

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

FILED
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ARDC Clerk

In the Matter of:

FREDRIC ROBERT GUMBINNER,

Attorney-Respondent,

No. 6190984.

Commission No. 2025PR00034

COMPLAINT

Lea S. Gutierrez, Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission, by her attorney, Kate E. Levine, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 761, complains of Respondent, Fredric Robert Gumbinner, who was licensed to practice law in Illinois on November 7, 1985, and alleges that Respondent has engaged in the following conduct that subjects him to discipline pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 770:

(Criminal Conviction for Bribery Concerning Programs Receiving Federal Funds)

1. At all times alleged in this complaint, there was in effect a federal statute, Title 18, U.S.C. Section 666(a)(2), entitled “Theft or bribery concerning programs receiving Federal funds,” which made it a crime to corruptly give, offer, or agree to give anything of value of \$5,000 or more to any person, with the intent to influence or reward an agent of an organization or of a state, local, or Indian tribal government, or any agency thereof, when that organization, government, or agency receives, in any one-year period, benefits in excess of \$10,000 under a federal program.

2. At all times alleged in this complaint, Respondent resided in Fairfax County, Virginia. At no time did Respondent reside in Culpeper County, Virginia. Respondent owned and operated companies that were engaged in raising private capital and conducting specialized lending. Respondent did not have law enforcement or military experience or firearms training.

3. From 2011 to 2023, Scott Howard Jenkins was the elected Sheriff of Culpeper County, Virginia, which is located in the Western District of Virginia. As Sheriff, Jenkins led the Culpeper County Sheriff's Office ("Sheriff's Office"), which was an agency of Culpeper County ("County"). The County was a local government and a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia. During the fiscal years ending in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023, the County and the Sheriff's Office each received benefits exceeding \$10,000 per year under federal programs involving grants, contracts, subsidies, loans, guarantees, insurance, and other forms of federal assistance.

4. The Sheriff's Office was authorized by ordinance of the County to establish an auxiliary deputy sheriff force, and the Sheriff had the authority to appoint auxiliary deputy sheriffs. Individuals who were appointed as auxiliary deputy sheriffs received a badge identifying them as a deputy sheriff in the Sheriff's Office and a Sheriff's Office identification card that stated, "This is to certify that [Name] whose identification and signature appear herein is a duly sworn and qualified Deputy Sheriff vested with the powers and authorized to perform all duties of that office."

5. Prior to the spring of 2019, Respondent met Rick Tariq Rahim ("Rahim"), who owned and operated several businesses, including Food Truck Company LLC. From approximately April 2019 through at least the end of 2019, Respondent and Rahim negotiated business arrangements in which Respondent, either directly or through an entity, would provide or arrange to provide financing to and/or invest in business ventures with Rahim.

6. Beginning in or around April 2019, Rahim told Respondent that he could use his relationship with Sheriff Jenkins to obtain an auxiliary deputy sheriff badge for others. Respondent expressed to Rahim his interest in acquiring an auxiliary deputy sheriff badge. Rahim agreed to

help Respondent obtain an auxiliary deputy sheriff badge in exchange for a payment to Sheriff Jenkins or his campaign.

7. In or around July and August 2019, Rahim told Respondent that he would have to make a \$20,000 “donation” to obtain an auxiliary deputy sheriff badge. On or about October 1, 2019, Respondent gave Rahim check number 1169, drawn on Respondent’s personal bank account, in the amount of \$20,000, payable to Rahim’s company Food Truck Company LLC. In the memo line of the check, Respondent wrote, “LLC Investment.” Respondent understood that Rahim would pay all or a portion of those funds to Sheriff Jenkins or his campaign to induce him to deputize Respondent.

8. On or about December 23, 2019, Rahim sent Respondent and an unnamed auxiliary deputy sheriff (“Individual One”) a text message that stated, “Fred [Respondent] is the close friend who helped me provide all the recent support for our great Sheriff.” Rahim asked Individual One to facilitate Respondent being sworn in as an auxiliary deputy sheriff.

9. On or about March 6, 2020, Respondent traveled to the County, and the Circuit Court Clerk swore him in as an auxiliary deputy sheriff. The Sheriff’s Office issued Respondent an auxiliary deputy sheriff badge and identification card. After Respondent was sworn in, he purchased a firearm. Respondent did not receive any training from the Sheriff’s Office and did not qualify in the use of a firearm.

10. On two occasions between 2020 and 2023, while at an airport, Respondent showed his auxiliary deputy sheriff badge to request access to the TSA Pre-Check line when his boarding pass failed to indicate he was cleared for TSA Pre-Check. On one of those occasions, Respondent was granted access, and on the other occasion, he was denied access.

11. On one occasion between 2020 and 2023, while driving on a highway, Respondent showed his auxiliary deputy sheriff badge through his car window as he passed a marked police car after he drove on the shoulder to bypass a traffic jam and exit the highway.

12. In or around March 2021, when scheduling an appointment for a Covid-19 vaccine, Respondent represented himself as a law enforcement officer or first responder to try to secure a vaccine appointment prior to the general public. Respondent was not permitted to receive an early vaccination.

13. In or around February 2022, after Respondent was issued a ticket for parking in a handicapped space with an expired handicapped placard, Respondent informed the deputy who issued the ticket that he was a deputy sheriff with the Sheriff's Office.

14. In or around 2021, Respondent showed his auxiliary deputy sheriff badge to an unnamed individual, who was a businessperson residing in Fairfax County, Virginia ("Individual Two"), and Respondent told Individual Two he had paid Sheriff Jenkins to obtain the badge. Individual Two expressed interest in acquiring an auxiliary deputy sheriff badge. Thereafter, Respondent introduced Individual Two to Individual One with the intent to assist Individual Two in obtaining an auxiliary deputy sheriff badge in exchange for a payment to Sheriff Jenkins. On or about September 9, 2022, Respondent sent a text message to Individual One that read, "Also [Individual Two] is in for supporting the Sheriff," which referred to Individual Two's agreement to pay Sheriff Jenkins in exchange for an auxiliary deputy sheriff badge.

15. On June 28, 2023, a federal grand jury in the Western District of Virginia charged Respondent and three co-defendants in a 16-count criminal indictment. The matter was captioned *United States of America v. Scott Howard Jenkins, Rick Tariq Rahim, Fredric Gumbinner, and James Metcalf*, docket number 3:23-cr-00011.

16. Count Nine of the indictment charged Respondent with the federal offense of bribery concerning programs receiving federal funds in violation of Title 18, U.S.C. Section 666(a)(2). Specifically, it alleged that from approximately April 2019 through approximately March 2020, Respondent, aided and abetted by Rahim, corruptly gave, offered, and agreed to give a thing of value to Sheriff Jenkins (i.e., approximately \$20,000) with the intent to influence and reward Sheriff Jenkins, an agent of the County and the Sheriff's Office, a local government and an agency thereof, both of which received benefits exceeding \$10,000 under federal programs involving grants, contracts, subsidies, loans, guarantees, insurance, and other forms of federal assistance in the fiscal years ending June 30, 2019, and June 30, 2020, in connection with any business, transaction, and series of transactions of the County and the Sheriff's office involving something of value of \$5,000 or more (i.e., the appointment of Respondent as auxiliary deputy sheriff for the County).

17. On November 20, 2023, Respondent and attorneys for the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Virginia and the Public Integrity Section of the United States Department of Justice entered into a written plea agreement in Respondent's federal criminal case, in which he agreed to plead guilty to Count Nine of the indictment, and the United States Attorney's Office agreed to dismiss the remaining counts against Respondent.

18. As part of his plea agreement, Respondent admitted to the facts alleged in paragraphs five through 14, *supra*. Respondent also stipulated that, had the matter proceeded to trial, the United States Government could have proven those facts beyond a reasonable doubt.

19. On March 24, 2025, the Honorable Robert S. Ballou, United States District Judge, entered a judgment of conviction against Respondent as to Count Nine of the indictment and sentenced him to serve three years' probation, to pay an assessment in the amount of \$100, and to

pay a fine in the amount of \$100,000. Judge Ballou ordered that the fine be paid in monthly installments of no less than \$5,000 commencing within 60 days of the entry of judgment, with the total fine to be paid in full within 12 months of the entry of judgment.

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

- a. committing a criminal act that reflects adversely on his honesty, trustworthiness, or fitness as a lawyer in other respects, by committing the criminal offense of bribery concerning programs receiving federal funds in violation of Title 18, U.S.C. Section 666(a)(2) and Rule 8.4(b) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010).

WHEREFORE, the Administrator 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, 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/ Kate E. Levine
Kate E. Levine

Kate E. Levine
Counsel for the Administrator
130 East Randolph Drive, Suite 1500
Chicago, Illinois 60601
Telephone: (312) 565-2600
Email: klevine@iadc.org
Email: ARDCeService@iadc.org

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