

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

In the Matter of:

MICHAEL M. GOGGIN

Attorney-Respondent,

No. 6275006.

Commission No. 2026PR00023

COMPLAINT

Lea S. Gutierrez, Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission, by her attorney, Morgan B. Handwerker, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 753(b), complains of Respondent, Michael M. Goggin, who was licensed to practice law in Illinois on November 8, 2001, and alleges that Respondent has engaged in the following conduct which subjects him to discipline pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 770:

COUNT I

(Unauthorized Practice of Law After Removal from the Roll of Attorneys)

1. At all times alleged in this complaint, Respondent practiced law at a firm in Oak Park which was called “Goggin Law Offices,” where Respondent practiced primarily in the areas of criminal law, traffic law, and real estate law.

2. At all times alleged in this complaint, Supreme Court Rule 794 required that, subject to certain exceptions that do not apply to Respondent in this matter, every Illinois attorney was required to complete 30 hours of continuing legal education (“CLE”) activity during the attorney’s two-year reporting period ending on June 30. For attorneys whose last names started with the letter “G”, including Respondent, the most recent two-year reporting requirement ran from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2024.

3. Certain attorneys, including Respondent, who were required to comply with the 2022-

2024 CLE reporting period were eligible to obtain a grace period extension until October 30, 2024 to complete their CLE requirements. To obtain the grace period extension, a qualifying attorney would need to enter certain information online and pay a \$100 fee to the Minimum Continuing Legal Education Board of the Supreme Court of Illinois (“MCLE Board”) no later than July 31, 2024.

4. Respondent has registered successfully since 2001 and therefore was familiar with the registration process, including for the entire time that the MCLE requirement has been in place since 2005.

5. At all times set forth in this complaint, Supreme Court Rule 796(e) required the Administrator to remove from the Roll of Attorneys authorized to practice law in Illinois the name of any attorney who had not complied with their CLE requirement.

6. Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 756(h), “any person whose name is not on the master roll and who practices law or who holds himself or herself out as being authorized to practice law pursuant to the attorney's Illinois law license is engaged in the unauthorized practice of law and may also be held in contempt of the Court.”

7. Respondent received at least the following messages from the MCLE Board concerning his compliance with Supreme Court Rules 794 and 796 during the 2022-2024 MCLE reporting period:

| DATE | METHOD OF CORRESPONDENCE | DESCRIPTION |
|-------------------|--------------------------|--|
| January 8, 2024 | E-mail | Five tips for Respondent’s first reporting period with the transcript system. The five tips were: (1) the check-the-box compliance report was gone, (2) to check Respondent’s online transcript promptly, (3) to contact the course provider if Respondent was missing a CLE course on his transcript, (4) to check the Illinois accreditation for CLE courses before you take them, and (5) applying for Illinois MCLE credit for an out of state CLE course. |
| February 23, 2024 | E-mail | Respondent’s MCLE transcript reflected zero CLE credit hours. |

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| April 9, 2024 | E-mail | Respondent's MCLE transcript reflected zero CLE credit hours. |
| April 29, 2024 | E-mail | Reminder to comply with MCLE requirements by June 30, 2024. |
| May 13, 2024 | Postcard | Reminder regarding deadlines for the 2022-2024 MCLE reporting period. |
| May 22, 2024 | E-mail | Reminder to comply with MCLE requirements by June 30, 2024 and that Respondent's MCLE transcript reflected zero CLE credit hours. |
| June 14, 2024 | E-mail | Reminder to comply with MCLE requirements by June 30, 2024 and the Respondent's MCLE transcript reflected zero CLE credit hours. |
| June 25, 2024 | E-mail | Reminder regarding deadlines for the 2022-2024 MCLE reporting period. |
| July 9, 2024 | E-mail | Reminder to comply with MCLE requirements by today and the Respondent's MCLE transcript reflected incompliance with CLE requirements nor had he entered and paid for a grace period extension. |
| July 26, 2024 | E-mail | Reminder to comply with MCLE requirements by today and the Respondent's MCLE transcript reflected incompliance with CLE requirements nor had he entered and paid for a grace period extension. |
| July 31, 2024 | E-mail | Reminder to comply with MCLE requirements by today and the Respondent's MCLE transcript reflected incompliance with CLE requirements nor had he entered and paid for a grace period extension. |
| August 20, 2024 | E-mail | Reminder regarding final deadlines for the 2022-2024 MCLE reporting period. |
| September 23, 2024 | E-mail | Reminder regarding deadlines for the 2022-2024 MCLE reporting period. |
| October 9, 2024 | E-mail | Reminder regarding the grace period extension deadlines for the 2022-2024 MCLE reporting period. |
| October 24, 2024 | E-mail | Reminder regarding the grace period extension deadlines for the 2022-2024 MCLE reporting period. |
| October 29, 2024 | Phone call | Courtesy reminder regarding October 31, 2024 completion deadline and \$250 late fee due by November 20, 2024 to prevent removal from Roll of Attorneys |
| October 30, 2024 | E-mail | Reminder regarding the grace period extension deadlines for the 2022-2024 MCLE reporting period. |

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|-------------------|------------|---|
| November 6, 2024 | E-mail | Respondent's MCLE transcript did not reflect that he completed the MCLE requirements for the 2022-2024 reporting period. |
| November 6, 2024 | Email | Stating that previous email was sent in error and Respondent did not pay the \$100 grace period extension fee. |
| November 18, 2024 | E-mail | Respondent's MCLE transcript did not reflect that he completed the MCLE requirements for the 2022-2024 reporting period by the October 31, 2024 deadline. |
| November 25, 2024 | E-mail | Respondent's MCLE transcript did not reflect that he completed the MCLE requirements for the 2022-2024 reporting period by the October 31, 2024 deadline. |
| December 1, 2024 | Letter | Notice of removal from the Roll of Attorneys for MCLE non-compliance pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 796(e). |
| December 2, 2024 | E-mail | Notice of removal from the Roll of Attorneys for MCLE non-compliance pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 796(e). |
| March 13, 2025 | Phone call | Respondent called the MCLE Board asking about how he could return to good standing for the 2022-2024 removal. A member of the MCLE Board explained the requirements and that he could be reinstated the same day he completed those requirements. |
| December 9, 2025 | Phone call | Respondent called the MCLE Board to discuss outstanding credits he claimed to have completed in November 2025 so that he could be reinstated in good standing. |
| December 17, 2025 | Email | Notification that Respondent had completed required credits for 2022-2024 reporting period and could now log onto his profile to pay the \$500 reinstatement fee he was assessed for the 2022-2024 reporting period. Also, communicated that he needed to pay reinstatement fee to be added back to the Roll of Attorneys and that he would remain unauthorized to practice law until his name was added back to Roll of Attorneys. |
| December 17, 2025 | Phone call | MCLE courtesy called Respondent telling him that he had completed his credits for the 2022-2024 reporting period and could now pay reinstatement fee. |

8. On December 1, 2024, the Administrator removed Respondent's name from the Roll of Attorneys authorized to practice law in Illinois based on his failure to complete the

requisite CLE courses. As of December 1, 2024, and at all times described in the balance of this complaint, Respondent had actual knowledge that he had been removed from the Roll of Attorneys and that he was not authorized to provide legal services in Illinois.

9. Since being removed from the Roll of Attorneys and knowing that he was not authorized to practice law in Illinois, Respondent represented clients in no less than seven matters, mainly in the area of traffic law and probate law.

10. Between December 1, 2024, and the date of the filing of this complaint, Respondent appeared in court and/or drafted court orders on his clients' behalf, including but not limited to, in the following matters and on the following dates:

| NAME OF CASE | CASE NUMBER(s) (COURT) | DATE OF COURT APPEARANCE(S) AND/OR COURT ORDER(S) |
|---|---|--|
| <i>State of Illinois, Town of Wilmette v. Syed Gilani</i> | 24TR20007184 (Circuit Court of Cook County) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 2, 2026 • January 6, 2026 • December 19, 2025 • October 10, 2025 • August 6, 2025 • January 14, 2025 |
| <i>In re: Justen J. Payne</i> | 25TR30015015 (Circuit Court of Cook County) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 28, 2025 |
| <i>People of the State of Illinois vs. Kevin Sean Falkman</i> | 2025DT001653 (Circuit Court of DuPage County) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December 4, 2025 |

11. Between December 1, 2024, and the date of the filing of this complaint, Respondent filed documents with the court on his clients' behalf, including but not limited to, in the following matters and on the following dates:

| NAME OF CLIENT | CASE NUMBER (COURT) | DATE OF FILING(S) | TITLE OF FILING(S) |
|---|---|--|--|
| <i>People of the State of Illinois vs. Scott Arient</i> | EG632168 (Circuit Court of Cook County) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 23, 2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appearance |

| NAME OF CLIENT | CASE NUMBER (COURT) | DATE OF FILING(S) | TITLE OF FILING(S) |
|---|---|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>People of the State of Illinois vs. Matthew Runicki</i> | 24TR50035214 (Circuit Court of Cook County) | • December 4, 2024 | • Appearance |
| <i>People of the State of Illinois vs. Kevin Sean Falkman</i> | 2025DT001653 (Circuit Court of DuPage County) | • September 16, 2025 | • Appearance |

12. On January 16, 2026, the Administrator restored Respondent’s name to the Roll of Attorneys based on his successful completion of his requisite CLE courses and payment of the reinstatement fee.

13. On February 2, 2026, the Administrator removed Respondent’s name from the Roll of Attorneys based on his failure to register for 2026. Through the filing of this complaint, Respondent has not been restored to the Roll of Attorneys. Since December 1, 2024¹, pursuant to Rule 796(e), Respondent has not been authorized to practice law in Illinois or to hold himself out as so authorized.

14. Between November 14, 2025, and December 15, 2025, Respondent logged into the MCLE website at least 16 times. Each time Respondent viewed his “MY MCLE” profile during this time period, it reflected that he had been removed from the Roll of Attorneys.

15. During the period in which Respondent was removed from the Roll of Attorneys, Respondent failed to notify all of his clients, opposing counsel, and judges presiding over the matters listed above, that he was not authorized to practice law in Illinois.

16. By appearing in court and filing documents, Respondent misrepresented to judges, opposing counsel, his clients, and others that he was authorized to practice law, despite knowing he was not.

¹ Except between January 16, 2026, through February 2, 2026, when Respondent was temporarily restored to the Roll of Attorneys and was authorized to practice law in Illinois.

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

- a. practicing law in a jurisdiction in violation of the regulation of the legal profession in that jurisdiction, by conduct including appearing in court on a client's behalf and filing documents with the court on client matters while his name had been removed from the Roll of Attorneys and he was not authorized to practice law, in violation of Rule 5.5(a) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010);
- b. engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation, by conduct including knowingly holding himself out as being able to practice law although unauthorized to do so, in violation of Rule 8.4(c) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010); and
- c. conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice, by conduct including holding himself out as authorized to practice law to clients, opposing counsel and the court when he was not so authorized, in violation of Rule 8.4(d) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010).

COUNT II

(Failure to Cooperate with a Disciplinary Investigation)

18. The Administrator realleges paragraphs one through 17 above.

19. In or around July 2024, an individual with the initials "J.G." hired Respondent to handle the expungement or sealing of a prior criminal matter.

20. On April 28, 2025, the Administrator received a request for investigation from J.G. related to Respondent's handling of J.G.'s expungement or sealing case. After reviewing the correspondence, the Administrator docketed an investigation into Respondent's alleged conduct and assigned that investigation as case number 2025IN01706.

21. On May 2, 2025, counsel for the Administrator sent Respondent a letter pursuant to Commission Rule 53, requesting information concerning J.G.'s request for an investigation and advising Respondent, that due to his non-compliance with the state's continuing legal

education (“CLE”) requirements, he was not authorized to practice law as of December 1, 2024. The letter requested that Respondent submit a response to the Administrator setting forth the material facts and producing documents related to the allegations in J.G.’s request for investigation within 14 days.

22. As of May 30, 2025, Respondent had not submitted a written response to the Administrator’s May 2, 2025 request for information.

23. On May 30, 2025, counsel for the Administrator sent a second letter to Respondent repeating the request for the information specified in the May 2, 2025 letter to Respondent, reminding Respondent of his obligations to provide that information to the Administrator pursuant to Commission Rule 53 and Rule 8.1(b) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010).

24. As of June 20, 2025, Respondent had not replied to the Administrator’s May 30, 2025 letter.

25. On June 20, 2025, a paralegal at the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission (“ARDC”) attempted to contact Respondent by telephone at the telephone numbers Respondent had previously provided to the ARDC’s Registration Department as part of the annual registration process but was unsuccessful because Respondent’s telephone number was disconnected.

26. On June 20, 2025, a paralegal for the Administrator sent an email to Respondent at his registered email address requesting that he respond to the allegations set forth in J.G.’s request for investigation.

27. As of June 27, 2025, Respondent had not replied to the email sent on June 20, 2025.

28. On June 27, 2025, counsel for the Administrator sent a third letter to Respondent by mail at his registered home and business addresses, requesting that Respondent respond to the allegations in J.G.'s request for investigation. At no time did Respondent respond to counsel for the Administrator's letter of June 27, 2025.

29. On July 15, 2025, the Administrator received a written response by email from Respondent, dated July 10, 2025.

30. On January 12, 2026, the Administrator issued a subpoena that required Respondent's appearance for a sworn statement, via Microsoft Teams, on February 10, 2026 and the production of documents responsive to the allegations contained in J.G.'s April 28, 2025 request for investigation on or before January 26, 2026, as well as any information regarding Respondent's failure to register and record of any attempts Respondent made to become registered to practice law in the State of Illinois.

31. On January 12, 2026, the Administrator served Respondent, via email at the email previously provided to the ARDC registration department, with the Administrator's subpoena regarding J.G.'s request for investigation as set forth in paragraph 30, above.

32. As of January 26, 2026, Respondent had not produced any documents responsive to the Administrator's January 12, 2026 subpoena and rider, nor had Respondent responded to the Administrator's email of January 12, 2026.

33. On January 27, 2026, counsel for the Administrator sent Respondent a follow-up email requesting production of the documents indicated in the January 12, 2026 subpoena rider which had been due as of January 26, 2026.

34. On February 9, 2026, counsel for the Administrator sent a second follow-up email to Respondent regarding the past due documents and requested that he provide confirmation of

his attendance at the sworn statement scheduled for February 10, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

35. On February 10, 2026, Respondent did not appear for his sworn statement, nor did he contact counsel for the Administrator to request that his appearance be rescheduled. Respondent's appearance has never been rescheduled for a date thereafter, nor has it been waived or excused.

36. As of April 3, 2026, the date the Administrator referred investigation number 2025IN01706 to the Commission's Inquiry Board, Respondent has not provided the requested documents response to the January 12, 2026 subpoena.

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

- a. failing to respond to a lawful demand for information from a disciplinary authority, including by not responding to the Administrator's multiple requests for production of documents and failing to appear on February 10, 2026 pursuant to the Administrator's subpoena requesting Respondent's appearance for a sworn statement in violation of Rule 8.1(b) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010).

WHEREFORE, the Administrator respectfully requests that this matter be assigned to a panel of the Hearing Board, that a hearing be held, and that the panel make findings of fact and law, and a recommendation for such discipline as is warranted.

Respectfully submitted,

Lea S. Gutierrez, Administrator
Attorney Registration and
Disciplinary Commission

By: /s/ Morgan Handwerker
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