

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

In the Matter of:

MAUREEN WILLIAMS,

Attorney-Respondent,

No. 6285393.

Commission No. 2021PR00032

COMPLAINT

Jerome Larkin, Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission, by his attorney, Tammy L. Evans, pursuant to Supreme Court Rules 753(b) and 761(c), complains of Respondent, Maureen Williams, who was licensed to practice law in Illinois on July 5, 2005, and alleges that Respondent has engaged in the following conduct which subjects her to discipline pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 770:

COUNT I

(2021 felony conviction for forgery)

1. On April 28, 2019, the Woodford County Sheriff's Department cited Respondent for driving 95 miles per hour in a 55 mile per hour zone on Woodford County Highway 18. On June 26, 2019, Respondent appeared in Woodford County Circuit Court for the traffic citation and, in exchange for her guilty plea, Judge Michael Stroh sentenced Respondent to a term of court supervision for a period of 12 months. Judge Stroh also ordered Respondent to pay a fine and court costs and complete 20 hours of community service on or before April 26, 2020.

2. At no time before April 26, 2020, did Respondent complete the 20 hours of community service that she was ordered to complete by Judge Stroh.

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3. On June 4, 2020, Respondent submitted a public service worksheet to Woodford County Court Services that reported that, between May 1, 2020 and May 30, 2020, Respondent had completed 20 community service hours at St. Mark's Church in Peoria. Karen Camper ("Camper"), the bookkeeper for St. Mark's Church and a close friend of Respondent, signed Respondent's public service worksheet.

4. At the time Respondent requested Camper to sign her public service worksheet, both Respondent and Camper knew that Respondent did not complete any community service hours at St. Mark's Church.

5. On June 4, 2020, Jennifer Toureene ("Toureene"), a probation assistant for Woodford County Court Services, contacted St. Mark's Church to verify that Respondent had completed her 20 community service hours at the church.

6. On June 9, 2020, Brian Brownsey ("Brownsey"), head chaplain and director of St. Mark's Church, contacted Toureene and stated that Respondent had not completed any community service hours at the church.

7. On July 21, 2020, the Woodford County State's Attorney filed a one-count felony information against Respondent in the Circuit Court of Woodford County charging Respondent with forgery in violation of 720 ILCS 5/17-3(a)(2), and alleging that Respondent, "with the intent to defraud, knowingly issued to Woodford County Court Services personnel a false document, a Woodford County Court Services public service worksheet, by claiming hours of public service work were completed at St. Mark's Church knowing the hours were not completed as stated, and the false document was apparently capable of defrauding another."

8. On February 25, 2021, Respondent pled guilty to one felony count of forgery. In exchange for Respondent's guilty plea, Judge Charles M. Feeney, III, sentenced Respondent to

second chance probation for a period of 24 months, and ordered Respondent to complete 150 hours of public service by February 25, 2022, and pay a \$3,500 fine. Pursuant to 730 ILCS 5/5-6-3.4, the court, with the consent of the defendant and the State's Attorney, may sentence an individual who pleads guilty to a probational felony offense to second chance probation. The court shall enter an order specifying a period of probation of not less than 24 months and shall defer further proceedings in the case until the conclusion of the period of probation or until the filing of a petition alleging violation of a term or condition of probation.

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

- a. committing a criminal act that reflects adversely on her honesty, trustworthiness, or fitness as a lawyer in other respects, by committing the criminal offense of forgery in violation of 720 ILCS 5/17-3(a)(2), in violation of Rule 8.4(b) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010); and
- b. conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation, by conduct including committing the criminal offense of forgery on June 4, 2020, in violation of 720 ILCS 5/17-3(a)(2), in violation of Rule 8.4(c) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010).

WHEREFORE, the Administrator requests that this case be assigned to a panel of the Hearing Board, that a hearing be conducted, that the panel make findings of fact and 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: /s/ Tammy L. Evans
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