passed it the first time.

1 Q. The first time?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. What was your class rank when you
4 graduated from Kent, if you remember?

5 A. Maybe the top 52 percent, 54
6 percent. Something like that.

7 Q. Were you on a trial team at Kent?

8 A. I was never on the trial team, but
9 I did a certificate program, which was
10 litigation and alternative dispute resolution.

11 Q. Who was in charge of that?

12 A. I'm sorry.

13 Q. Judge Erickson?

14 A. I never met Judge Erickson. He
15 may have been in charge of the clinic, but I
16 don't know if he was in charge of a lateral
17 program.

18 Q. And was the certificate program,
19 that was something that you do in the three
20 years while you're in law school?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Any other extracurricular actives
23 at Kent?

24 A. No.

1 Q. So the certificate program in
2 litigation, tell us what's involved in that.

3 A. It was a program that we had to
4 apply for. And it was for people who were
5 interested in litigation.

6 We took -- there were certain
7 classes that we would be required to take in
8 order to get the certificate like, trial
9 advocacy, mediation, and alternative dispute
10 resolution.

11 Q. Who was your trial ed teacher?

12 A. I don't remember.

13 Q. Did you ever have a 711 license
14 during law school?

15 A. Yes, I believe I did. Did they
16 automatically give that to us or did we have to
17 apply for it?

18 Q. It's a little form that you sign
19 and your supervising attorney signs.

20 Did you -- who did you work for
21 when you had it? State attorney? Do you know
22 what I mean when I say 711?

23 A. I know what a 711 is, but I don't
24 remember --

1 Q. So what it is? Tell me what it is
2 so I know we're talking about the same thing.

3 A. While we're in law school it's a
4 license that allows us to work with -- under
5 the supervision of an attorney.

6 Q. And do cases before you pass the
7 Bar, right?

8 A. Some types of cases I believe were
9 allowed.

10 Q. So did you have a 711 license that
11 you used while you were in law school?

12 A. I didn't use it. I worked for the
13 Court, so I never tried cases. I worked for
14 the judge and I did some volunteer work, I
15 forgot about that, while I was in law school.
16 I did some volunteer work for the State's
17 Attorney's Office.

18 Q. And what kind of volunteer work?

19 A. I volunteered in the summer of
20 2001 for night narcotics, and mainly I helped
21 the lawyers to get ready for trial. They might
22 have us pull files. We sat in on witness
23 interviews to learn how to do witness
24 interviews. We sat in the courtroom during the

1 call and gave attorney assistance, but I didn't
2 do any cases.

3 Q. So did you ever step up before the
4 bench while you were in law school?

5 A. No.

6 Q. And you understand that while in
7 law school and before you're licensed to be a
8 lawyer you need permission of the Illinois
9 Supreme Court and a supervising lawyer to step
10 up before the Court and say anything?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Why do you think that is?

13 A. Because there is some professional
14 liability, responsibility associated with that
15 -- with those.

16 Q. Any other reason?

17 A. I'm sure. Not that I can think of
18 right now.

19 Q. And what about -- are law students
20 allowed to appear in court and say anything to
21 the judge handling a case? Let me rephrase
22 that question.

23 Are law students allowed to appear
24 in court and approach the bench on a case

1 without a 711 license?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Why not?

4 A. It's not allowed. I mean, just
5 legally not allowed.

6 Q. Right. What do you need to be
7 before you can step up before the bench --

8 A. An attorney.

9 Q. -- on a case.

10 Did you ever hear of a special
11 license for anyone to wear a robe and sit at a
12 bench under the supervision of another judge?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Is there a particular program that
15 you ever heard of where someone can wear a robe
16 and sit in court and hear cases behind the
17 bench?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Is there any formal -- you called
20 it "shadowing." Is there any formal shadow
21 program for someone who is on the ballot to be
22 a judge?

23 A. Not a formal program, no.

24 Q. Do you -- have you ever heard of

1 any other person on the ballot to be a judge
2 sitting on the bench and having cases called
3 while a judge stands behind them?

4 A. I hadn't asked around about that.

5 Q. Have you ever heard of anyone else
6 doing what you did?

7 A. Not a candidate, but a police
8 officer, deputy, yes.

9 Q. Any lawyer?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Why do you think that is?

12 A. Because you have to be a judge to
13 hear cases.

14 Q. Why do you think that is?

15 A. There's notes, responsibilities
16 that come with that.

17 Q. How much did you spend on your
18 judicial campaign of your own money?

19 A. I don't recall the amount, but
20 most of the funding was my own money.

21 Q. Approximately?

22 A. 25 to \$30,000.

23 Q. And where did you get the money?

24 A. My own savings.

1 Q. You said that you had always
2 wanted to be a judge. What about it appeals to
3 you?

4 A. I worked for the courts and
5 respected the judges that I worked for.

6 Q. Can you tell me some of the
7 specific judges that you respected that you
8 worked for?

9 A. I respected all of them. Judge
10 Evans, Judge Maddux, Judge Laws. There were a
11 number of judges, but I respected all of them.

12 Q. So the days that you sat in court
13 and shadowed, how much of the day would be
14 spent shadowing the cases?

15 A. It varied depending on what else I
16 had to do, the number of cases that they were
17 handling. If there was a trial, sometimes I
18 might watch certain witnesses and not others.
19 It varied.

20 Q. An hour, two hours, three hours?

21 A. It varied. Sometimes it might be
22 a short 30-minute call, sometimes might be all
23 day.

24 Q. An all-day call?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. How many times was it an all-day
3 call?

4 A. Those were usually trials.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. Probably watched two or three
7 trials in a summer. And I don't know how many
8 days of those trials there were.

9 Q. Possibly more than one day per
10 trial?

11 A. Sure.

12 Q. And at whose courtrooms were you
13 watching these trials?

14 A. Judge Flaherty had one trial in
15 particular over the summer that was
16 interesting. I've watched trials in -- several
17 of the judges. I watched a trial that Judge
18 Pitman did. I saw Judge Panici do a trial.
19 That was before the election.

20 Some shorter bench trials in front
21 of Judge Boyd, Judge Brewer.

22 Q. So is it fair to say on the days
23 that you were watching these trials you weren't
24 doing the rest of your work?

1 A. That's not fair because sometimes
2 I came in early. I often worked late and
3 worked during lunch.

4 Q. But if you --

5 A. Several breaks during the day.
6 But if I was in there all day, I probably
7 wasn't doing anything else.

8 Q. Did you take vacation time for
9 those days?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Were you like a regular government
12 job where you get paid when you're working and
13 when you're not working you're supposed to take
14 vacation time?

15 A. Sure.

16 Q. Well, is that -- don't tell me
17 "Sure." Is that true? I mean, did you have an
18 allotted number of vacation time?

19 A. Yes, I had.

20 Q. How many vacation days a year?

21 A. I don't know.

22 Q. You don't know?

23 A. I didn't keep track of the
24 vacation. I took very little vacation.

1 Q. Well, how much vacation were you
2 allowed?

3 A. I think I accumulated about 10
4 days a year, and there was sick time.

5 Q. And how much sick time?

6 A. I'm not sure.

7 Q. You don't know how much sick time
8 you were entitled to?

9 A. No, I didn't monitor it.

10 Q. If you were sick and you stayed
11 home you had to call into work, right?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. You got paid as long as you had
14 sick time?

15 A. Right.

16 Q. If you ran out of sick time you
17 didn't get paid, right?

18 A. Right.

19 Q. And if you took a vacation day you
20 had to call in -- because you were on vacation
21 you had to call into work, right?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. And take the time off?

24 A. Yes.

1 Q. And you would get paid as long as
2 you had vacation time; is that right?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Who approved your sick and
5 vacation time?

6 A. When I was downtown, Judge Evans.
7 When I was in Markham, Judge Laws.

8 Q. And did you ever ask Judge Evans
9 for permission to shadow these judges in
10 Markham?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Did you ever ask Judge Laws for
13 permission to shadow the judges and not do work
14 for a whole day?

15 A. She told me when I -- after I won
16 the primary that I should go to all of the --
17 see all of the judges to see how they managed
18 their courtroom.

19 Q. Did she specifically tell you that
20 it was okay to sit there all day?

21 A. We never talked about times, but
22 she did specifically tell me that I should go
23 to see how all the different judges handled
24 their courtrooms.

1 Q. So if I asked Judge Laws, do you
2 think she's going to tell me that she meant it
3 was okay for you to sit there a whole day and
4 not do any of your other work?

5 A. I'm not sure what she'll say, but
6 I --

7 Q. That's what you understood?

8 A. I checked in every day to let
9 people know where I was. If she wasn't there,
10 I would let one of the secretaries or the court
11 administrator know that I was going to be in a
12 specific courtroom.

13 Q. Did anyone ever complain that you
14 weren't getting your work done?

15 A. No.

16 Q. No one?

17 A. Not to me.

18 Q. Not your fellow attorneys?

19 A. No.

20 Q. So if you didn't do work, then
21 would the other -- what was your job title?

22 A. Staff attorney.

23 Q. Staff attorney. Would the other
24 staff attorneys have to do your work?

1 A. No. Anything that I was assigned
2 I had to manage.

3 Q. But if you weren't there to assign
4 it to, it would have gotten assigned to another
5 staff attorney, right?

6 A. I was always there, so if they
7 ever wanted me to do any work, I would do it.
8 I never refused any work. No one ever told me
9 that they were looking for me to do work and I
10 wasn't available.

11 Q. How did you get your assignments?
12 Did the judges come to your office?

13 A. It depended on the judge.
14 Sometimes they would come to my office,
15 sometimes they would call me and tell me on the
16 phone what they wanted me to do. Sometimes
17 they would call me and tell me to come to their
18 office. Sometimes they would put their things
19 in my mailbox.

20 Q. And this term "shadow," shadowing
21 the judges, that's your word, right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. There is no formal shadow program
24 for judges who are on the ballot?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Now, you said -- you told us a
3 little bit about the process by which you
4 become a judge. What are the requirements to
5 become a judge?

6 A. Well, you have to be an attorney
7 and either be appointed or elected.

8 Q. And who, basically, decides
9 whether you're an attorney or not?

10 A. Attorney or judge?

11 Q. Attorney. Who gives you your law
12 license?

13 A. The Supreme Court.

14 Q. Who takes away your law license?

15 A. The Supreme Court.

16 Q. So you understand if you don't
17 have a law license then you can't be a judge?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. You told Ms. Bethune that you
20 thought it was clear, based on how things were
21 happening in the courtroom that you weren't a
22 judge. Can you explain that a little further,
23 please?

24 A. Well, I had been sitting in the

1 courtroom for the entire call, and on more than
2 one occasion when people were told to step up
3 to the clerk they came over to me. I think
4 they thought I was the clerk.

5 When she handed me her robe, told
6 me to step up, it was in clear view of the
7 other people. She had been sitting up there
8 for the 20 or 25 minutes -- 20 or 25 minutes
9 that the call was taking place in clear view of
10 everyone in the courtroom, so everyone knew
11 that she was the judge in the courtroom.

12 Q. And how would they have known you
13 weren't the judge?

14 A. Well, the village attorney had met
15 me many times.

16 Q. All right. So forget the village
17 attorney and the clerk and the judge. The --
18 how many people, members of the public were
19 sitting in the courtroom that day?

20 A. Three.

21 Q. The three people whose tickets
22 were called while you had on Judge Turner's
23 robes --

24 A. Yes.

1 Q. -- did anyone say, this is
2 Miss Crawford, she's not a judge?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Did anyone say, this is
5 Miss Crawford, she is shadowing Judge Turner,
6 or she's on the ballot?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Did anyone say anything to those
9 three people that you weren't a judge?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Did Judge Turner explain to those
12 three members of the public that she was just
13 letting you practice, I guess?

14 A. No.

15 Q. The exhibits, the packet of
16 exhibits that Ms. Bethune handed you marked
17 Exhibit 1, Bates stamp 1 through 6, had you
18 ever seen those before just now?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. When?

21 A. My attorney showed them to me. I
22 saw them earlier today. I may have seen them
23 on Friday.

24 Q. So when Judge Turner said to you

1 -- told you what to write down on the -- let's
2 look at, for example, Exhibit 1 Bates stamp 2.
3 We call this a half sheet. Exhibit 1, Bates
4 stamp 2 is the half sheet?

5 A. No, the actual ticket. This is
6 the ticket.

7 Q. So when Judge Turner told you what
8 to write down on the ticket --

9 MR. VUCKOVICH: This is not one of
10 the ones she wrote on.

11 MS. MUCHMAN: Okay. Sorry. Thank
12 you, Adrian.

13 BY MS. MUCHMAN:

14 Q. Let's go to page 4 on the ticket
15 where it's -- under where it says "Order
16 Entered," did she say that loud enough for
17 everyone to hear?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And that would be the same,
20 according to what you're telling us, for
21 Exhibit 1 Bates stamp 6, she told you what to
22 write?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. You think everyone else heard her?

1 A. They could have heard her. I
2 don't know if they actually did.

3 Q. I'm going to ask you a couple of
4 questions about Judge Turner.

5 You said you didn't know her other
6 than your seeing her in the Markham courthouse,
7 right?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. You never socialized with her
10 before?

11 A. Never.

12 Q. Had there been some talk that
13 Judge Turner was referred to Lawyers'
14 Assistance Program? Did you hear that
15 anywhere?

16 A. After the incident.

17 Q. Have you -- do you know why?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Have you heard any talk about why
20 Judge Turner was referred to LAP?

21 A. After. I heard afterwards that
22 she had been having some mental problems.

23 Q. Did you hear of what nature?

24 A. Just that she was forgetful, and

1 at times was not showing up to work, and having
2 some hygiene issues.

3 Q. What kind of hygiene issues?

4 A. Not bathing. Looking disheveled.

5 Q. You had heard that before?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Had you ever heard anything about
8 her having a problem with drugs or alcohol?

9 A. Never. I still have never heard
10 anything like that.

11 Q. And on the day in question was
12 there anything that you observed about Judge
13 Turner?

14 A. Nothing that was out of the
15 ordinary.

16 Q. Nothing unusual? She didn't seem
17 disheveled?

18 A. I didn't think she was disheveled
19 that day. Her appearance was never the
20 neatest, but it wasn't something that I thought
21 was alarming. I just thought she didn't really
22 care about her appearance. That was what I
23 thought.

24 Q. So when you say "Not the neatest,"

1 what do you mean?

2 A. She just didn't look very well put
3 together, is the term I would use. But I just
4 thought she didn't really care about how she
5 dressed too much. It was never anything
6 inappropriate that I saw.

7 Q. So when you say "not well put
8 together," her hair was messy or --

9 A. It just wasn't very neat. She
10 didn't look as well-groomed as some other
11 people, but I see a lot of people who don't
12 particularly look very well groomed.

13 Q. So it was nothing that you thought
14 was out of the ordinary?

15 A. No.

16 MR. VUCKOVICH: Especially since
17 she's been here.

18 MS. MUCHMAN: Mr. Collins did not
19 agree.

20 MR. VUCKOVICH: I was talking about
21 myself.

22 THE WITNESS: There was nothing
23 that I thought was concerning or unusual about
24 her. Her interactions were always appropriate.

1 She was very pleasant.

2 BY MS. MUCHMAN:

3 Q. How long would you say you were
4 wearing that robe on August 11th, 2016?

5 A. Less than five minutes.

6 Q. And when you said that Judge
7 Turner went back on the bench and you gave her
8 back her robe, was that immediately when she
9 sat down you gave her back her robe or later?

10 A. Immediately.

11 Q. You said that when Judge Laws came
12 down to the courtroom and said, "You've been
13 reported," you said, "I immediately knew it was
14 because I was on the bench with Judge Turner."
15 How did you know that?

16 A. That was the only thing I could
17 have been reported for.

18 Q. So a part of you knew it wasn't
19 right?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Well then, how would you know that
22 that's what you were reported for?

23 A. The only other thing I did was sit
24 and observe. I wouldn't have been reported for

1 that.

2 Q. So a part of you knew that it
3 wasn't right to put on the robe and sit behind
4 the bench?

5 A. I know that now.

6 Q. You didn't know that that day?

7 A. I didn't -- no.

8 Q. Really?

9 A. It was a spontaneous thing. I was
10 urged by the judge to put the robe on and step
11 up. And I was trying to learn from her and I
12 just thought she was trying to teach me how to
13 do some routine traffic tickets. They were all
14 petty offenses.

15 Q. But then I guess I just don't
16 understand how you can tell us that you
17 immediately knew it was because you were
18 sitting behind the bench if a little part of
19 you didn't know it was wrong to wear that
20 judge's robe and sit behind the bench.

21 A. There was nothing else besides me
22 observing the courtroom that I could have been
23 reported for.

24 Q. So a little part of you knew that

1 that was wrong?

2 A. When Judge Laws came in the
3 courtroom I immediately knew that that was what
4 it was for.

5 Q. You told us that you understand
6 that you made some mistakes?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. What are those mistakes that you
9 made?

10 A. Putting on the robe. Stepping up
11 on the bench.

12 Q. Sometimes I summarize Rule 5.2,
13 which is the supervisory order saying that
14 following orders is no excuse. Do you
15 understand what I mean when I say that?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Do you think that's a fair summary
18 of your professional obligations as on
19 attorney?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. So just because a judge tells you
22 to do something does that make it okay?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Do you understand that what you

1 did was embarrassing to the court system?

2 A. I do.

3 Q. Do you understand what you did was
4 embarrassing to Judge Evans?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And Judge Laws?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Now, you had a press conference
9 today at Mr. Collins' law office?

10 A. No.

11 MR. COLLINS: No.

12 THE WITNESS: Mr. Henderson.

13 Victor Henderson.

14 BY MS. MUCHMAN:

15 Q. At Mr. Henderson's law office?

16 A. Yes.

17 MR. COLLINS: Excuse me for
18 answering the question, but we did not have a
19 press conference.

20 MS. MUCHMAN: Off the record for a
21 second.

22 (Whereupon a discussion was
23 held off the record.)

24 BY MS. MUCHMAN:

1 Q. What was the point of that press
2 conference?

3 A. To clarify things that had been
4 said in the media.

5 Q. And what do you think that
6 accomplished?

7 A. I think we clarified some things
8 that was said in the media.

9 Q. What kinds of things were you
10 trying to clarify?

11 A. That the judge was not in the
12 courtroom. That I was sitting on the bench for
13 two hours. That I was making rulings. Mainly
14 those kinds of things.

15 Q. I'm looking at, and unfortunately
16 I can't print it out right now, but I watched
17 the video of your press conference and I'm
18 looking at the Chicago Tribune's little blurb
19 about it from today.

20 And it says, "Fired law clerk says
21 judge urged her to take bench in shadowing
22 process."

23 That's pretty much what you told
24 us today, right, that the judge urged you to

1 take the bench?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Does that change what you did?
4 Does that make it right?

5 A. No, it doesn't make it right.

6 Q. So what difference does it make
7 telling that to the press?

8 A. Well, the press story made it
9 sound like Judge Turner was on vacation and I
10 was sent in to rule over the Court.

11 Q. Really? I didn't see one press
12 story that said that. Can you --

13 A. Those weren't the words, but that
14 was the impression that I got from reading the
15 two or three stories that I read.

16 Q. I mean, isn't it fair to say what
17 you did is an embarrassment to the judicial
18 system as well?

19 A. It was embarrassing to me. I'm
20 sure it was embarrassing for the Court.

21 Q. And what good does having a press
22 conference do if this incident was already
23 embarrassing?

24 A. I think it clarified for people

1 that I was not sent in the courtroom to take
2 over the courtroom, and that no Judge was
3 present.

4 Q. And you apparently acknowledged
5 today that what you did caused a distraction
6 for the County's court system?

7 A. Sure.

8 Q. And you understand -- I mean, it
9 says in here, too, you're aware that you're the
10 subject of a criminal investigation?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Now, those three cases that you
13 heard, in every one of them there was a
14 defendant that stepped up to the bench, right?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And did any of those defendants
17 have attorneys?

18 A. No. They were all petty offenses.
19 They very seldom come with attorneys. Those
20 people didn't have attorneys. And when the
21 attorneys would appear, they would be handled
22 at the beginning of the call.

23 Q. I think we already clarified this,
24 but you didn't know any of those defendants

1 before, right?

2 A. I did not.

3 Q. So Judge Laws told you on August
4 11th that what you did put your career on the
5 line?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. What did you think she meant by
8 that?

9 A. That my professional career was in
10 jeopardy.

11 Q. What do you think as you sit here
12 today?

13 A. A lot of thoughts. It was a bad
14 decision that four or five minutes would change
15 the course of my career.

16 Q. Is there anything you would do
17 differently today?

18 A. Of course.

19 Q. Tell us what that is.

20 A. Not step up on the bench. Of
21 course, not put the robe on.

22 Q. I'm sorry?

23 A. Not put the robe on. And whenever
24 I was observing, just sit on the side and

1 observe.

2 MS. MUCHMAN: I have nothing else.

3 MR. COLLINS: Thank you. We have
4 no questions.

5 MR. COLLINS: Wendy, is this a case
6 where we don't get a transcript or we can order
7 it?

8 MS. MUCHMAN: I don't see why you
9 can't -- you can have the transcript.

10 MR. COLLINS: I'll let you know. I
11 don't want to order it right now.

12 (Which was and is all of the
13 matters heard in the above-
14 entitled cause on this date.)

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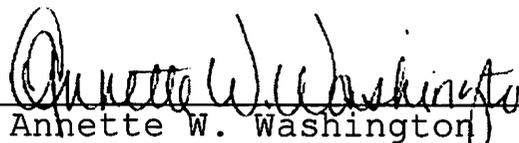
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STATE OF ILLINOIS)) SS:
COUNTY OF COOK)

I, ANNETTE W. WASHINGTON,
certified Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public
for the County of Cook and State of Illinois,
do hereby certify that I reported in shorthand
the September 22, 2016 Sworn Statement of
RHONDA CRAWFORD, and that the foregoing is a
true and correct transcript of my shorthand
notes so taken as aforesaid, transcribed on the
26th day of September 2016.


Annette W. Washington
CSR 84-001004
Notary Public.



JURY	DATE	ORDER ENTERED
MISSISSIPPI	11/11/10	LEAVE TO FILE COMPLAINT - COMPLAINT FILED
MISSISSIPPI	BF 8-11-16	MTV BF <i>quarant</i>
MISSISSIPPI	NEWS	

I have examined the within complaint and the corroboration, and am satisfied there is probable cause to bring the same. Leave is hereby granted to file it, and it is ordered that a warrant be issued against the accused.

or cash deposit of \$

002

JUDGE	DATE	ORDER ENTERED
Judge James L. Hodges #1003	8-11-16	LEAVE TO FILE COMPLAINT - COMPLAINT FILED
<i>OMM/K...</i>		
		<i>PN 6 MCNS</i>

I have examined the within complaint and the complainant, and am satisfied there is probable cause for filing the same. Leave is hereby granted to file it, and it is ordered that a warrant be issued against the accused.

Bail fixed at \$ _____ or cash deposit of \$ _____
 Judge

906

ADMINISTRATOR'S EXHIBIT 7

AFFIDAVIT OF JOHN KELLY

1. My name is John Kelly. I am an investigator for the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission of the Supreme Court of Illinois.

2. On September 29, 2016, I went to the Markham courthouse and visited courtroom 098. I took the three pictures of the courtroom that are attached to this affidavit.

3. These pictures truly and accurately reflect the Markham courtroom 098 as it appeared on September 29, 2016.

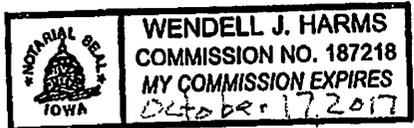
FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

John Kelly
John Kelly

Subscribed and sworn to before me

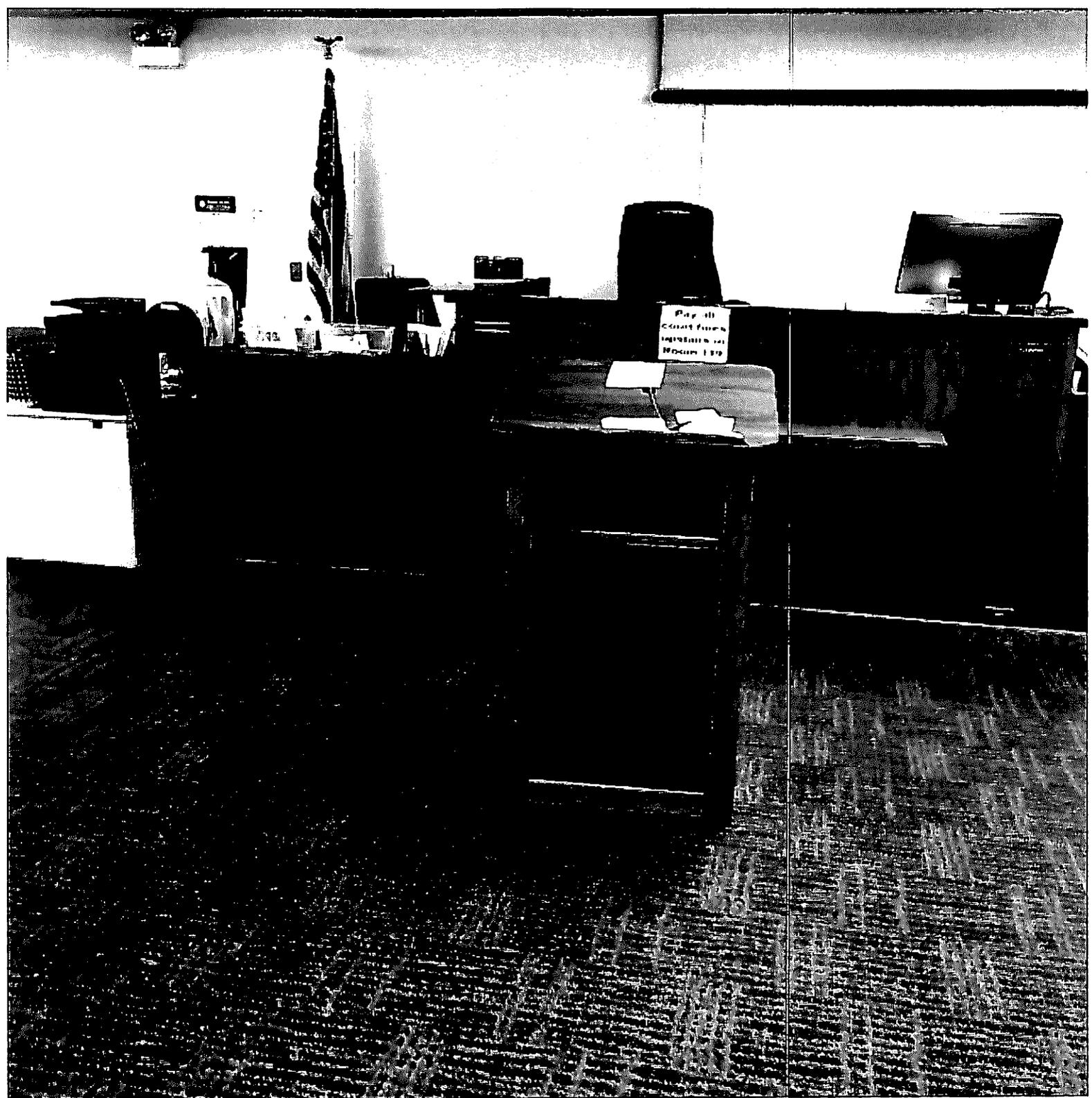
this 6th day of October, 2016.

Wendell J. Harms
NOTARY PUBLIC



MAINLIB_#815608_v1







ADMINISTRATOR'S EXHIBIT 8

Bell fixed at \$ _____ or cash deposit of \$ _____

I have examined the within complaint and the complaint, and am satisfied there is probable cause for filing the same. Leave is hereby granted to file, and it is ordered that a warrant be issued against the accused.

JUDGE	DATE	ORDER ENTERED
<i>S. McManis</i>		LEAVE TO FILE COMPLAINT - COMPLAINT FILED MD 10-26-16

ADMINISTRATOR'S EXHIBIT 9

YB-701-075

IN THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the name and by the authority of the People of the State of Illinois, Township, Village,
City or City of DELTON a Municipal Corporation, Plaintiff, vs.



YB701075

Name Last First M.I. Court Key
LASALLE, ANGEL D K

Address 1642 S. TALMAN AVE CHH. ZIP 60642 Star # 104

Operator License State COL IL License No. 24000485867 Date of Birth MO DAY YR 9 19 85 Sex F Height 5'8" Weight 147

Day of Week On THUR 15 26 2016 at 3:38 PM Old when drive and operate a certain motor vehicle to wit, a DODGE Year 10
 Auto Truck Bus Com. Mtr. Veh. 16 or more Pass. Veh.
 Taxi Mtrcycle Placarded Haz. Mtr.

Upon a public highway of this State, to wit: E Bound on SHLEY / BEACHVIEW Township: Road Yes No

Situated within the Township, Village, Town or City aforesaid, in Cook County, Illinois, and did then and there unlawfully violate section: 11-708 (F.R. Ord) (V.C.) (Other) State License Plate No. Z750305 IL Year

By (Describe) VIOLATED MEDIAN

Under penalty as provided by law for false certification pursuant to the Code of Civil Procedure 735 ILCS 5/1-109 and perjury pursuant to the Criminal Code of Procedure 720 ILCS 5/32-2, the undersigned certifies that the statements set forth in this instrument are true and correct.
PC

_____ m.p.h. in _____ m.p.h. zone
 1-20 m.p.h. over limit
 21-25 m.p.h. over limit
 26 m.p.h. or more over limit
 Not an Urban District
 Too fast for conditions

Pedestrian Vehicle Prop Dam
 Per Inj. Fatal Ticket Issued
 Defendant Inj. Only
Name of Witness of Accident Report # 8/11116

Follow instructions checked by officer.
 YOU MUST EITHER MAIL the Court Diversion Envelope within 7 days or log onto www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org to respond/pay online within 14-21 days of receiving this complaint.
Or
 APPEAR IN ROOM NUMBER 098
STREET 16501 S KEOZIE
MARKHAM, Illinois
On 6 of July 16
At 1:30 P.M. o'clock
 YOU MUST APPEAR IN COURT

Officer's Signature

TRAFFIC Light Heavy Medium WEATHER Cloudy Raining Snowing Fog
Without admitting guilt I promise to comply with the terms of this citation.
Signature
You may have the option to receive email notifications for all statutorily mandated notices regarding this case. To see if the email notification option is available, please visit our website at: www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org

Under complaints issued No. Other: Bond Deposition (See beg of Drivers Copy) PTC Individual bond Cash Bond Full Amount \$ Illinois Driver's License Bond Cert.

Judge

Bell fixed at \$ _____ or cash deposit of \$ _____

I have examined the within complaint and the complaint, and am satisfied there is probable cause for filing the same. Leave is hereby granted to file it, and it is ordered that a warrant be issued against the accused.

JUDGE	DATE	ORDER ENTERED
Judge James L. ...		LEAVE TO FILE COMPLAINT - COMPLAINT FILED
<i>[Signature]</i>		FTA 8-11-16 M.V. FTA
		ONIC PN 6 MCNS

ADMINISTRATOR'S EXHIBIT 10

COMPLAINT-PLEASE PRINT

JUN 30 2016

COMPLAINT NO.

YE-250-620

IN THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
in the name and by the authority of the People of the State of Illinois, Township, Village, or
City of DOLTON a Municipal Corporation, Plaintiff, vs.



Other Complaints Issued No. Bond Deposited (See back of Driver's Copy) PTC Individual bond Illinois Driver's License Bond Card

Last Name BLACKSHEAR First Name KENDRAH MI TK

Street Address 783 GREEN BAY AVE Apt. No. City CALUMET CITY, IL State IL Zip Code 60409

DL Over License CDL State ZLB | 4 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 8 | 0 | 7 | 9 | 4 Birth 6 | 24 | 80 Sex F Height 5 | 6 | 1 | 73 Weight 1 | 73

Day of Week FRI Month 6 Day 17 Year 2016 Time 7:02 A.M. Did then drive and operate a certain motor vehicle to wit, a KIA Year 15 Auto Truck Bus Com. Mtr. Veh. 16 or more Pass. Veh. Taxi Motorcycle Placarded Haz. Mtr.

Upon a public Highway of this State, to wit S Bound on CHICAGO RD / SIBLEY Township Road Yes No

Situated within the Township, Village, Town or City aforesaid, in Cook County, Illinois, and did then and there unlawfully violate section 6-101 (T.R. Ord) (I.V.C.) (Other) State License Plate No. 6775895 State IL Year

By (Describe): NO VALID D/L MP/IL/IL

Under penalty as provided by law for false certification pursuant to the Code of Civil Procedure 736 ILCS 5/1-108 and perjury pursuant to the Criminal Code of Procedure 720 ILCS 5/32-2, the undersigned certifies that the statements set forth in this instrument are true and correct.
 1-20 m.p.h. in _____ m.p.h. zone
 1-20 m.p.h. over limit
 21-25 m.p.h. over limit
 26 m.p.h. or more over limit
 Not an urban District
 Too fast for conditions
 Pedestrian Vehicle Trip Dam
 Per tri. Fatal Ticket issued
 Defendant inj. Only
Name of Witness _____
Accident Report # 16-11841

Officer's Signature P Car TRAFFIC Light Heavy Medium WEATHER Cloudy Raining Snowing Fog

Without admitting guilt I promise to comply with the terms of this citation.
Signature Kendrah Blackshear
You may have the option to receive email notifications for all statutorily mandated notices regarding this case. To see if the email notification option is available, please visit our website at: www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org.

Follow instructions checked by officer.
 YOU MUST EITHER MAIL the Court Diversion Envelope within 7 days or log onto www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org to respond/pay online within 14-21 days of receiving this complaint.
Or APPEAR IN ROOM NUMBER 098
STREET: 16501 S. KEDZIE
MARKHAM, Illinois
On 6 of July, 20 16
At 1:00 DAY of clock P M.
 YOU MUST APPEAR IN COURT

JUDGE	DATE	ORDER ENTERED
<i>[Signature]</i>	AUG 11 2016	LEAVE TO FILE COMPLAINT - COMPLAINT FILED
<i>[Signature]</i>	AUG 11 2016	BF 8-11-16
<i>[Signature]</i>		MIV BF granted
<i>[Signature]</i>		MENS

I have examined the within complaint and the complaint, and am satisfied there is probable cause for filing the same. Leave is hereby granted to file it, and it is ordered that a warrant be issued against the accused.

or cash deposit of \$

ADMINISTRATOR'S EXHIBIT 11

AFFIDAVIT OF JUDGE LUCIANO PANICI

1. I am Judge Luciano Panici. I am a judge in the Circuit Court of Cook County Municipal Department, Sixth District, located in Markham, Illinois. I have been a criminal judge since 2005 in the Sixth District.

2. My son, Luciano Panici Jr., is the prosecutor for the Village of Dolton. He often works out of the Markham courthouse.

3. On August 11, 2016, at approximately 1:30 pm, my son, Luciano, came into my chambers. He advised me that he had appeared before a new Judge that day in the Markham courthouse courtroom 098.

4. I asked, "What new judge? There are no new judges in Markham."

5. My son answered me and said, "Judge Crawford." I then inquired if he meant Rhonda Crawford. I advised him that Rhonda Crawford was not a judge, and that he needed to report this matter immediately to Judge Marjorie Laws, the presiding judge of Markham.

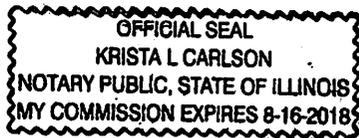
FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

Luciano Panici #1830
Judge Luciano Panici

Subscribed and sworn to before me

this 4 day of October, 2016.

Krista L Carlson
NOTARY PUBLIC



ADMINISTRATOR'S EXHIBIT 12

1 STATE OF ILLINOIS)
2) SS:
3 COUNTY OF C O O K)

4 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
5 MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT - SIXTH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

6 THE VILLAGE OF DOLTON,)
7)
8 vs.) No. YE 334458
9)
10 MALIQ GILES,)
11)
12 Defendant.)

13
14 REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS had in the hearing of the
15 above-entitled cause before the HONORABLE MARJORIE LAWS, Judge of
16 said court, on the 1st day of September, 2016.

17 PRESENT:

18 MR. LUCIANO PANICI, JR.,
19 on behalf of the Village of Dolton.

20
21
22 Sharon C. Kendall, CSR
23 Official Court Reporter
24 16501 Kedzie Parkway, Room 071
Markham, Illinois 60428
CSR No. 084-003454

1 THE CLERK: Maliq Giles.

2 THE COURT: Maliq Giles.

3 On August the 16th of 2016, this was motion
4 defendant to October the 26th of 2016.

5 MR. PANICI: Judge, that will be motion Village nonsuit
6 as well.

7 THE COURT: Nunc pro tunc your motion to August 11th of
8 2016.

9 MR. PANICI: Thank you, Judge.

10 THE COURT: Clerk to notify.

11 (Which were all the proceedings in the
12 above-entitled cause.)

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1 STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS:
 2 COUNTY OF C O O K)

3

4 I, Sharon C. Kendall, Official Shorthand Reporter
 5 of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Municipal Department -
 6 Sixth Municipal District, do hereby certify that I reported in
 7 shorthand the proceedings had on the trial in the aforementioned
 8 cause; that I thereafter caused the foregoing to be transcribed
 9 into typewriting, which I hereby certify to be a true and
 10 accurate transcript of the Report of Proceedings had before the
 11 HONORABLE MARJORIE LAWS, Judge of said court.

12

13

14

Sharon C. Kendall

15

Official Shorthand Reporter

16

17 Dated this 1st day of September, 2016.

18

19 CSR No. 084-003454

20

21

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24

1 STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) . SS:
 2 COUNTY OF C O O K)

3 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
 4 MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT - SIXTH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

5 THE VILLAGE OF DOLTON,)
)
 6 vs.) No. YB 701075
)
 7 ANGEL D. LASALLE,)
)
 8 Defendant.)

9
 10 REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS had in the hearing of the
 11 above-entitled cause before the HONORABLE MARJORIE LAWS, Judge of
 12 said court, on the 1st day of September, 2016.

13
 14 PRESENT:

15 MR. LUCIANO PANICI, JR.,
 16 on behalf of the Village of Dolton.

17
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 19
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 21
 22 Sharon C. Kendall, CSR
 23 Official Court Reporter
 24 16501 Kedzie Parkway, Room 071
 Markham, Illinois 60428
 CSR No. 084-003454

1 THE CLERK: Angel LaSalle.

2 THE COURT: On Angel LaSalle, there was a motion by the
3 Village of Dolton to nonsuit.

4 MR. PANICI: Motion Village nonsuit again, your Honor.

5 THE COURT: Nunc pro tunc, August 11th of 2016.

6 (Which were all the proceedings in the
7 above-entitled cause.)

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1 STATE OF ILLINOIS)
2 COUNTY OF C O O K) SS:

3

4 I, Sharon C. Kendall, Official Shorthand Reporter
5 of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Municipal Department -
6 Sixth Municipal District, do hereby certify that I reported in
7 shorthand the proceedings had on the trial in the aforementioned
8 cause; that I thereafter caused the foregoing to be transcribed
9 into typewriting, which I hereby certify to be a true and
10 accurate transcript of the Report of Proceedings had before the
11 HONORABLE MARJORIE LAWS, Judge of said court.

12

13

14

Sharon C. Kendall

15

Official Shorthand Reporter

16

17 Dated this 1st day of September, 2016.

18

19 CSR No. 084-003454

20

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1 STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS:
2 COUNTY OF C O O K)

3 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
4 MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT - SIXTH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

5 THE VILLAGE OF DOLTON,)
)
6 vs.) No. YE 250620
)
7 KENDRAH BLACKSHEAR,)
)
8 Defendant.)

9
10 REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS had in the hearing of the
11 above-entitled cause before the HONORABLE MARJORIE LAWS, Judge of
12 said court, on the 1st day of September, 2016.

13
14 PRESENT:

15 MR. LUCIANO PANICI, JR.,
16 on behalf of the Village of Dolton.

17
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21
22 Sharon C. Kendall, CSR
23 Official Court Reporter
24 16501 Kedzie Parkway, Room 071
Markham, Illinois 60428
CSR No. 084-003454

1 THE CLERK: Blackshear, Kendrah.

2 THE COURT: In this matter the Village of Dolton made a
3 motion to nonsuit this case on August 11th of 2016.

4 MR. PANICI: The same motion, Judge. It will be a motion
5 to dismiss with that motion to nonsuit.

6 THE COURT: Motion Village nonsuit. I will make it
7 nunc pro tunc to August 11th of 2016.

8 MR. PANICI: Thank you, your Honor.

9 (Which were all the proceedings in the
10 above-entitled cause.)

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1 STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS:
 2 COUNTY OF C O O K)

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4 I, Sharon C. Kendall, Official Shorthand Reporter
 5 of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Municipal Department -
 6 Sixth Municipal District, do hereby certify that I reported in
 7 shorthand the proceedings had on the trial in the aforementioned
 8 cause; that I thereafter caused the foregoing to be transcribed
 9 into typewriting, which I hereby certify to be a true and
 10 accurate transcript of the Report of Proceedings had before the
 11 HONORABLE MARJORIE LAWS, Judge of said court.

12

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14

Sharon C. Kendall

15

Official Shorthand Reporter

16

17 Dated this 1st day of September, 2016.

18

19 CSR No. 084-003454

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ADMINISTRATOR'S EXHIBIT 13

Dorothy Brown
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT



District 6
Sixth District Courthouse
16501 South Kedzie Parkway
Room 109
Markham, Illinois 60428
(708) 232-4282
FAX (708) 232-4682
www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org

OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY

September 1, 2016

Maliq B. Giles
4943 S. Michigan Ave
Chicago, IL 60615

Re: Defendant's Name: Maliq B. Giles
Traffic Citation Number: YE334458

Your ticket no. YE334458 previously set for a continuance of October 26, 2016 at 1:00pm Room 098 has been **DISMISSED/NON SUIT** on 9/1/2016 (See attached screen print). You no longer have to appear on this above ticketed number.

If you have any further questions, feel free to contact Samuel Williams Chief Deputy Clerk 708.232.4485 or the Traffic Manager at 708.232.4522 or 708.232.4838.

Sincerely,

Samuel Williams
Chief Deputy Clerk of the Circuit Court
6th District

Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County to serve the citizens of Cook County and the participants in the judicial system in an efficient, effective and ethical manner. All services, information and court records will be provided with courtesy and cost efficiency.

Dorothy Brown
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT



District 6
Sixth District Courthouse
16501 South Kedzie Parkway
Room 100
Markham, Illinois 60426
(708) 232-4262
FAX (708) 232-4682
www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org

OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY

September 1, 2016

Angel D. LaSalle
6642 S. Talman Ave.
Chicago, IL 60629

Re: Defendant's Name: Angel D. LaSalle
Traffic Citation Number: YB701075

Your ticket no. YB701075 has been DISMISSED/NON-SUIT on 9/1/2016. You no longer have to appear on this above ticketed number.

If you have any further questions, feel free to contact Samuel Williams Chief Deputy Clerk 708.232.4485 or the Traffic Manager at 708.232.4522 or 708.232.4838.

Sincerely,

Samuel Williams
Chief Deputy Clerk of the Circuit Court
6th District

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Dorothy Brown
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT



District 6
Sixth District Courthouse
18501 South Kedzie Parkway
Room 100
Markham, Illinois 60426
(708) 232-4262
FAX (708) 232-4682
www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org

OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY

September 1, 2016

Kendrah T. Blackshear
783 Greenbay Ave
Calumet City, IL 60409

Re: Defendant's Name: Kendrah T. Blackshear
Traffic Citation Number: YE250620

Your ticket no. YE250620 has been DISMISSED/NON-SUIT on 9/1/2016. You no longer have to appear on this above ticketed number.

If you have any further questions, feel free to contact Samuel Williams Chief Deputy Clerk 708.232.4485 or the Traffic Manager at 708.232.4522 or 708.232.4838.

Sincerely,

Samuel Williams
Chief Deputy Clerk of the Circuit Court
6th District

Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County to serve the citizens of Cook County and the participants in the judicial system in an efficient, effective and ethical manner. All services, information and court records will be provided with courtesy and cost efficiency.

ADMINISTRATOR'S EXHIBIT 14



ATTORNEY REGISTRATION AND DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION
of the
SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS

One Prudential Plaza
130 East Randolph Drive, Suite 1500
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6219
(312) 565-2600 (800) 826-8625
Fax (312) 565-2320

3161 West White Oaks Drive, Suite 301
Springfield, IL 62704
(217) 546-3523 (800) 252-8048
Fax (217) 546-3785

Judge Valerie Turner
9912 S. Prairie Ave.
Chicago, IL 60628

Chicago
September 23, 2016

Re: Jane Doe

Commission No. 2016IN03486

Dear Hon. Turner:

Pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 765, enclosed please find an original *subpoena* requiring your **appearance** at the Chicago office of the Commission, One Prudential Plaza, 130 East Randolph Drive, Suite 1500, on **September 29, 2013 at 2:00 p.m.**

Thank you for your cooperation.

Very truly yours,


Shelley M. Bethune
Litigation Counsel

SMB:srh
Enclosure
MAINLIB_#810036_v1

No. 2016IN03486 (SMB)

ATTORNEY DISCIPLINARY SYSTEM
OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS

Jane Doe

In the Matter of

Subpoena

CAROLYN TAFT GRSBOLL
Clerk of the Supreme Court of Illinois

PROOF OF SERVICE

I, Jack Kelly, state under oath that I caused to be served these subpoenas, via electronic mail to Counsel Gino Divito for Judge Valerie Turner at gdivito@tdlrlawfirm.com, on September 23, 2016 at or before 12:57 p.m.

Jack Kelly
Jack Kelly

Subscribed and sworn to
before me on this 26th day
of September, 2016.

Susan Ramos Hernandez
NOTARY PUBLIC



ADMINISTRATOR'S EXHIBIT 15

TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS CONFERENCE

GIVEN BY RHONDA CRAWFORD

ON SEPTEMBER 22, 2016

AT HENDERSON PARKS, LLC

whereupon, the following transcript contains a portion of the press conference transcribed by Angie Hatzopoulos, a court reporter certified by the state of Illinois, via video recordings.

Transcribed: October 12, 2016

Reported by: Angie Hatzopoulos, CSR, RPR

License No.: 084-004231



1 (Begin video file.)

2 MR. VICTOR HENDERSON: We're very early in the
3 process. So the story is going to continue to
4 unfold over the next few weeks. But with that, I'd
5 like to now turn over the program to Attorney
6 Rhonda Crawford for her to speak.

7 MS. RHONDA CRAWFORD: My name is Attorney
8 Rhonda Crawford. I am an attorney licensed to
9 practice law in the State of Illinois. I have been
10 licensed since 2003. I am here to respond to
11 allegations that I wrongfully impersonated a
12 judge in Markham in the Circuit Court of Cook
13 County.

14 I started working in Markham in May of
15 2015 as a staff attorney assigned by the chief
16 judge. I was not a clerk working for the Clerk of
17 the Circuit Court. Let me be clear. I intend to
18 run for the office. I do not intend to withdraw my
19 name from the ballot.

20 As it relates to the stories published in
21 the media about me impersonating a judge, I want to
22 be transparent about what I did and what I did not
23 do.

24 In terms of what I did, after I won the



1 primary, I started the process of shadowing various
2 judges in Markham. I wanted to see what they did
3 and learn about the process of being a judge. I
4 was excited about learning and excited about the
5 chance to win the general election, especially
6 since I was running unopposed.

7 In terms of shadowing, I observed the
8 courtroom proceedings. I looked at the different
9 styles of the various judges. And at the urging of
10 a respected judge, I put on her robe and I sat in
11 her chair. The judge stood over me the entire time
12 while she decided the last three cases on her court
13 call. I was always under the direction of the
14 judge.

15 As it relates to what I did not do, I did
16 not decide any cases. I did not pronounce any
17 judgments. I did not hand any court papers to the
18 courtroom clerk. I did not sign my name on any
19 judicial orders. I did not tell anyone that I was
20 the judge. And I want to emphasize that the judge
21 was always standing over me. It is a lesson I will
22 never forget.

23 In closing, I want to thank all of the
24 people in the first judicial subcircuit who are



1 encouraging me to fight the good fight and to
2 finish the race. I intend to win the election. I
3 accept full responsibilities for my actions, both
4 now and in the future.

5 Thank you.

6 (End of video file.)
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1 STATE OF ILLINOIS)
2) SS:
3 COUNTY OF C O O K)
4

5 Angie Hatzopoulos, being first duly sworn,
6 on oath says that she is a court reporter doing
7 business in the City of Chicago; and that she
8 transcribed from video recordings a portion of said
9 press conference, and that the foregoing is a true
10 and correct transcript of the recordings so taken
11 as aforesaid, and contains an excerpt of said press
12 conference.

13 *Angie Hatzopoulos*
14 _____
15 Certified Shorthand Reporter



16
17 SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO
18 before me this _____ day
19 of _____ 2016.
20

21
22 _____
23 Notary Public
24



To view the video of the press conference, please go to the following website:

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/ct-judge-clerk-speaks-out-20160922-story.html>

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS

In the Matter of:)	
)	
RHONDA CRAWFORD,)	Supreme Court No. M.R.
)	
Attorney-Respondent,)	Commission No. 2016PR00115
)	
No. 6281226.)	

PROOF OF SERVICE

I, Jack Kelly, on oath state that I personally served a copy of the Administrator's PETITION FOR INTERIM SUSPENSION PURSUANT TO SUPREME COURT RULE 774(a)(2), in the above captioned matter on Rhonda Crawford, Respondent, at One North La Salle Street, Suite 300, Chicago, IL 60602 on October 13, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.

Jack Kelly

Jack Kelly

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 13th day of October, 2016.

Susan Ramos Hernandez

NOTARY PUBLIC



***** Electronically Filed *****

28341

10/13/2016

Supreme Court Clerk

PROOF OF SERVICE

I, Susan R. Hernandez, on oath state that I served a copy of a Notice of Filing, PROOF OF PERSONAL SERVICE and the Administrator's PETITION FOR INTERIM SUSPENSION PURSUANT TO SUPREME COURT RULE 774(a)(2), on the individual at the address shown on the forgoing Notice of Filing, by regular mail, proper postage prepaid, by causing the same to be deposited in the U.S. Mailbox located at 130 East Randolph, Chicago, Illinois, 60601 on October 13, 2016, at or before 5:00 p.m.

Susan R. Hernandez
Susan R. Hernandez

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 13th day of October, 2016.

Amy Gentry Brown
NOTARY PUBLIC

MAINLIB_#818076_v1



Notary Public
State of Illinois
My Commission Expires 07/31/2019

**** Electronically Filed ****

28341

10/13/2016

Supreme Court Clerk
