

2018 IL Cts Com 002

(No. 18 CC 2 - Complaint dismissed)

In re CIRCUIT JUDGE JESSICA A. O'BRIEN
of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Respondent.

Order entered November 1, 2018

SYLLABUS

On June 19, 2018, the Judicial Inquiry Board filed a complaint with the 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 a jury found respondent guilty of mail fraud and bank fraud related to a scheme to defraud lenders and entities in connection with the purchase and financing of her investment properties. The complaint further alleged that the Illinois Supreme Court ruled on the Petition of the Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission for Interim Suspension in light of this jury verdict and the conduct underlying it, suspending respondent from the practice of law until further order of the Court. The complaint noted that, although the Illinois Constitution requires all Illinois judges to be licensed attorneys of this state, respondent continued since her suspension to hold the office of circuit court judge, continued to receive a judicial salary, and sought retention. The complaint therefore indicated that respondent's actions undermined public confidence in the judicial system, was prejudicial to the administration of justice and brought the judicial office into disrepute.

Held: Complaint dismissed.

Sidley Austin LLP, of Chicago, for Judicial Inquiry Board.
Komie and Associates, of Chicago, for respondent.

Before the COURTS COMMISSION: THOMAS, Acting Chairperson, GARST, O'BRIEN, SCHOSTOK, WEBER, WOLFF, and ZIMMERMAN, commissioners. ALL CONCUR.

ORDER

This cause coming to be heard on the Judicial Inquiry Board's Motion to Dismiss Complaint Without Prejudice, and the Judicial Inquiry Board having asserted that because respondent is no longer a sitting Illinois judge, the Illinois Courts Commission no longer has jurisdiction over this matter;

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

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby ordered that this action is dismissed without prejudice.

Complaint dismissed.