## In re Donald Thomas

Petitioner

Commission No. 2024PR00018

# **Synopsis of Hearing Board Report and Recommendation**

(March 2025)

In 2005, with the consent of the Administrator, Petitioner filed a motion to transfer to disability inactive status pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 758. The Court allowed the motion, and Petitioner was placed on inactive status until further order of the Court. In March 2024, Petitioner filed a petition seeking restoration of his law license from inactive status to active status. Following a hearing to determine Petitioner's current capacity to practice law, the Hearing Board found that he had met his burden of establishing that he meets the requirements for restoration to active status, and recommended that his petition for restoration be allowed. However, it further recommended that Petitioner's restoration to active practice be subject to conditions designed to assist Petitioner in maintaining his sobriety and mental-health stability, thereby also protecting the public and legal profession.

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

In the Matter of:

DONALD THOMAS.

Commission No. 2024PR00018

Petitioner,

No. 6205451.

# REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE HEARING BOARD

# **SUMMARY OF THE REPORT**

In 2005, with the consent of the Administrator, Petitioner filed a motion to transfer to disability inactive status pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 758. The Court allowed the motion, and Petitioner transferred to inactive status until further order of the Court. In March 2024, he filed a petition seeking restoration of his law license to active status. Following a hearing, the Hearing Board found that Petitioner had proved by clear and convincing evidence that he meets the requirements for restoration to active practice, and recommended that his Verified Petition for Restoration be allowed, subject to conditions.

## INTRODUCTION

The hearing on this petition for restoration to active status was held on December 17, 2024, at the Chicago offices of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission before a Hearing Board Panel of Kenn Brotman, Chair, John P. Moynihan, and Daniel G. Samo. Jonathan M. Wier represented the Administrator. Petitioner appeared and represented himself.

**FILED** 

March 21, 2025

ARDC CLERK

#### BACKGROUND

In August 2004, the Administrator filed a complaint against Petitioner, alleging that he neglected a client's child support matter and failed to refund unearned fees in connection with that matter. In June 2005, with the consent of the Administrator, Petitioner filed a motion to transfer to disability inactive status pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 758. On July 1, 2005, the Court allowed Petitioner's motion, and Petitioner voluntarily transferred to disability inactive status effective immediately and until further order of Court. Shortly thereafter, the Hearing Board dismissed the disciplinary complaint against Petitioner without prejudice.

On March 19, 2024, Petitioner filed his Verified Petition for Restoration ("Petition"), seeking restoration of his law license from voluntary inactive status to active status. On April 4, 2024, the Administrator filed exceptions to the Petition, and the matter was referred to the Hearing Board for a hearing pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 759(a) to determine Petitioner's current capacity to practice law.

#### **EVIDENCE**

Petitioner testified on his own behalf and presented the testimony of two additional witnesses. Petitioner's Exhibits 1 through 14 and 16 through 18 were admitted into evidence. (Tr. 49-50, 52, 55, 71, 72-75, 77, 80, 82, 84.) Administrator's Exhibits 1 through 3 were admitted into evidence. (Tr. 39, 45.)

## Petitioner

Petitioner was admitted to the practice of law in Illinois in December 1990. He was 70 years old at the time of his restoration hearing. (Tr. 20.)

Petitioner was born and raised on the South side of Chicago in the Englewood community.

He graduated from high school in 1971, immediately enlisted in the United States Army, and was

deployed to South Korea, which was then under martial law. He was honorably discharged in July 1973. Shortly after being discharged, he attended the University of Illinois Chicago for two years before moving to Mississippi to live with his grandparents after his brother died. He eventually resumed his education at Mississippi State University and graduated from Mississippi State in 1980. He moved back to Chicago and began working with the Illinois Department of Public Aid. In 1986, he applied to law school and was admitted to Drake University Law School. He graduated in 1989 with honors. He is a first-generation college graduate and the first and only individual in his family who attended and graduated from law school. (Tr. 22-24.)

After graduating from law school, Petitioner went to work for a high-profile civil rights law firm in Kansas City, Missouri. He also was studying for the Missouri bar exam and was engaged to be married. It was at this time that he began experiencing debilitating stress, the symptoms of which he later learned were typical of individuals suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). (Tr. 25.) When he was in the Army in South Korea, he had experienced traumatic events and had never received treatment for the trauma. Although he did not drink before he enlisted in the Army, he began consuming alcohol soon after enlisting and, while serving overseas, was introduced to drugs to cope with trauma. After being discharged, he stopped using drugs and reduced his alcohol consumption. But when he began experiencing stress after taking the job in Kansas City, he began to increase his consumption of alcohol and, eventually, drugs to cope with the increasing psychological and emotional distress he was experiencing. (Tr. 25-26.)

Shortly after Petitioner passed the Missouri bar exam in 1990, his engagement ended. He resigned from his job in Kansas City and moved back to Chicago, hoping that a geographical change to a more familiar setting would alleviate the overwhelming psychological and emotional distress he was experiencing, and would arrest his increasing alcohol and drug consumption. He

did not know that his growing psychological and emotional distress was directly related to the active onset of PTSD. (Tr. 26.)

Petitioner passed the Illinois bar exam in 1990, and began working with the City of Chicago Corporation Counsel. In 1991, he joined a private practice with another attorney on Chicago's South Side, and worked in that practice until 2001. During that time, his PTSD symptoms worsened and, to cope with his increasing psychological and emotional distress, he turned more and more to alcohol and drugs. When his mental health issues and concomitant alcohol and drug use began to adversely affect his ability to fulfill his professional responsibilities as an attorney, he assigned his pending cases to other attorneys and withdrew from the active practice of law toward the latter part of 2001. (Tr. 27.)

From 2002 to the early spring of 2005, he traveled the country searching for a "geographical cure" for his mental health and substance use issues, to no avail. He returned to Chicago in 2005. Shortly thereafter, he was contacted by the ARDC and informed that a former client to whom he had provided services in 2001 had filed a complaint against him. (Tr. 27-29.) The filing of the complaint against him "forced [him] to face the truth" – that he "had serious psychological and substance use problems, and that those problems would destroy [his] life." (Tr. 30.)

Petitioner knew that he could not successfully address his psychological and substance use issues while simultaneously attempting to continue to practice law. Thus, after consulting with the ARDC, he filed a motion to transfer his license to disability inactive status pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 758, and the ARDC agreed to dismiss the complaint that was pending against him. (Tr. 30-32.)

Petitioner's initial intentions when he transferred to disability inactive status were to obtain medical treatment for his mental health and substance use issues; achieve ongoing mental and emotional stability; and return to the active practice of law as soon as possible. However, during his medical treatment at a Veterans Affairs (VA) medical center, he bonded with fellow veterans who were being treated for similar issues, and developed a desire to work with and assist other veterans seeking VA medical care and assistance. He filed an application for employment with Hines VA Medical Center in 2009 and was subsequently hired. He worked with veterans at Hines VA Medical Center from 2009 until he retired in 2019. (Tr. 32.)

After retirement, he "experienced a reemerging of the desire to reclaim [his] life dream of utilizing [his] legal skills" to address the issues affecting Englewood and other historically disadvantaged communities in Chicago. (Tr. 32-33.) He thus decided to begin the process of formally petitioning the Illinois Supreme Court to request that his law license be restored from inactive to active status. (Tr. 33.)

Consequently, in August 2022, Petitioner entered in-patient treatment at Jesse Brown VA Medical Center to address his psychological and substance use issues. After successfully completing treatment, he enrolled in the Aftercare Treatment Program (ATP) at the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center. He began attending weekly individual therapy sessions with his assigned aftercare treatment program counselor and therapist, Dr. Grant White. He also began to meet monthly with his VA psychiatrist, Dr. Jonathan Henry, who monitors his prescribed psychotropic medication and ongoing mood stability. He also began to attend weekly ATP recovery groups. (Tr. 34-35.)

At the time of his hearing, Petitioner was continuing to meet weekly with Dr. White for individual therapy sessions and with Dr. Henry for medication monitoring, and was attending one

to two ATP weekly groups. In addition, he has become a regular participant in the Lawyers' Assistance Program (LAP) and has attended the LAP men's support group weekly for the past two years. Finally, he has become an active member in the 12-step Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and Narcotics Anonymous (NA) recovery programs. Over the past 28 months, he has been attending four to five 12-step meetings weekly, and is "fully committed to continuing [his] active 12-step recovery in the future." (Tr. 35.)

Specifically, Petitioner attends three weekly AA meetings on Zoom with other recovering alcoholics who are also attorneys. In addition, he attends one to two NA in-person meetings weekly, one of which he runs at the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center. Petitioner explained that that particular NA meeting is paramount to his recovery in several ways. First, it includes inpatient veterans currently in treatment at the Medical Center, and allows Petitioner "to give hope, support, and encouragement to these veterans whose lives are just emerging from the pain of addiction." Second, he graduated from the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center treatment program in 2022, and attending the weekly meetings there reminds him "how far [he has] progressed in [his] recovery and how blessed [he is] to be in recovery." Third, attending the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center meetings allows him to participate in active service in NA. (Tr. 35-36.)

Petitioner also described the transformative effect that 12-step recovery has had on his attitude toward, perception of, and hope in life, stating:

My life today is centered on 12-step [recovery] principles that, through ... daily application, have provided me with internal ... peace that [has] eluded me most of my existence.

Recovery has restored my dignity; resurrected a healthy relationship with my children, family, and friends; and restored my soul to the ... hope of one day being in a position to assist in the healing of my community. And recovery, most of all, which makes this all possible, opened my heart to God.

(Tr. 37.)

Petitioner has completed all of the MCLE requirements for this registration period, and has completed an additional 19 MCLE credits since he filed his restoration petition in March 2024. (Tr. 37; Resp. Exs. 16, 17.) He also has agreed to the restoration conditions proposed by the Administrator. (Tr. 37; Adm. Ex. 3.)

Petitioner believes he can comply with the conditions proposed by the Administrator because "about 90 percent of the conditions" are things that he is currently doing and wants to continue doing because they help to solidify his mental health and recovery. The conditions will motivate him to continue in his recovery process, and as he continues in his recovery process, he will become stronger. He stated: "[T]hat's the whole motivation. I don't want to ever return back. Never. I'm done. That's ... past me. And so I have no objection to any of the conditions." (Tr. 40-41.)

Regarding his plans for practicing law if his license were to be restored, Petitioner testified that, because he is a disabled veteran, he qualifies for the VA's Vocational Rehabilitation Program, which is designed to help disabled veterans overcome barriers to employment. The program will help him become reacquainted with his profession and establish his practice, and includes financial assistance with costs such as malpractice insurance and legal research services. Petitioner's practice intentions "would be mainly assisting veterans to get claims ... for service-related injuries." He also intends to work with community organizations to obtain not-for-profit status. (Tr. 43-44, 74-77; Resp. Exs. 8, 9, 18.)

## Dr. Jonathan T. Henry

Dr. Jonathan T. Henry is an addiction psychiatrist at the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center. He has been part of Petitioner's treatment team since July 2020. In a letter dated October 31, 2023, Dr. Henry reported that, as of September 2022, Petitioner had entered a period of sustained

recovery from his substance use disorders. He reported that Petitioner undergoes weekly toxicology screens, which have been consistently negative. Dr. Henry reported that he considers Petitioner's substance use disorders to be in sustained remission. He also noted that he saw no evidence of an active psychiatric syndrome in Petitioner. (Pet. Ex. 2(a).)

In another letter dated November 18, 2024, Dr. Henry provided an update about Petitioner, reporting that, since Dr. Henry's first letter in October 2023, Petitioner had continued to do "extraordinarily well." He noted that, in appointments, Petitioner was insightful and grateful, and that his urine drug screens have been consistently negative for any non-prescribed substances or alcohol. Dr. Henry stated that Petitioner continues to be in sustained remission from substance use disorders, and his diagnosed psychiatric conditions are stable. Dr. Henry stated that he had no concerns about Petitioner's recovery or ability to work. (Pet. Ex. 2(b).)

## Dr. Grant G. White

Dr. Grant G. White is a licensed clinical psychologist and program manager of the Addictions Treatment Program at Jesse Brown VA Medical Center. He has worked intermittently with Petitioner since 2013, but his most recent and significant work with Petitioner began in October 2022. In letters dated December 20, 2023, and November 20, 2024, Dr. White reported that, since October 2022, Petitioner "has enjoyed continuous sobriety (sustained remission) and has been completely engaged in his recovery efforts." (Pet. Exs. 3(a) and 3(b).)

Dr. White observed that Petitioner has had near-perfect attendance in his weekly psychotherapy sessions with Dr. White, has been consistently engaged in group work, attends 12-step meetings on his own, and has been consistent in making appointments with his psychiatrist. Dr. White reported that he has continued to see "a steady traject[ory] of positive change" with Petitioner. Dr. White reported that, since October 2022, he has seen no evidence of the residual

impact of Petitioner's mental health conditions that affect his present level of functioning. He also noted that Petitioner had agreed to continue his weekly therapeutic work with Dr. White and his other provider, as well as continue his involvement in ATP groups and weekly attendance at AA and NA meetings. (Pet. Exs. 3(a) and 3(b).)

## Dr. Lisa A. Rone

Dr. Lisa A. Rone, a board-certified adult psychiatrist in Chicago, evaluated Petitioner at the Administrator's behest over the course of two and a half hours on September 4, 2024. Dr. Rone noted that Petitioner was cooperative and forthcoming during the evaluation. In addition to conducting her own psychiatric evaluation of Petitioner, she also reviewed his VA medical records. (Adm. Ex. 1 at 1.)

Dr. Rone's report provided a detailed description of Petitioner's background, including the trauma that he experienced during his childhood and while serving in the military, and how that trauma and other life circumstances led to his alcohol and substance use. She also noted that he suffered from untreated depression and PTSD for years. (Id. at 1-2.)

Dr. Rone noted that Petitioner viewed his work at the Kansas City civil rights firm as an opportunity to give back to his community, but he did not cope with the stress well, and now feels that he did not live up to his professional potential at the time. Now that he has gotten his life back on track and achieved a stable recovery, he would like to have his law license restored, because he feels "that establishing himself even in a limited legal practice would allow him a measure of professional redemption." (<u>Id</u>. at 2.)

Dr. Rone explained Petitioner's substance use and mental health diagnoses, and the treatment he has received and continues to receive. Regarding his substance use, Dr. Rone noted that Petitioner "has been completely abstinent from alcohol and substance use since August 25,

2022." She described his current program to maintain his abstinence, including weekly individual psychotherapy with Dr. White; monthly medication management visits with Dr. Henry; three online AA meetings per week; one in-person NA meeting per week; an ATP meeting at the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center once per week; and a men's weekly support group at LAP. (Id. at 4.)

After noting Petitioner's history of abstinence and recurrent relapses, Dr. Rone stated:

[Petitioner] now has many protective factors in place that he did not pursue in the past even during periods of sobriety including an extensive treatment program ... that he has been consistent with. He also has restored his relationships with his sons that he does not want to endanger again. He is much more connected to the veteran's recovery community. His [mental health issues] are well-treated and in remission. While no psychiatrist can predict what will happen in the future, [Petitioner's] recovery is in a much more positive place than it has been in the past when he relapsed.

(<u>Id</u>. at 4.) Dr. Rone also noted that Petitioner's psychiatrist, Dr. Henry, described Petitioner as being in "sustained recovery," and his psychologist, Dr. White, confirmed that Petitioner has been consistent with his psychotherapy sessions and recovery treatment program and is in "sustained remission." (<u>Id</u>. at 4-5.)

Dr. Rone further noted that Petitioner's mental health issues were exacerbated by his substance use, and that he was able to successfully undertake a treatment program after he began to address his substance use. She noted that "[h]e has consistently taken his psychiatric medications and attended the treatment programs prescribed for his diagnoses;" and that, "[w]ith consistent attendance in treatment as documented in the VA medical records, appropriate medication, abstinence from alcohol and drugs, and regular exercise, he has remission of [his mental health issues]." (Id. at 5.)

Finally, Dr. Rone noted that Petitioner underwent neuropsychological testing in November 2023, after receiving treatment for his mental health issues and having been abstinent from substance use for over a year. The testing showed no evidence of cognitive impairment. Dr. Rone

also observed that Petitioner's "recall, verbal abilities, and organization of his thoughts throughout [her] psychiatric evaluation [of him] were all grossly intact and [she] did not assess any areas of concern." (<u>Id</u>. at 5-6; <u>see also Pet. Ex. 5.</u>)

## Dr. Rone concluded:

From a psychiatric perspective, [Petitioner] is stable. He has fought hard to achieve the stability he now has. He is dedicated to maintaining his stability and continuing with his treatment. I have no reservations that if he continues with his current treatment plan and level of functioning, he would be able to manage a small practice of law. It would also be beneficial to his self-esteem and help him feel that the effort he has put into getting treatment and managing his illnesses properly has come to fruition.

(<u>Id</u>. at 6.)

However, she recommended a two- to four-year probationary period where Petitioner's psychotherapist, psychiatrist, and LAP would report his attendance at therapy sessions and document his continued compliance with their treatment recommendations. She also suggested that Petitioner may benefit from having a legal mentor available to him during the probationary period, to address any new developments in the law and help with practice management issues as they arise. (Id.)

D.F.

D.F. is an Illinois attorney. He has known Petitioner since 2022. They met through an AA group for lawyers that D.F. hosts. He testified that Petitioner is a regular attendee at the weekly meetings that he hosts, which sometimes are attended by just D.F. and Petitioner or a few other people. He has been able to observe Petitioner discuss various topics related to recovery, and has learned "a fair amount about [Petitioner's] journey and ... his perspective on recovery." Based upon Petitioner's "consistent attendance and really, really constructive participation" in the group, D.F. believes that Petitioner is committed to his recovery. (Tr. 66-68.)

#### Martin Watson

Martin Watson is a peer support specialist at Jesse Brown VA Medical Center. He has known Petitioner for over 20 years. He testified that Petitioner is an active member of a recovery group that Jesse Brown VA Medical Center holds on Friday evenings. Martin testified that Petitioner regularly attends the weekly meetings and provides "active input" and "shares honestly" at the meetings. Based upon his interactions with Petitioner, Martin opined that Petitioner "is very committed to his recovery." (Tr. 90-92.)

## FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The purpose of a restoration proceeding under Illinois Supreme Court Rule 759 is to determine whether an attorney who has been transferred to inactive status due to a mental disorder or addiction is currently fit to resume the practice of law. In such a proceeding, the burden is on the petitioner to prove by clear and convincing evidence that (1) the conditions from which the petitioner suffers are under control and not likely to recur, and (2) the petitioner is fit to practice law. In re Hessberger, 96 Ill. 2d 423, 429-430, 451 N.E.2d 821 (1983). In making that determination, we give great respect to the uncontradicted testimony of well-qualified witnesses in the field of psychiatry on the issue of mental capacity to practice law. Id. at 430. Where the circumstances warrant it, the Court may impose reasonable conditions upon an attorney's restoration to active status. See Ill. S. Ct. Rule 759(c).

In this matter, the Administrator does not object to Petitioner's restoration to the active practice of law, provided that the restoration is subject to conditions that would help Petitioner maintain his stability and sobriety but also act as a guardrail if his stability or sobriety were to lapse. The parties have provided compelling and uncontradicted evidence that supports restoration, including reports from Petitioner's treating medical professionals, Dr. White and Dr. Henry, and

from the expert hired by the Administrator to evaluate Petitioner, Dr. Rone. All three medical professionals agree that Petitioner's mental health and substance use issues are in sustained remission, and that Petitioner is currently fit to practice law.

We give a great deal of weight to Dr. Rone's evaluation of Petitioner and resulting report, as Dr. Rone was hired by the Administrator to provide an unbiased opinion regarding Petitioner's current psychiatric state and fitness to practice law. Dr. Rone's report was detailed and thorough. We accept her conclusions that Petitioner is stable and has fought hard to achieve that stability; that Petitioner is dedicated to maintaining his stability and continuing with his treatment; and that she has no reservations about his ability to manage a small law practice if he continues with his current treatment plan and level of functioning.

We find that Petitioner's testimony also supports his return to active status. Petitioner testified about his background, his mental health and substance use issues, and his arduous efforts to regain and maintain sobriety. We found his testimony to be sincere and candid, and therefore credible. We also note that it was consistent with the information he provided to Dr. Rone during her lengthy evaluation of him. Petitioner's testimony demonstrates that he has engaged in extensive self-reflection on the circumstances leading to his substance use and has developed a clear understanding of what is necessary to maintain his sobriety and stability. We believe that Petitioner desires and intends to remain sober, and now has the personal tools and community support that will enable him to do so. Petitioner also provided testimony from two individuals familiar with his recovery journey, both of whom we found credible, and both of whom opined that Petitioner is committed to his recovery.

We further note that we were able to listen to and observe Petitioner throughout his restoration proceeding. During pre-hearing conferences, he was always prepared and cooperative.

At his restoration hearing, he was prepared, organized, and well-versed in the law governing restoration, and presented a strong and compelling case for restoration. Petitioner's highly professional conduct during this proceeding gives us confidence that he will do the same if he resumes the practice of law.

We also have considered the evidence that shows that Petitioner not only is current with his continuing legal education requirements but has gone far above and beyond what was required of him to register as an Illinois attorney. In addition, we have considered the evidence regarding Petitioner's plan for a law practice should the Court restore his law license, which would be to assist veterans who need help with various legal matters, such as filing disability claims, as well as help community organizations incorporate as not-for-profits. Petitioner told this panel that he became a lawyer because he had a desire to give back to his community. And as he told Dr. Rone, he feels like he did not live up to his professional potential after becoming a lawyer, and would like to practice law again to give himself a measure of professional redemption. We believe that his plan for a limited law practice focused on helping veterans would be a worthy endeavor that would be a continuation of Petitioner's decades-long service to the veteran community, would be rewarding and satisfying to Petitioner, and, we hope, would give him the measure of professional redemption that he seeks.

Based upon the foregoing evidence, as well as all of the documentary evidence in the record, we conclude that Petitioner has established by clear and convincing evidence that (1) he currently has the mental health and substance use issues that led to his transfer to disability inactive status under control, and there is little likelihood of a relapse; and (2) he is currently fit to resume the practice of law.

## RECOMMENDATION

Based upon our findings and conclusions, we recommend that the Petitioner be restored to active status pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 759 with the conditions set forth below. We find that this recommendation is consistent with the Court's dispositions in In re Salamone, 04 RS 2538, M.R. 19904 (Nov. 22, 2005) (eight years after attorney was transferred to inactive status because of mental health issues, she petitioned for restoration; Court allowed restoration subject to conditions including continued mental health treatment); In re Thornton, 98 RS 2555, M.R. 15172 (Jan. 24, 2000) (eight years after attorney was transferred to inactive status because of mental health issues, he petitioned for restoration; Court allowed restoration subject to conditions including completion of the Professionalism Seminar, continued mental health treatment, and a mentorship program); In re Bassett, 97 RS 2558, M.R. 14075 (Feb. 1, 1999) (four years after attorney was transferred to inactive status because of substance use issues, he petitioned for restoration; Court allowed restoration subject to conditions including attendance at AA and NA meetings, continued mental health treatment, random drug testing, and a mentorship program).

# **CONCLUSION**

We recommend that Petitioner, Donald Thomas, be restored to active status pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 759 with the following conditions, which should remain in effect for a period of <u>three</u> years:

- 1. Petitioner shall comply with the provisions of Article VII of the Illinois Supreme Court Rules on Admission and Discipline of Attorneys and the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct and shall timely cooperate with the Administrator in providing information regarding any investigations relating to his conduct.
- 2. Petitioner shall notify the Administrator within seven days of any arrest or charge alleging his violation of any criminal or quasi-criminal statute or ordinance.
- 3. Petitioner shall attend meetings as scheduled by the Commission probation officer, and submit quarterly written reports to the Commission probation officer concerning the status of his practice of law and the nature and extent of his compliance with the conditions of restoration.

- 4. Petitioner shall successfully complete the ARDC Professionalism Seminar within one year of the date of his restoration.
- 5. Petitioner's practice of law shall be supervised by a licensed attorney acceptable to the Administrator. Petitioner shall notify the Administrator of the name and address of the attorney with whom he establishes a supervisory relationship and shall provide notice to the Administrator of any change in the supervising attorney within 14 days of the change. Petitioner shall authorize the supervising attorney to provide quarterly written reports to the Administrator regarding the nature of Petitioner's work, the number of cases being handled by Petitioner, and the supervisor's general appraisal of the Petitioner's continued fitness to practice law.
- 6. Petitioner shall abstain from the usage of alcohol and any unprescribed controlled substances.
- 7. Petitioner shall continue in his course of treatment with Dr. Grant G. White, or another qualified mental health professional acceptable to the Administrator, and shall report to Dr. White or other qualified mental health professional on a weekly basis for individual psychotherapy sessions.
- 8. Petitioner shall comply with all treatment recommendations of Dr. Jonathan T. Henry, or another qualified mental health professional acceptable to the Administrator, including the taking of medications as prescribed. Petitioner shall meet at least once every 30 days with Dr. Henry or other qualified mental health professional for a medication management meeting.
- 9. Petitioner shall continue to participate in the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center's Aftercare Treatment Program by attending meetings and receiving psychiatric treatment and therapy at least once a week.
- 10. Petitioner shall provide to Dr. White, Dr. Henry, and any other treatment professional administering care pursuant to the Aftercare Treatment Program appropriate releases authorizing the treating professionals to: (1) disclose to the Administrator on at least a quarterly basis information pertaining to the nature of Petitioner's compliance with any treatment plan established with respect to Petitioner's condition; (2) promptly report to the Administrator Petitioner's failure to comply with any part of an established treatment plan; and (3) respond to any inquiries by the Administrator regarding Petitioner's mental or emotional state or compliance with any established treatment plans.
- 11. Petitioner shall notify the Administrator within 14 days of any change in treatment professionals.
- 12. Petitioner shall, as required by the Administrator, submit to random substance and/or alcohol testing by a qualified mental health professional or facility approved by the Administrator, within eight hours of receiving notice by the Administrator to submit to the testing. The results of the tests shall be reported to the Administrator. Petitioner shall pay all costs of such testing.
- 13. Petitioner shall participate in a 12-step program such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, and/or the Lawyers' Assistance Program by attending at least three in-

person and/or online meeting each week. Petitioner shall maintain a log of his attendance at the meetings and submit it to the Administrator with his quarterly reports.

- 14. Petitioner shall maintain a sponsor in at least one of his programs and shall provide the name, address, telephone number, and email address of the sponsor to the Administrator within 14 days of his restoration. Petitioner shall request that the sponsor communicate with the Administrator in writing on a quarterly basis regarding Petitioner's participation and progress in the program and report any lapses in sobriety or usage of unprescribed controlled substances to the Administrator within 72 hours of his/her knowledge of that usage.
- 15. Petitioner shall report to the Administrator any lapse in his sobriety or usage of any unprescribed controlled substances within 72 hours of that usage.
- 16. The Administrator shall report to the Court any noncompliance by the Petitioner with any of the conditions imposed herein, and Petitioner's active status will be revoked if he is found to have violated any of the terms of his conditions.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenn Brotman John P. Moynihan Daniel G. Samo

#### **CERTIFICATION**

I, Michelle M. Thome, Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission of the Supreme Court of Illinois and keeper of the records, hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true copy of the Report and Recommendation of the Hearing Board, approved by each Panel member, entered in the above entitled cause of record filed in my office on March 21, 2025.

/s/ Michelle M. Thome

Michelle M. Thome, Clerk of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission of the Supreme Court of Illinois

4931-2945-7452, v. 1