

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS

In the Matter of:

ERIC J. RYAN,

Attorney No. 6275824,

Movant.

Supreme Court No. MR

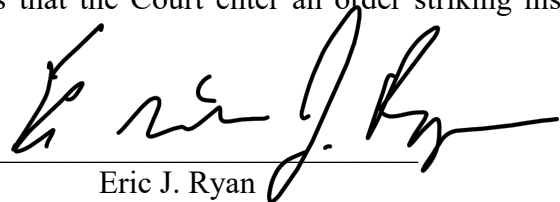
Commission No. 2025PR00020

MOTION PURSUANT TO SUPREME COURT RULE 762(a)

Movant, Eric J. Ryan, respectfully represents to the Court that:

1. Movant was licensed to practice law in Illinois on November 28, 2001.
2. Movant desires to have his name stricken from the Roll of Attorneys pursuant to Supreme Court 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.



Eric J. Ryan

Eric J. Ryan  
ericj.ryan@gmail.com

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June 23, 2025

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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS

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AFFIDAVIT


Affiant, Eric J. Ryan, being first duly sworn, states:

1. Affiant has filed with this Court a motion to strike his name from the Roll of Attorneys licensed to practice law in Illinois, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 762(a).

2. Affiant has received and reviewed a copy of the Administrator's statement of the charges that were pending against Affiant as of the filing of the instant motion. If the matter proceeded to hearing, the Administrator would present the evidence described in the statement of charges, and the evidence would clearly and convincingly establish the facts and conclusions of misconduct set forth in the statement of charges.

3. Affiant's motion is freely and voluntarily made.

4. Affiant understands the nature and consequences of this motion.

  
Eric J. Ryan

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ericj.ryan@gmail.com

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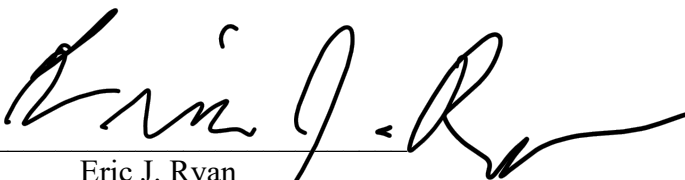
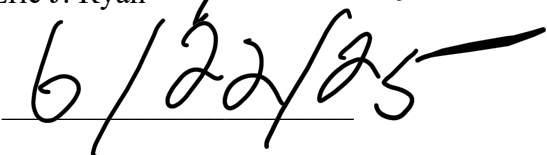
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CERTIFICATION

Under penalties as provided by law pursuant to Section 1-109 of the Illinois 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 he verily believes the same to be true.

  
Eric J. Ryan  
Dated: 

Eric J. Ryan  
ericj.ryan@gmail.com

4916-8984-7885, v. 1

FILED

June 23, 2025

## IN THE SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS

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In the Matter of:

ERIC J. RYAN,

Attorney No. 6275824,

Movant.

Supreme Court No. M.R.

Commission No. 2025PR00020

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

Lea S. Gutierrez, Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission, by her attorney, Morgan B. Handwerker, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 762(a), states that on the date Eric J. Ryan (hereinafter “Movant”) filed a motion requesting that his name be stricken from the roll of attorneys, a three-count amended complaint was pending against Movant before the Hearing Board charging him with dishonestly and intentionally converting \$30,000 of client funds, dishonestly providing a client with an altered bank statement, making false statements to the Administrator, and dishonestly providing a copy of a forged cashier’s check to the Administrator. Had Movant’s conduct been the subject of a hearing, the Administrator would have introduced the evidence described below, and that evidence would have clearly and convincingly established the misconduct set forth below:

## I. FACTUAL BASIS

Movant’s admissions, court records and other documents, and the testimony of various other individuals would establish the following facts:

*A. Conversion of Settlement Funds*

1. On or about May 7, 2015, Movant agreed to represent a client with the initial “S.M.,” as administrator of a family member, A.M.,’s estate (“the estate”) in connection with a

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negligence and wrongful death case that was pending in the Circuit Court of DuPage County.

2. S.M. and Movant agreed that Movant's receipt of a fee would be contingent on the estate's recovery of an award or settlement, and that Movant would be paid one-third (1/3) of any recovery in connection with the lawsuit.

3. On June 19, 2018, S.M., as the estate's administrator, entered into a settlement agreement in connection with the lawsuit. The parties agreed that the defendant in the DuPage County lawsuit would pay the estate \$30,000.00 to resolve the estate's claims.

4. In connection with that settlement, the defendant issued check number 1397, dated July 6, 2018, payable to the order of "The Law Offices of Eric J. Ryan as Attorney for the Estate of A.M." in the amount of \$30,000.00. On July 26, 2018, Movant deposited the check into Movant's client trust account.

5. On July 27, 2018, Movant transferred \$10,000.00, purportedly representing his attorney's fees, into Movant's operating account as payment for Movant's work in connection with his representation of the estate. Movant did not provide the estate with a written settlement or distribution statement outlining how Movant had determined the amount of any fee he may have been due, and did not notify S.M. of the transfer or have his authority to take the claimed fee at that time.

6. On June 27, 2019, prior to any additional disbursement of the \$30,000.00 in settlement funds to the estate, Movant drew the balance of his client trust account to \$0.07, as Movant had used at least \$29,999.93 of settlement funds for his own business or personal purposes, without authority.

7. At the time Movant used the \$29,999.93, as set forth above, Movant knew that he was using those funds without authority, and he acted dishonestly because he knew that he was using those funds without authority.

*B. Providing an Altered Bank Statement to a Client*

8. On February 28, 2023, the balance in Movant's client trust account at Old Second National Bank was \$1.51. On March 21, 2023, S.M.'s sister, who was also a beneficiary of the estate, sent an email to Movant which, in part, requested that he provide proof that the settlement funds remained in his client trust account.

9. In response to the email, on or about March 22, 2023, Movant created what he claimed to be a statement from his client trust account dated February 28, 2023, which purportedly showed an opening balance of \$52,451.50 and a closing balance of \$48,431.51 in his client trust account. Movant then emailed the purported bank statement to S.M.'s sister.

10. Movant knew that the statement he sent to S.M.'s sister was false both because he created it and because he knew that it overstated the actual balance of his client trust account.

*C. Dishonest Statements and Providing a Forged Document to the Administrator*

11. On or about August 14, 2024, the Administrator docketed an investigation against Movant based on his handling of the family estate matter described above, and on January 14, 2025, Administrator served a subpoena upon Old Second National Bank for records in connection with her investigation of Movant's handling of the estate.

12. Movant appeared for a sworn statement before the Administrator on January 22, 2025, and took an oath to testify truthfully. While answering questions about his handling of the \$30,000.00 settlement in the family estate matter, Movant acknowledged that in June 2019, he drew the balance of his client trust account down to \$0.07 when he should have been holding

\$30,000.00, but falsely claimed that in January 2023, following the sale of his home, he used \$30,000.00 of sale proceeds to purchase a cashier's check to repay the estate, and that he was holding the \$30,000.00 cashier's check at his residence.

13. The day after Movant's sworn statement, counsel for the Administrator requested that Movant produce a copy of the purported cashier's check. On or about February 3, 2025, Old Second National Bank produced documents responsive to the Administrator's subpoena as set forth in paragraph 11, above, including account statements for Movant's trust account for the time period of June 1, 2018, through December 31, 2024.

14. Sometime on or before February 12, 2025, Movant viewed an article written on the website safehorses.org, dated January 22, 2016, which contained a picture of a fraudulent cashier's check purportedly drawn on PNC Bank. The article concerned a scam in which the targeted organization was asked to deposit the fraudulent check, ostensibly as a donation, and then return a portion of the funds to the sender of the check. The author of the article posted it to warn other charitable organizations about the scam.

15. Sometime on or before February 12, 2025, Movant caused the picture of the fraudulent check, taken from the safehorses.org website, to be altered to make it appear as though the check was payable to his law firm in the amount of \$30,000.00, with the last name of the family estate in the memo line. On February 12, 2025, Movant sent counsel for the Administrator a picture of what purported to be PNC Bank cashier's check #00500434, purportedly paid to the order of the "Law Offices of Eric J. Ryan LLC."

16. When Movant created the picture of the check as described in paragraph 15, and sent it to counsel for the Administrator, he did so dishonestly because he knew that the check

was not real and that he was not holding \$30,000.00 for the estate settlement and that no such cashier's check existed.

## II. CONCLUSION OF MISCONDUCT

17. As a result of the conduct described above, Movant has engaged in the following misconduct:

- a. failing to hold property of a client or third person that is in the lawyer's possession in connection with a representation separate from the lawyer's own property, by conduct including converting at least \$29,999.93 of the settlement funds to his own business or personal use, by causing the balance in Movant's client trust account to fall below the amount then belonging to the Estate of A.M, in violation of Rule 1.15(a) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010);
- b. knowingly making a false statement of material fact in connection with a disciplinary matter, by falsely stating to the Administrator that the \$30,000.00 was held in a cashier's check; and by altering a picture of a fraudulent cashier's check and sending it to the Administrator to support his assertion that he was holding \$30,000.00 in violation of Rule 8.1(a) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010); and
- c. conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation, by conduct including knowingly converting at least \$29,999.93 of the settlement funds to the Movant's own use, without authorization, by knowingly providing altered client trust account statements to S.M. and his sister, and by falsely stating he was holding \$30,000.00



- d. in a cashier's check; and by altering a picture of a fraudulent cashier's check and sending it to the Administrator to support his assertion that he was holding \$30,000.00, 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/ Morgan B. Handwerker  
Morgan B. Handwerker

Morgan B. Handwerker  
Counsel for Administrator  
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4911-7604-6669, v. 1

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS

In the Matter of:

ERIC J. RYAN,

Movant,

No. 6275824.

Supreme Court M.R. No.

Commission No. 2025PR00020

NOTICE OF FILING

TO: Eric J. Ryan  
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Eric J. Ryan  
Movant  
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Geneva, IL 60134-2561

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on June 23, 2025, electronic copies of Movant's MOTION PURSUANT TO SUPREME COURT RULE 762(a), Movant's AFFIDAVIT and Administrator's STATEMENT OF CHARGES, were submitted to the Clerk of the Supreme Court for filing. On that same date, a copy was served on Movant, by email at [ericj.ryan@gmail.com](mailto:ericj.ryan@gmail.com) at or before 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lea S. Gutierrez, Administrator  
Attorney Registration and  
Disciplinary Commission

By: /s/ Morgan B. Handwerker  
Morgan B. Handwerker

Morgan B. Handwerker  
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), Movant's AFFIDAVIT and Administrator's STATEMENT OF CHARGES PURSUANT TO SUPREME COURT RULE 762(a), on the individual on the forgoing Notice of Filing by regular mail and email at [ericj.ryan@gmail.com](mailto:ericj.ryan@gmail.com) on June 23, 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.

By: /s/ Morgan B. Handwerker  
Morgan B. Handwerker

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