

COURTS COMMISSION OF THE
STATE OF ILLINOIS



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR &
GENERAL COUNSEL, ILLINOIS
COURTS COMMISSION

In re MOHAMMED M. GHOUSE
Associate Judge of the Circuit Court
Of Cook County, State of Illinois

No. 22 – CC – 03

ANSWER TO COMPLAINT

COMES Judge Mohammed M. Ghouse, by his attorney, Adrian Vuckovich of Collins Bargione & Vuckovich, denying any prefatory allegations, and for his answer to the Complaint, states as follows:

STATEMENT OF FACTS

1. Respondent has been an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois since 2016.

ANSWER: Admitted.

2. On November 23, 2021, Respondent drove a car while under the influence of alcohol.

ANSWER: Admitted.

3. Specifically, at approximately 8:34 p.m. on November 23, 2021, Respondent struck the rear end of a parked vehicle. The traffic accident resulted in damage to both vehicles. Hinsdale police officers responded to the scene. The officer who questioned Respondent smelled a strong odor of alcohol coming from his mouth. The officer also observed Respondent's eyes were glassy and bloodshot and he was swaying back and forth.

ANSWER: The allegations that the vehicle being driven by Respondent came into contact with a parked vehicle and that both vehicles were damaged are admitted. The remaining allegations appear to require Respondent to have personal knowledge of a third party's

perceptions which is not possible and therefore, the remaining allegations are neither admitted nor denied. However, it is believed that if the officer was called to testify, he would likely testify in a manner which is consistent with the allegations.

4. While at the scene of the accident, Respondent declined to take field sobriety tests.

ANSWER: Admitted.

5. Respondent was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol and was issued citations for driving under the influence of alcohol and failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident.

ANSWER: Admitted.

6. At the Hinsdale Police Station, Respondent declined to take a Breathalyzer test. This resulted in an automatic suspension of his driver's license for six months.

ANSWER: Admitted except that the suspension of the driver's license is for a period of one year.

7. On February 18, 2022, Respondent pled guilty to driving under the influence of alcohol under Case Number 2021DT002398. The Court sentenced Respondent to court supervision for a period of twelve months, fined him \$1500.00, and ordered him to complete the Court Sentence "DUI" Monitoring Program for remedial education and DASA Level 11- M DUI counseling, including attendance at a Victim Impact Panel.

ANSWER: Admitted except that the total fines and costs ordered to be paid totaled \$3281.00. These fines and costs were paid immediately by Respondent on February 18, 2022.

VIOLATIONS

8. The above-described conduct of Respondent violated the Code of Judicial Conduct, Illinois Supreme Court Rule 61, which provides:

An independent and honorable judiciary is indispensable to justice in our society. A judge should participate in establishing, maintaining, and enforcing, and should

personally observe, high standards of conduct so that the integrity and independence of the judiciary may be preserved. The provisions of this Code should be construed and applied to further that objective.

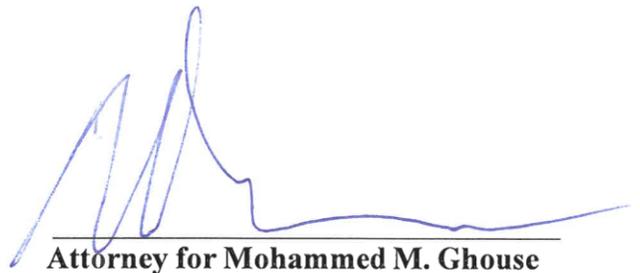
ANSWER: Denied.

9. The above-described conduct of Respondent violated the Code of Judicial Conduct, Illinois Supreme Court Rule 62(A), which provides:

A judge should respect and comply with the law and should conduct himself or herself at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary.

ANSWER: Denied.

WHEREFORE, Respondent respectfully requests that the Court Commission enter an order which is appropriate and just.



Attorney for Mohammed M. Ghouse

Adrian Vuckovich(av@cb-law.com)
Collins Bargione & Vuckovich
One N. LaSalle Street, Suite 300
Chicago, Illinois 60602
(312) 372-7813