

5. When asked by the investigating officer if Respondent's car was "all over the road," the witness agreed, responding, "all over." The witness also stated that "it felt very dangerous" when describing Respondent's driving.

6. While observing Respondent's driving, the witness called 911 and reported her observations. Officers from the Charleston Police Department responded and made contact with Respondent after he pulled into the parking lot of a business located at 850 Lincoln Avenue in Charleston.

7. While speaking with Respondent, Charleston police officers noted that Respondent exhibited several signs of impairment, including slow and slurred speech, bloodshot and glossy eyes, slow and deliberate movements, and a heavy odor of an alcoholic beverage emitting from his breath.

8. Officers observed an open can of beer in a koozie located within the vehicle's front center console. When asked about the contents of the can, Respondent admitted that it contained beer. Respondent also admitted to consuming four Busch Light beers in the previous three hours, including the open beer found in the center console.

9. Charleston Police Officer Jacob Evans administered Standardized Field Sobriety Tests. During the Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus test, Officer Evans observed six clues of impairment. Officer Evans also attempted to administer the Walk-and-Turn and One-Leg Stand tests, but Respondent did not complete either test, stating that the tests caused him too much pain due to a prior hip replacement.

10. Respondent was offered the opportunity to submit to a preliminary breath test (PBT). Respondent declined, stating, "I mean, I feel like I have to say no."

11. During his interaction with officers at the scene, Respondent told Charleston

Police Officer Kirsten Dicus, “I’m a judge in the circuit. I’m just hoping to get home. I’m OK with whatever you have to do, but...”

12. Following his arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol, Respondent was transported to the Charleston Police Department, where he was read the Warning to Motorist and observed for the requisite twenty-minute observation period. Thereafter, Respondent declined to submit to a breath test.

13. An inventory of Respondent’s vehicle revealed additional alcoholic beverage containers in addition to the open can of beer located in the center console. A cooler situated on the front passenger seat contained ice, four unopened Busch Light cans of beer, and one empty 12-ounce Michelob Ultra beer can. Officers also located an insulated bag on the rear passenger seat containing nine crushed Busch Light beer cans and one crushed, empty IPA beer can. Two Walmart plastic bags found next to the insulated bag contained three additional crushed Busch Light beer cans. Altogether, fourteen empty beer cans were recovered from the vehicle.

14. On March 20, 2026, in Case No. 2025-DT-100, Respondent pleaded guilty to Count IV, Reckless Driving, in violation of 625 ILCS 5/11-503(a)(1), a Class A misdemeanor. The State dismissed Counts I through III, which charged Respondent with Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol, Improper Lane Usage, and Illegal Transportation or Possession of Alcoholic Liquor by a Driver in a Motor Vehicle, respectively. Respondent’s Statutory Summary Suspension was rescinded. The Court sentenced Respondent to twelve months of court supervision, imposed fines and assessments totaling \$3,238.98, and ordered Respondent to complete DUI counseling and a victim impact panel, both of which Respondent had previously completed. The Court further ordered Respondent to refrain from consuming alcoholic beverages

or illicit substances and prohibited Respondent from entering any bar as defined by 410 ILCS 82/10.

15. Respondent's conduct on August 16, 2025, is prejudicial to the administration of justice and brings the judicial office into disrepute.

VIOLATIONS

COUNT I

Drove a Motor Vehicle in a Reckless Manner

16. The Board incorporates paragraphs 1-15 above.

17. On August 16, 2025, Respondent drove a motor in a reckless manner.

18. In so doing, Respondent violated the Illinois Code of Judicial Conduct, Illinois Supreme Court Rule 1.1, which provides:

A judge shall comply with the law, including the Code.

19. Through this conduct, Respondent also violated the Illinois Code of Judicial Conduct, Illinois Supreme Court Rule 1.2, which provides:

A judge shall act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary and shall avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety.

COUNT II

Operated a Motor Vehicle With Open Alcohol

20. The Board incorporates paragraphs 1- 19 above.

21. On August 16, 2025, Respondent drove a motor vehicle while having an open can of beer next to him in the center console.

22. In so doing, Respondent violated the Illinois Code of Judicial Conduct, Illinois Supreme Court Rule 1.1, which provides:

A judge shall comply with the law, including the Code.

23. Through this conduct, Respondent also violated the Illinois Code of Judicial Conduct, Illinois Supreme Court Rule 1.2, which provides:

A judge shall act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary and shall avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety.

Count III

Informed Charleston Police Officer That He Was a Judge in the Circuit

24. The Board incorporates paragraphs 1- 23 above.

25. During his interaction with officers at the scene, Respondent told Charleston Police officer Kirsten Dicus, “I’m a judge in the circuit, I’m just hoping to get home. I’m OK with whatever you have to do, but...”

26. In so doing, Respondent violated the Illinois Code of Judicial Conduct, Illinois Supreme Court Rule 1.1, which provides:

A judge shall comply with the law, including the Code.

27. In so doing, Respondent also violated the Illinois Code of Judicial Conduct, Illinois Supreme Court Rule 1.2, which provides:

A judge shall act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary and shall avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety.

28. Through this conduct, Respondent also violated the Illinois Code of Judicial Conduct, Illinois Supreme Court Rule 1.3, which provides:

A judge shall not misuse the prestige of judicial office to advance the personal or economic interests of the judge or allow others to do so.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Judicial Inquiry Board, charging that the above-described

conduct of Respondent constitutes conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice and conduct that brings the judicial office into disrepute, prays that the Illinois Courts Commission, after notice of public hearing, make such order in accordance with Section 15 of Article VI of the Illinois Constitution as the Commission may deem appropriate. Respondent has the right to file responsive pleadings to the charges within twenty-one (21) days after service of notice of this complaint.

Dated: September 10, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

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JUDICIAL INQUIRY BOARD
OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

By: Michael Deno
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