

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

COMPLAINT

Lea S. Gutierrez, Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission, by her attorney, Evette L. Ocasio, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 753(b), complains of Respondent Tod Herbert Rottman Jr., who was licensed to practice law in Illinois on November 4, 1999, and alleges that Respondent has engaged in the following conduct which subjects him to discipline pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 770:

(Sexual Relationship with Client)

1. Beginning in September 2023, and at all times alleged in this complaint, Respondent practiced law at a law firm in Chicago that concentrated its practice in representing claimants in employment law matters against their current or former employers.

2. On or about September 3, 2023, the firm and an individual with the initials "S.E." agreed that the firm would represent S.E. in relation to her claims against her previous employer. Prior to January 2024, the firm assigned primary responsibility for S.E.'s matter to Respondent. A sexual relationship between Respondent and S.E. did not exist before January 2024.

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3. In February 2024, Respondent began having sexual relations with S.E., while he was representing her in relation to her employment law claims. That relationship continued through at least March 19, 2024.

4. In March 2024, Respondent filed a lawsuit on behalf of S.E. in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. Between March 2024 and September 2024, Respondent represented S.E. in her pending employment law matter by filing a response to a motion to dismiss the matter.

5. On August 29, 2024, S.E. emailed the firm and requested a meeting and a change of counsel. On September 4, 2024, a firm partner met with S.E. and S.E. disclosed the sexual relationship with Respondent.

6. On September 6, 2024, the CEO of the firm met with Respondent and questioned him about the relationship. On that date, Respondent admitted the relationship with S.E. and was terminated from the firm, effective immediately.

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

- a. engaging in a sexual relationship with his client, an individual with the initials "S.E.," when a sexual relationship did not exist before the client-lawyer relationship commenced, in violation of Rule 1.8(j) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010).

WHEREFORE, the Administrator requests that this matter be referred to a panel of the Hearing Board of the Commission, that a hearing be conducted, and that the Hearing Panel make findings of fact, conclusions 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/ Evette L. Ocasio
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