

(No. 99 CC 1 - Respondent reprimanded)

In re ASSOCIATE JUDGE EDWIN A. GAUSSELIN
of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Respondent

Order entered November 18, 1999

SYLLABUS

On June 29, 1999, the Judicial Inquiry Board filed a complaint 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 in the early morning of May 8, 1998, a police officer observed respondent in his automobile speeding through an intersection in Michigan City, Indiana, disregarding a stop sign, swerving from side to side, and driving into the oncoming traffic lane. After stopping respondent, the police officer detected the odor of alcohol on respondent's breath. Respondent refused to take a field sobriety test and a Breathalyzer test; however, he volunteered information that he was a member of the judiciary. The complaint further alleged that respondent knew or should have known that communicating such information would be perceived by the police officers as an effort to use his judicial office to influence them not to charge him with a traffic violation. After being taken into custody, an open bottle of alcohol was found in respondent's automobile.

Held: Respondent reprimanded.

McDermott, Will & Emery, of Chicago, for Judicial Inquiry Board.
Martin, Breen & Merrick, of Oak Park, for respondent.

Before the COURTS COMMISSION: McMORROW, Chairperson, LAWRENCE, RAKOWSKI, RARICK, and WOLFF, commissioners. ALL CONCUR.

ORDER

This cause coming to be heard on the parties' Joint Stipulation and Recommendation and the Illinois Courts Commission being fully advised in the premises;

It is hereby ordered that the Joint Stipulation and Recommendation is adopted. The respondent is therefore reprimanded.

Respondent reprimanded.