

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

In the Matter of: )  
)  
MARGARET JEAN LOWERY, )  
) Commission No. 2023PR00060  
Attorney-Respondent, )  
)  
No. 6271777. )

**NOTICE OF FILING**

**TO:** Rachel C. Miller  
Counsel for the Administrator  
Email: ARDCeService@iardc.org; rmiller@iardc.org

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that on October 17, 2023, I will submit the attached ANSWER and this notice to the Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission, One Prudential Plaza, 130 East Randolph, Suite 800, Chicago, Illinois 60601, for filing by electronic means through the Odyssey eFileIL system.

/s/William F. Moran, III  
Counsel for Respondent

**COUNSEL FOR RESPONDENT:**

William F. Moran, III (#06191183)  
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FILED  
10/17/2023 6:08 PM  
ARDC Clerk

**PROOF OF SERVICE**

I, William F. Moran, III, state that I served copies of this Notice of Filing and the attached Answer on Counsel for the Administrator by emailing true and correct copies thereof to her at the email addresses shown on the face of this Notice of Filing on this 17<sup>th</sup> day of October 2023. Under penalties as provided by law pursuant to Section 1-109 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 735 ILCS 5/1-109, the undersigned certifies that the statements set forth in this instrument are true and correct.

/s/William F. Moran, III  
Counsel for Respondent

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In the Matter of: )  
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 Attorney-Respondent, )  
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ANSWER

Respondent, MARGARET JEAN LOWERY, by her attorney, William F. Moran, III, pursuant to Commission Rule 231, for her answer to the Complaint filed against her in this cause by Jerome Larkin, Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission (“ARDC”), states as follows:

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

1. In addition to her license to practice law in the State of Illinois, Respondent has been admitted to practice law by examination in the State of Oklahoma since 1987. While Respondent was admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States and other federal Courts, those federal bar admissions are now inactive. Respondent has not been admitted to practice before any other state court, federal court or administrative agency.
2. Respondent has no other active professional license.

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.

**ANSWER:** Respondent admits the allegations as set for in Paragraph 1 of Count I of the Administrator's Complaint. *See*, Supreme Court Rule 753(c)(5).

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.

**ANSWER:** Respondent is without sufficient information to admit or deny the allegation as set forth in Paragraph 2 of Count I of the Administrator's Complaint, however, Respondent admits that she received a copy of the Statement of Costs from her counsel on or about March 22, 2023.

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.

**ANSWER:** Respondent admits the allegation as set for in Paragraph 3 of Count I of the Administrator's Complaint. Answering further, Respondent would state that she did not immediately pay the costs because she had questions about some of the charges and made inquiries of the ARDC in the hopes of avoiding the filing of an objection to the Statement of Costs.

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

**ANSWER:** Respondent admits the allegation as set for in Paragraph 4 of Count I of the Administrator's Complaint.

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

**ANSWER:** Respondent admits the allegation as set for in Paragraph 5 of Count I of the Administrator's Complaint.

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.”

**ANSWER:** Respondent admits the allegation as set for in Paragraph 6 of Count I of the Administrator’s Complaint.

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

**ANSWER:** Respondent denies the allegation as set for in Paragraph 7 of Count I of the Administrator’s Complaint.

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

**ANSWER:** Respondent denies the allegation as set for in Paragraph 8 of Count I of the Administrator’s Complaint.

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).

**ANSWER:** Respondent denies the allegations as set forth in Subsections (a) through (c) of

Paragraph 9 of Count I of the Administrator’s Complaint.

**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.

**ANSWER:** Respondent restates and reaffirms her answers to Paragraphs 1 through 8 of Count I of the Administrator’s Complaint, as set forth above, as and for her answers to Paragraphs 1 through 8 of Count II of the Complaint.

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

**ANSWER:** Respondent denies the allegation as set forth in Paragraph 11 of Count II of the Administrator’s Complaint, as the Administrator inaccurately identifies Respondent’s X account as, “Margaret J Lowery of The Lowery Law Firm.” Respondent admits that she had a former X account using the account identifier, “@MargaretJLowery.” The Administrator’s use of the account identifier “Margaret J. Lowery of The Lowery Law Firm” is inaccurate, as several other accounts on X utilized that same exact call name, none of which were Respondent’s account.

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

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

**ANSWER:** Respondent denies the allegations set forth by the Administrator in Paragraph 12 of

Count II of the Administrator's Complaint to the extent that Twitter Inc., was dissolved by July 6, 2023. Next, the Administrator has identified Respondent's former X account as, "Margaret J. Lowery of The Lowery Law Firm," which is also incorrect. Respondent admits that she made posts on her X account identified as, "@MargaretJLowery." Respondent further admits that she made a post similar to the one outlined above in response to the Illinois Supreme Court's announcement on official public Social Media accounts that it was going to address the issue of bullying in the legal profession, through its Commission on Professionalism. Subject to and without waiving same, Respondent admits that she made posts to "@MargaretJLowery" on X in response to the Court's action, however, she is unsure of whether the edited post cited by the Administrator in Paragraph 12 of Count II is the final edited version of said post.

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.

**ANSWER:** Respondent denies the allegation as set forth in Paragraph 13 of Count II of the Administrator's Complaint.

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

**ANSWER:** Respondent denies the allegations as set forth in Paragraph 14 of Count II of the Administrator's Complaint. Answering further, Respondent would state that she made the statement, as described in Paragraph 12 of Count II of the Administrator's Complaint, because Comment #6 to the Preamble of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010) provides,

As a public citizen, a lawyer should seek improvement of the law, access to the legal system, the administration of justice and the quality of service rendered by the legal profession. As a member of a learned profession, a lawyer should cultivate knowledge of the law beyond its use for clients, employ that

knowledge in reform of the law and work to strengthen legal education. In addition, a lawyer should further the public's understanding of and confidence in the rule of law and the justice system because legal institutions in a constitutional democracy depend on popular participation and support to maintain their authority.

By making the statement at issue here, Respondent is merely attempting to comply with her duty as an attorney in an effort to improve the legal system, especially the attorney disciplinary system. Further, Respondent believes that her speech in this regard is constitutionally protected, and that any attempt to discipline her license to practice law for making this statement is violative of the protections provided to her by First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, applicable to the State of Illinois by the Fourteenth Amendment, and pursuant to Section 4 of Article I of the Bill of Rights of the Constitution of the State of Illinois.

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).

**ANSWER:** Respondent denies the allegation as set forth in Subsections (a) of Paragraph 15 of Count II of the Administrator's Complaint.

**WHEREFORE,** Respondent, MARGARET J. LOWERY, would request that the Hearing Board recommend that the Complaint filed against her in this cause by the Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission, JEROME LARKIN, be dismissed, and for any and all further relief which is just and equitable based upon the facts and circumstances presented.

Respectfully submitted,

MARGARET J. LOWERY, Respondent

By:           /s/William F. Moran, III            
Her attorney

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