

(No. 02 CC 2 – Respondent suspended)

In re CIRCUIT JUDGE CHARLES M. TRAVIS
of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Respondent

Order entered February 28, 2003

SYLLABUS

On June 26, 2002, the Judicial Inquiry Board filed a complaint with the Illinois Courts Commission, charging respondent with conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice and that brings the judicial office into disrepute in violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct, Illinois Supreme Court Rules 61 and 62. In summary form, the complaint alleged that, on at least three occasions since 1996, respondent has used his status as a judge, or had appeared to use his status as a judge, to advance his own personal interests. First, respondent used an unofficial “judicial badge” to avoid receiving a speeding ticket. Second, in a separate incident, respondent attempted to induce police officers to cite a motorist for traffic violations based solely upon respondent’s request and without further investigation. In a third incident, respondent called the Chief Judge of another judicial circuit and sought redress over a warrant that had been issued for his daughter’s arrest for failure to pay a fine.

Held: Respondent suspended.

Sidley Austin Brown & Wood, of Chicago, for Judicial Inquiry Board.

Collins & Bargione, of Chicago, for respondent.

Before the COURTS COMMISSION: THOMAS, Chairperson, BURKE, CUETO, LAWRENCE, SLATER, WELCH, and WOLFF, commissioners. ALL CONCUR.

ORDER

This cause coming to be heard on the parties’ Stipulation of Facts and Joint Recommendation and on respondent, Judge Charles M. Travis’ Submission in Support of the Joint Recommendation, which were filed in this matter on February 21, 2003, and the respondent, having agreed in open court to the truth of the facts as stated in the stipulation and having further agreed that he entered into the stipulation and recommendation freely and voluntarily and with full knowledge of the facts and statements contained therein;

and the Illinois Courts Commission being fully advised in the premises;

NOW THHEREFORE, it is hereby ordered that the Stipulation of Facts, the Joint Recommendation and Judge Travis’ Submission in Support of the Joint Recommendation filed in

this cause are adopted. It is further ordered that the respondent is suspended from office for one month without compensation effective March 1, 2003.

Respondent suspended.