

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS

In the Matter of:

PAUL VERNON BISHOP II,

Movant,

No. 6291403.

Supreme Court No. M.R.

Commission No. 2025PR00057

MOTION PURSUANT TO SUPREME COURT RULE 762(a)

Movant, Paul Vernon Bishop II, respectfully represents to the Court that:

1. Movant was licensed to practice law in Illinois on May 10, 2007.
2. Movant desires to have his name stricken from the Roll of Attorneys licensed to practice law in Illinois pursuant to Rule 762(a), effective immediately.
3. Filed contemporaneously with this motion is a statement of charges prepared by the Administrator and Movant's affidavit in support of this motion.

WHEREFORE, Movant respectfully requests that the Court enter an order striking his name from the Roll of Attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Paul Vernon Bishop II  
Paul Vernon Bishop II

Paul Vernon Bishop II  
504 W Main Street  
Olney, Illinois 62440-1540  
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4909-0675-9014, v. 1

**FILED**

November 5, 2025

**ARDC CLERK**

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CYNTHIA A. GRANT  
SUPREME COURT CLERK

## IN THE SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS

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PAUL VERNON BISHOP II,

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STATEMENT OF CHARGES  
PURSUANT TO SUPREME COURT RULE 762(a)

Lea S. Gutierrez, Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission, by her attorney, Rachel C. Miller, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 762(a), states that on the date Paul Vernon Bishop II (hereinafter "Movant"), filed a motion requesting that his name be stricken from the Roll of Attorneys licensed to practice law in Illinois, the Administrator was investigating the conduct that formed the basis for Movant's plea of guilty to a felony charge of possession of a controlled substance (cocaine) and his neglect of client matters and false statements to clients. Had Movant's conduct been the subject of a hearing, the evidence described below would clearly and convincingly establish the following facts and conclusions of misconduct:

## I. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Movant's admissions, records from various courts, including February 28, 2024, guilty plea entered in *People of the State of Illinois v. Paul V. Bishop II*, Richland County case number 2023-CF-99, and the testimony of other witnesses would have established the following facts:

## A. Background

1. Movant was licensed to practice law in Illinois on May 10, 2007. On May 30, 2024, this Court entered an order suspending Respondent on an interim basis until further order.

*In re Bishop*, M.R. 032249, 2024PR00027 (May 30, 2024)

**FILED**

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B. *Guilty Plea in Richland County to Two Counts of Possession of a Controlled Substance*

2. On May 14, 2023, the Olney Police Department executed a search warrant on Movant's law office. As a result of evidence recovered during the execution of the search warrant, on May 17, 2023, the Richland County State's Attorney charged Movant with unlawful possession of a controlled substance (cocaine), unlawful possession of a controlled substance (psilocybin mushrooms), and possession of a firearm without a requisite firearm owner's identification card. The matter was docketed as *People of the State of Illinois v. Paul V. Bishop II*, Richland County case number 2023-CF-99. On August 28, 2023, while those charges remained pending, officers from the Olney Police Department stopped Movant for a traffic violation, which resulted in a search of his vehicle. As a result of evidence obtained during the search of Movant's vehicle, the Richland County State's Attorney charged Movant with unlawful possession of a controlled substance (27 blue Amphetamine/Dextroamphetamine pills and four orange Amphetamine/Dextroamphetamine pills) and unlawful possession of a controlled substance (two pills containing Phentermine Hydrochloride). The matter was docketed as *People of the State of Illinois v. Paul V. Bishop II*, Richland County case number 2023-CF-195.

3. On February 28, 2024, Movant pled guilty to one count of possession of a controlled substance (cocaine) in case number 2023-CF-99, and the Honorable Melissa A. Morgan dismissed the remaining counts in both that case and case number 2023-CF-195. Without entering a judgment, Judge Morgan sentenced Movant to a 24-month term of probation and ordered Movant to comply with certain terms and conditions, including that he was prohibited from violating any criminal statute or ordinance of any jurisdiction and from having

“in [his] body the presence of any alcohol or illicit drug prohibited by the Cannabis Control Act (720 ILCS 550/1) or the Illinois Controlled Substance Act (720 ILCS 570/100) unless prescribed by a licensed physician...”

4. On March 30, 2024, the Olney Police Department stopped Movant in Olney for speeding. During the traffic stop, officers discovered in Movant’s vehicle 11.5 grams of fresh cannabis, a cannabis grinder with residue, and two cannabis wax containers with residue. As a result, the police issued Movant citations for unlawful possession of cannabis and driving 11-14 miles per hour above the speed limit. While Movant was being issued the citations, he told an officer that he “hadn’t smoked any of that [cannabis] yet” and that it “was from a client.” Movant later repeated that statement when asked to confirm the statement. Later that day, an Olney police officer observed Movant operating his vehicle while smoking from a pipe which, during a subsequent traffic stop, the officer observed to be a THC (Tetrahydrocannabinol) pipe containing THC. In a search of the vehicle, the officer observed a small corner cut bag containing a substance later confirmed to be cocaine. The officer issued Movant citations for possession of a controlled substance, possession of cannabis in a motor vehicle, possession of drug paraphernalia, driving under the influence – drugs, and improper use of a turn signal.

5. On April 10, 2024, a special prosecutor filed a petition for revocation of probation in the earlier case, number 2023-CF-99. On April 15, 2024, the special prosecutor filed an information charging Movant with possession of a controlled substance, possession of cannabis in a motor vehicle, possession of drug paraphernalia, and driving under the influence of drugs, based on the conduct described in paragraph four, above. The matter was docketed as *People of the State of Illinois v. Paul V. Bishop II*, Richland County case number 2024-CF-76. On March 4, 2025, Movant pled guilty to one count of possession of a controlled substance, and Judge

Morgan dismissed the remaining counts in case number 2024-CF-76. Judge Morgan sentenced Movant to 24 months of probation, as well as fines and costs.

C. *False Statement to a Client About the Status of Their Matter and Neglect of the Matter – S.W.*

6. In 2023, Movant agreed to represent a woman with the initials “S.W.” in efforts to settle a lien that had been recorded against her home and in obtaining benefits she was due from a pension fund. Between June 21, 2023, and October 19, 2023, S.W. paid Movant a total of \$4,214.22 in fees when Movant asked her for funds, although they had no formal written retainer agreement. Movant did not attempt to settle the lien, and he did not contact the pension fund or file any pleadings regarding the benefits S.W. believed she was due. While purporting to represent S.W. in these matters, Movant knowingly gave S.W. false information about the status of both matters, telling her that he had settled the lien and obtained a judgement against the pension fund.

D. *Lack of Communication with a Client and Incompetence – H.G.*

7. On August 29, 2019, a woman with the initials “K.C.” died. Her daughter, H.G., hired Movant on September 4, 2019, to represent H.G. in serving as executor of her mother’s estate, including petitioning the circuit court in Richland County to open K.C.’s probate estate. H.G. paid Movant \$1,500 by check as a flat fee for his anticipated work on the probate matter. H.G. Movant subsequently filed a petition for probate of will and for letters testamentary for K.C.’s estate, affidavits of heirship, and an oath and bond of representative. The probate court later entered an order declaring heirship and letters of office.

8. After the estate was opened, H.G. decided to purchase K.C.’s residence from the estate, and Movant agreed to assist H.G. in matters relating to the contemplated real estate transaction. When Movant and H.G. met at Movant’s law office, Movant provided H.G. with a

quitclaim deed for K.C.'s residence. The quitclaim deed, which Movant had drafted, listed H.G. and her spouse as grantees in joint tenancy. Movant did not explain to H.G. that listing her spouse as a joint tenant on the quitclaim deed could affect the residence's distribution in the event of any future dissolution of marriage matter.

9. H.G. filed a petition for dissolution of marriage against her spouse on July 22, 2022. During the dissolution proceeding, H.G. learned that the language of the quitclaim deed had the effect of giving her husband an interest in the residence she purchased from her mother's estate marital property. As a result, the marital settlement agreement that was incorporated into H.G.'s judgment for dissolution of marriage required H.G. to pay her spouse for his share of the residence.

E. *Neglect of a Client Matter and False Statement to a Client – H.W.*

10. On September 29, 2023, Movant agreed to represent a woman with the initials H.W. in negotiating the resolution of a business dispute. H.W. paid Movant a \$500 flat fee by check. When the negotiations were unsuccessful, Movant agreed to represent H.W. in a lawsuit against her former business partner. H.W. paid Movant a \$2,500 flat fee for that additional representation on November 27, 2023. In December 2023, Movant falsely told H.W. that he had filed a complaint against her business partner and that he would try to have the business partner served with the lawsuit.

11. Movant did not attempt to serve the complaint on the business partner. In a text message on December 11, 2023, Movant falsely told H.W. that the business partner was "dodging" the process server. When H.W. asked on January 9, 2024, about a court date for the complaint, Movant told her that it would be at least 30 days after the date of service of the complaint. Based on Movant's response, H.W. asked when the business partner had been served

with the lawsuit. Movant falsely stated that the date of service was in the file and then falsely stated, “[the process server] got him.” On January 22, 2024, H.W. sent Movant a text message to ask if the business partner was “definitely served” with the complaint, and Movant falsely stated “yes,” even though Movant had never arranged for the business partner to be served.

F. *Neglect of a Client Matter and Lack of Communication – P.M. and S.B.*

12. On September 20, 2023, Movant agreed to represent two women with the initials “P.M.” and “S.B.” in a real estate transaction. P.M., owner of a motel in Olney, and agreed to transfer the motel property to S.B. as a charitable gift to S.B.’s animal welfare group. P.M. paid Movant \$800 to draft and record a quitclaim deed conveying the property from P.M. to S.B.’s animal welfare group.

13. Movant drafted the quitclaim deed, but he did not record it with the Richland County Recorder of Deeds. P.M. and S.B. requested that Movant provide a copy of the recorded deed multiple times between September 2023 and June 2024, but Movant did not provide the documents. P.M. learned of Movant’s failure to record the quitclaim deed when she received a property tax bill from Richland County.

G. *Neglect of a Client Matter – M.B.*

14. Prior to May 16, 2023, Movant agreed to represent a man with the initials “M.B.” in a real estate transaction in which M.B. was the seller of two real estate parcels. Movant and M.B. agreed that Movant’s fees were to be taken from the sale proceeds after closing. Additionally, Movant agreed to pay the Richland County Abstract Company the abstract fee from the proceeds.

15. On May 16, 2023, M.B. closed on the sale of the two real estate parcels. On or around May 16, 2023, Movant received the funds and deposited them into his law office

operating account. However, Movant never paid the Richland County Abstract company despite receiving a bill for \$160.

H. *Collection of an Unreasonable Fee and False Statement to the Administrator – L.T.*

16. On August 15, 2023, Movant agreed to represent a man with the initials “L.T.” who had been named as the respondent in a petition for emergency firearms restraining order. The petition, filed by a Crawford County Sheriff’s Deputy on August 4, 2023, alleged that L.T. presented an immediate and present danger of causing personal injury to himself or others by having firearms in his control. The court granted the emergency order on August 4, 2023, and a return date was set for the hearing on August 18, 2023. L.T. paid Movant a flat fee of \$2,500 to represent L.T. at the hearing.

17. Movant did not appear on behalf of L.T. at the hearing on August 18, 2023, nor did he inform L.T. that he did not appear at the hearing. Notwithstanding Movant’s failure to appear in court, the court dismissed the petition for a restraining order. Even though he knew the case had been dismissed, Movant requested additional documentation from L.T., including photographs and medical records, and falsely told L.T. that the matter remained pending.

18. On March 6, 2025, Movant appeared for a sworn statement before counsel for the Administrator to address L.T.’s disciplinary complaint against him, and falsely testified that he worked on L.T.’s matter after the dismissal of the petition, because he had been told by a sheriff’s deputy that the Crawford County Sheriff’s Office intended to refile the petition.

I. *Failure to Hold Client Funds in a Client Trust Account and Conversion of Client Funds – R.B.*

19. Prior to October 23, 2023, Movant agreed to draft an affidavit for heirship for the transfer of a residence from a decedent’s estate. As part of the representation, Movant agreed to

hold funds from the sale of the property and to distribute them to the heirs, including a woman with the initials "R.B." Movant did not maintain a client trust account or IOLTA at the time, and he did not open a separate, identifiable trust account to hold the funds he agreed to hold as a result of the sale of the real estate. Instead, Movant deposited the funds he received into his law office operating account, and then he knowingly used the funds for his own business and personal purposes without authorization.

20. On October 23, 2023, Movant drew a \$1,520 check payable to R.B. on his law office operating account and gave the check R.B. At the time, Movant's law office operating account balance was below the amount required to pay R.B. As a result, when R.B. attempted to negotiate the check, the bank declined the transaction.

J. *Neglect of a Client Matter – D.P.*

21. On June 1, 2023, a woman with the initials "D.P." paid Movant a flat fee of \$300 to represent her in drafting a quitclaim deed transferring D.P.'s deceased mother's residence to D.P., consistent with a bequest specified in D.P.'s mother's will. Movant agreed to the representation and to complete the drafting for the \$300, but he thereafter periodically requested that D.P. pay additional legal fees. In total, D.P. paid Movant \$700, despite the initial flat fee agreement requiring her to pay only \$300.

22. After June 1, 2023, D.P. periodically requested that Movant provide her with the quitclaim deed or information about the status of Movant's efforts to draft the quitclaim deed. Movant did not return her telephone calls, although he was aware of his client's efforts to contact him, nor did he provide her with a copy of a quitclaim deed.

## II. CONCLUSIONS OF MISCONDUCT

23. By reason of the conduct described above, Movant has engaged in the following misconduct:

- a. Failing to provide competent representation to a client, by conduct including failing to exhibit skill, thoroughness, and preparation to draft HG's deed to avoid the property becoming a marital asset, in violation of Rule 1.1 of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010);
- b. failing to act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client, by conduct including failing to contact the pension fund and failing to contact lienholders on behalf of S.W.; failing to record P.M.'s quitclaim deed transferring property to the animal rescue business; failing draft and file a lawsuit on behalf of H.W.; failing to pay \$160 in abstract fees to Richland County Abstract Company on behalf of M.B.; and failing to draft a quitclaim deed for D.P., in violation of Rule 1.3 of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010);
- c. failing to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information, by conduct including failing provide P.M. with information about whether he had recorded the quitclaim deed for the property transfer, in violation of Rule 1.4(a)(4) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010);
- d. failing to explain to a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation, by conduct including failing to explain to H.G. the effect a quitclaim in her and her spouse's name, as joint tenants, in the event of a dissolution of marriage, in violation of Rule 1.4(b) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010);
- e. collecting an unreasonable fee from a client, by conduct including accepting a \$2,500 flat fee retainer from L.T. and failing to return the unearned fee when L.T.'s matter was dismissed three days later without work on Movant's part, in violation of Rule 1.5(a) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010);
- f. using funds belonging to a client for the lawyer's own purposes without authorization, by conduct including using R.B.'s funds for his own personal or business purposes, in violation of Rule 1.15(a) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010);
- g. failing to hold client funds that is in the lawyer's possession in connection with a representation separate from the lawyer's own

funds, by conduct including depositing R.B.'s funds from a real estate transaction into Movant's law office operating account, in violation of Rule 1.15(b) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010);

- h. knowingly making a false statement of material fact in connection with a disciplinary matter, by conduct including falsely testifying in a sworn statement to the counsel for the Administrator that a sheriff's deputy told him Crawford County intended to refile the petition for a firearms restraining order against L.T., in violation of Rule 8.1(a) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010);
- i. committing criminal acts that reflect adversely on the lawyer's fitness as a lawyer, by conduct including unlawfully possessing a controlled substances (cocaine and cannabis), in violation of 720 ILCS 570/402(c), in violation of Rule 8.4(b) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010); and
- j. engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation, by conduct including falsely telling S.W. that he had settled a lien against her house and obtained a judgment against PBGC when he knew that he had done neither; falsely telling H.W. that he had attempted to have H.W.'s business partner served with a complaint; and falsely telling counsel for the Administrator that he did work on L.T.'s matter because the Crawford County Sheriff's Office informed him they intended to refile the emergency petition for a firearms restraining order, despite never having such a conversation, in violation of Rule 8.4(c) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010).

Respectfully submitted,

Lea S. Gutierrez, Administrator  
Attorney Registration and  
Disciplinary Commission

By: /s/ Rachel C. Miller  
Rachel C. Miller

Rachel C. Miller  
Counsel for the Administrator  
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4934-6253-8084, v. 1

## IN THE SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS

In the Matter of:

PAUL VERNON BISHOP II,

Movant,

No. 6291403.

Supreme Court No. M.R.

Commission No. 2025PR00057

RESPONDENT'S AFFIDAVIT  
PURSUANT TO SUPREME COURT RULE 762(a)

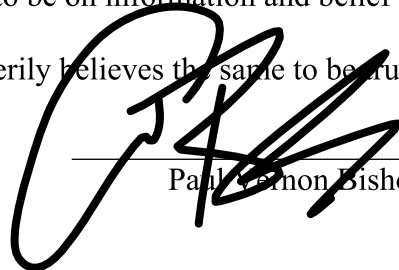
Paul Vernon Bishop II ("Affiant"), being first duly sworn, states as follows:

1. Affiant filed with this Court a motion to strike his name from the Roll of Attorneys licensed to practice law in Illinois, pursuant to Rule 762(a).
2. If the case proceeded to hearing, the misconduct alleged in the statement of charges, including the judgments of conviction, would be offered into evidence and would constitute conclusive evidence of the Affiant's misconduct, including guilt of the crimes, for purposes of disciplinary proceedings.
3. Affiant's motion is freely and voluntarily made.
4. Affiant understands the nature and consequences of the Petition.
5. Under penalties as provided by law pursuant to Section 1-109 of the Code of Civil Procedure, the undersigned certifies that the statements set forth in this instrument are true and correct, except as to matters therein statement to be on information and belief as to such matters the undersigned certifies as aforesaid that he verily believes the same to be true.

11/5/25

Date

Paul Vernon Bishop II  
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 Olney, Illinois 62440-1540  
 Telephone: (618) 395-8220  
 Email: [paul@pvp2law.com](mailto:paul@pvp2law.com)  
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PAUL VERNON BISHOP, II,  
  
Attorney No. 6291403,  
  
Movant.

Supreme Court No. M.R.  
  
Commission No. 2025PR00057

NOTICE OF FILING

TO: Paul Vernon Bishop  
[paul@pvb2law.com](mailto:paul@pvb2law.com)

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on November 5, 2025, electronic copies of Movant's MOTION PURSUANT TO SUPREME COURT RULE 762(a), Administrator's STATEMENT OF CHARGES and Movant's AFFIDAVIT, were submitted to the Clerk of the Supreme Court for filing. On that same date, a copy was served on Counsel for Movant, by email at [paul@pvb2law.com](mailto:paul@pvb2law.com) at or before 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lea S. Gutierrez,  
Administrator Attorney  
Registration and  
Disciplinary Commission

By: /s/ Rachel C. Miller  
Rachel C. Miller

Rachel C. Miller  
Counsel for Administrator  
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## PROOF OF SERVICE

The undersigned, an attorney, hereby certifies, pursuant to the Illinois Code of Civil Procedure, 735 ILCS 5/109, that the Administrator served copies of the Notice of Filing, Movant's MOTION PURSUANT TO SUPREME COURT RULE 762(a), Administrator's STATEMENT OF CHARGES PURSUANT TO SUPREME COURT RULE 762(a) and Movant's AFFIDAVIT, on the individual shown on the forgoing Notice of Filing, by email at [paul@pvb2law.com](mailto:paul@pvb2law.com) on November 5, 2025 at or before 4:00 p.m.

Under penalties as provided by law pursuant to Section 1-109 of the Code of Civil Procedure, the undersigned certifies that the statements set forth in this instrument are true and correct, except as to matters therein stated to be on information and belief and as to such matters the undersigned certifies as aforesaid that she verily believes the same to be true.

/s/ Rachel C. Miller

Rachel C. Miller

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