

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

In the Matter of:

MARGARET JEAN LOWERY,

Attorney-Respondent,

No. 6271777.

Commission No. 2023PR00060

COMPLAINT

Jerome Larkin, Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission ("ARDC"), by his attorney, Rachel C. Miller, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 753(b), complains of Respondent, Margaret Jean Lowery ("Respondent"), who was licensed to practice law in Illinois on July 21, 2000, and alleges that Respondent has engaged in the following conduct which subjects her to discipline pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 770:

COUNT I

*(false statement in a pleading)*

1. On January 17, 2023, the Supreme Court entered an order suspending the Respondent from the practice of law for 30 days and requiring her to successfully complete the ARDC Professionalism Seminar within one year of the Court's final order of discipline. The discipline was effective February 7, 2023.

2. On March 17, 2023, the ARDC sent a letter and Statement of Costs to Respondent's attorney notifying him that Respondent was responsible for costs in the amount of \$1,500 pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 773.

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ARDC Clerk

3. At no time between March 17, 2023 and April 18, 2023 did Respondent pay the \$1,500 in costs pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 773.

4. On April 18, 2023, the ARDC filed a petition for order and judgment for costs in the Illinois Supreme Court.

5. On April 24, 2023, Respondent filed an objection to the petition for order and judgment for costs.

6. In her objection, Respondent stated that Judge Andrew Gleeson “specifically threatened” Respondent by saying “I will see to it that you are homeless and living under a bridge.”

7. Respondent’s statement in paragraph six, above, was false, because Judge Gleeson did not make the statement.

8. Respondent knew at the time that she made the statement in paragraph 6, above, that it was false.

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

- a. knowingly making a false statement of fact or law to a tribunal by filing a false pleading in the Illinois Supreme Court, as described in paragraph six, above, in violation of Rule 3.3(a)(1) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010),
- b. knowingly making a false statement or making a statement with reckless disregard for its truth or falsity concerning the qualifications or integrity of a judge, adjudicatory officer or public legal officer, or of a candidate for election or appointment to judicial or legal office, as described in paragraph six, above, in violation of Rule 8.2(a) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010), and
- c. conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation by making the false statement described in paragraph six, above, in violation of Rule 8.4(c) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010).

## COUNT II

*(false statement or a statement with reckless disregard for its truth or falsity concerning the integrity of the Supreme Court of Illinois)*

10. The Administrator reincorporates and realleges paragraphs one through eight, above.

11. Prior to July 6, 2023, Respondent created an account on Twitter under the name of “Margaret J Lowery of The Lowery Law Firm.”

12. On July 6, 2023, Respondent created and published a post on the Twitter account described in paragraph 11, above, the said the following:

“Did you know the ARDC & the Illinois Supreme Court has a [sic] history of permitting harassment of women until they commit [sic] suicide or leave the bar? That’s how they enforce their “anti discrimination and non harassment policy.” How do I know this? I interviewed the affected women.”

13. Respondent’s statement in paragraph 12, above, that the ARDC and Illinois Supreme Court have a history of permitting harassment of women until they commit suicide or leave the bar was false.

14. Respondent made the statement in paragraph 12, above, knowing it was false, or with a reckless disregard for its truth or falsity.

15. By reason of the conduct outlined above, Respondent has engaged in the following misconduct:

- a. knowingly making a false statement or making a statement with reckless disregard for its truth or falsity concerning the qualifications or integrity of a judge, by conduct including stating that the Illinois Supreme Court permits harassment of women until they commit suicide, as described in paragraph 12, above, in violation of Rule 8.2(a) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010).

WHEREFORE, the Administrator requests that this matter be assigned to a panel of the Hearing Board, that a hearing be held, and the 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: /s/ Rachel C. Miller  
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