

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

FILED  
10/18/2021 6:41 PM  
ARDC Clerk

In the matter of:

ROBERT EDWARD LEWIN,  
  
Attorney-Respondent,  
  
No. 1646710

Commission No. 2021PR00074

**ANSWER TO THE COMPLAINT**

Now comes the Respondent, Robert Edward Lewin, by his attorney, Sari W. Montgomery, of Robinson, Stewart, Montgomery & Doppke LLC, and states as follows for his Answer to the Administrator's Complaint.

*(Lack of Diligence, Conflict of Interest, Communicating with a Party Represented by Counsel and Dishonesty)*

1. In August 2019, a Will County grand jury returned indictments against co-defendants Quentin Weekley ("Weekley"), Alvin Loggins ("Loggins"), and Jeri Kinney ("Kinney") on charges of felony aggravated unlawful use of a weapon. The matters were docketed as *People of the State of Illinois v. Quentin Q. Weekley*, case number 2019 CF 1445, *People of the State of Illinois v. Alvin Loggins*, case number 2019 CF 1447 and *People of the State of Illinois v. Jeri Kinney*, case number 2019 CF 1446.

**ANSWER: Admit.**

2. On August 5, 2019, the Office of the Will County Public Defender was appointed to represent the three co-defendants in the Weekley, Loggins, and Kinney indictments. Assistant Public Defender Kylie Blatti ("Blatti") filed an appearance on behalf of Loggins in case number 2019 CF 1447 and two other Assistant Public Defenders ("APD") filed their appearances on behalf

of Weekley and Kinney.

**ANSWER: Respondent admits the allegations in the first sentence of Paragraph Two. Respondent denies that Assistant Public Defender Kylie Blatti filed an appearance on behalf of Loggins on August 5, 2019, and further states that she filed her appearance on behalf of Loggins later in August of 2019. Respondent admits the remaining allegations of Paragraph Two.**

3. Each of the APD's appearances in case numbers 2019 CF 1445, 2019 CF 1446 and 2019 CF 1447 were recorded in the online court system for Will County, *iAttorney*. Attorneys practicing in Will County have access to the *iAttorney* system.

**ANSWER: Respondent has insufficient knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph Three, and therefore denies same.**

4. Between August 5, 2019 and February 20, 2020, Weekley, Loggins and Kinney were represented in case numbers 2019 CF 1445, 2019 CF 1446 and 2019 CF 1447, by attorneys from the Office of the Will County Public Defender.

**ANSWER: Admit.**

5. On February 20, 2020, Respondent appeared before the Honorable Daniel Kennedy and was granted leave to file his appearance as substitute counsel on behalf of Weekley in case number 2019 CF 1445. Also present in court were Blatti, appearing on behalf of Loggins in case number 2019 CF 1447, and another Assistant Public Defender, appearing on behalf of Kinney in ,case number 2019 CF 1446.

**ANSWER: Admit.**

6. On February 20, 2020, Judge Kennedy set a next court date of April 9, 2020 in case numbers 2019 CF 1445, 2019 CF 1446 and 2019 CF 1447.

**ANSWER: Admit.**

7. On February 20, 2020, Respondent received a copy of discovery from the Assistant Public Defender who previously represented Weekley, in relation to case number 2019 CF 1445.

**ANSWER: Respondent admits that he received a copy of discovery in relation to case number 2019 CF 1445. Respondent has insufficient knowledge to admit or deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph Seven and, therefore, denies same.**

8. On or about March 1, 2020, Weekley was arrested on a felony aggravated unlawful use of a weapon and taken into custody. The matter was docketed as *People of the State of Illinois v. Quentin Q. Weekley*, case number 2020 CF 430. The Office of the Will County Public Defender was appointed to this matter.

**ANSWER: Admit.**

9. On March 5, 2020, the Will County probation department filed a report before Judge Kennedy alleging Weekley violated the conditions of his pre-trial release in case number 2019 CF 1445 by his March 1, 2020, arrest in case number 2020 CF 430.

**ANSWER: Respondent admits that a report was filed on March 5, 2020, in case number 2019 CF 1445. Respondent has insufficient knowledge to admit or deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph Nine and, therefore, denies same.**

10. On March 24, 2020, an Assistant Public Defender appeared on behalf of Weekley in case number 2019 CF 1447 as Respondent neither appeared in person or remotely on Weekley's behalf. The matter was continued to April 24, 2020.

**ANSWER: Respondent admits the allegations in the first sentence of Paragraph Ten. Respondent denies the allegations in the second sentence of Paragraph Ten and further states that the matter was continued to May 4, 2020.**

11. On April 24, 2020, an Assistant Public Defender appeared on behalf of Weekley in case number 2019 CF 1447, as Respondent did not appear in person or remotely on Weekley's behalf.

**ANSWER: Admit.**

12. Sometime between March 2020 and May 2020, when Respondent represented Weekley, Respondent called Weekley's co-defendant Loggins and asked him questions about Loggins' pending case 2019 CF 1445, at a time when Respondent knew that Loggins was represented by counsel. Loggins believed that Respondent represented him after the telephone conversation.

**ANSWER: Respondent admits the allegations in the first sentence of Paragraph Twelve and further states that he called Loggins at Loggins' request as communicated to Respondent by Weekley. Respondent has insufficient knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in the second sentence of Paragraph Twelve and, therefore, denies same.**

13. After Respondent's initial telephone conversation with Loggins, Respondent placed additional calls to Loggins. At Respondent's request, Loggins agreed to meet Respondent in person. Respondent and Loggins met in a parking lot, where Respondent presented Loggins with a prepared, typewritten admission of guilt and asked Loggins to sign the statement. In the typewritten admission of guilt, Loggins accepted ownership for the gun Weekley was charged with the 2019 felony matter.

**ANSWER: Respondent admits the allegations of the first sentence of Paragraph Thirteen and further states that the subsequent conversations were to arrange to meet with Loggins. Respondent admits the allegations in the second sentence of Paragraph Thirteen. Respondent admits that he met Loggins in a parking lot, where he presented Loggins with a**

**prepared, typewritten statement and asked Loggins to sign the statement. Respondent denies the remaining allegations of third and fourth sentences of Paragraph Thirteen and further states that the statement Respondent presented to Loggins speaks for itself.**

14. Prior to obtaining Loggins signature on the statement referred to in paragraph 13, Respondent did not advise Loggins of any consequences such a statement may have on his case. At that time, the offense Loggins was charged with was non-probationable, and if convicted, carried a mandatory prison sentence.

**ANSWER: Respondent denies the allegations in the first sentence of Paragraph Fourteen. Respondent admits the remaining allegations of Paragraph Fourteen.**

15. Only after Loggins signed the statement referred to in paragraph 13, did Respondent advise Loggins that based on his statement, he would be going to jail for his offense. Respondent told Loggins that he could get Loggins probation and offered to represent Loggins for \$1500.

**ANSWER: Denied.**

16. On May 11, 2020, Respondent filed an emergency motion to reduce Weekley's bond in the 2020 CF 430 matter but failed to appear for the motion hearing. The motion was reset for May 28, 2020.

**ANSWER: Admit.**

17. On May 28, 2020, Respondent filed with the Court Loggins' typewritten admission of guilt, in support of his motion to reduce Weekley's bond. Respondent used Loggins' statement to argue that Weekley was not guilty in the 19 CF 1445 matter and, therefore, should have his bond reduced in the 20 CF 430 matter.

**ANSWER: Respondent admits that, on May 28, 2020, he filed Loggins' typewritten statement in support of his motion to reduce Weekley's bond. Respondent denies the**

**remaining allegations in the first sentence of Paragraph Seventeen. Respondent admits the remaining allegations of Paragraph Seventeen.**

18. At no time did Respondent inform Loggins' attorney, Blatti, that he was initiating or engaging in communications with Loggins relating to the substantive charges in 19 CF 1447.

**ANSWER: Admit.**

19. At no time did Respondent obtain Blatti's consent to communicate with Loggins regarding the charges pending against Loggins and Weekley.

**ANSWER: Admit.**

20. On June 24, 2020, Blatti was standing near the prosecution table, waiting for Loggins to arrive in court. At that time, and in Blatti's presence, Respondent approached Assistant State's Attorney Christine Vukmir ("Vukmir") to discuss Loggins' matter, whom he indicated was waiting for Respondent outside the courtroom. Blatti asked Respondent what he wished to speak about regarding her client Loggins. Respondent advised Vukmir and Blatti that he would be entering an appearance on behalf of Loggins.

**ANSWER: Respondent has insufficient knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in the first sentence of Paragraph Twenty, as well as whether his conversation with Vukmir was in Blatti's presence and, therefore, denies same. Respondent admits the remaining allegations of Paragraph Twenty.**

21. Only after Vukmir and Blatti advised Respondent that his representation of codefendants, Loggins and Weekley, created a conflict of interest, did Respondent decline to file his appearance to represent Loggins.

**ANSWER: Admit.**

22. Shortly thereafter, Blatti exited the courtroom and observed Respondent speaking to her client, Loggins. Blatti advised Loggins to stop speaking with Respondent because he represented his co-defendant whose defense was in direct conflict with Loggins' defense.

**ANSWER: Respondent has insufficient knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph Twenty-two and, therefore, denies same.**

23. On July 8, 2020, an Assistant Public Defender appeared on behalf of Weekley in case number 2019 CF 1447 as Respondent did not appear in person or remotely on Weekley's behalf.

**ANSWER: Admit.**

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

a. Failing to act with reasonable diligence and promptness is representing a client, by conduct including failing to appear for scheduled court dates on behalf of Quentin Weekley on March 24, April 24, May 11, and July 8, 2020, in violation of Rule 1.3 of the Illinois Rules of Professional Responsibility (2010);

b. Representing a client when the representation of that client will be directly adverse to another client, by conduct including representing co-defendants Alvin Loggins and agreeing to represent Quentin Weekley, in violation of Rule 1.7(a) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010);

c. Representing a client when the representation of that client will be materially limited by the lawyer's responsibilities to another client, by conduct including representing co-defendants Alvin Loggins and Quentin Weekley, in violation of Rule 1.7(b) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010);

d. During the course of representing a client, communicating about the subject of the representation

with a person the lawyer knows to be represented by another lawyer in the matter, without the consent of the lawyer representing such party, by conduct including communicating with Alvin Loggins during Respondent's representation of Quentin Weekley, when Respondent knew Loggins to be represented by the Will County Public Defender's Office, without obtaining the consent of the lawyer representing Loggins, in violation of Rule 4.2 of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010);

e. Engaging in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice, by conduct including communicating with Alvin Loggins, whom Respondent knew to be represented by the Will County Public Defender's Office without the consent of the lawyer representing Loggins, in violation of 8.4(d) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010).

**ANSWER: Respondent denies the legal conclusions pled in Paragraph Twenty-four.**

**RESPONDENT'S COMPLIANCE WITH COMMISSION RULE 231**

1. Respondent was admitted to the General Bar of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois under the name Robert Edward Lewin, and Bar Number 1646710 in 1974. Respondent was admitted to the Trial Bar in 2010, but is no longer active.

Respondent was admitted to the U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois under the name Robert Edward Lewin in 2011.

2. Respondent was admitted to the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit under the name Robert Edward Lewin in 2006.

3. Respondent has not received any other professional licensure or certificate.



Respectfully submitted,

Robert Edward Lewin,

/s/ Sari W. Montgomery

By: Sari W. Montgomery

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