



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR &
GENERAL COUNSEL, ILLINOIS
COURTS COMMISSION

**COURTS COMMISSION OF THE
STATE OF ILLINOIS**

In re WILLIAM B. RAINES)
Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook) No. 22-CC-02
County, State of Illinois)
)

ANSWER TO COMPLAINT

COMES Judge William B. Raines, by his attorneys, Adrian Vuckovich and Kathyne Hayes of Collins Bargione & Vuckovich, denying any prefatory allegations and for his Answer to the Complaint, states as follows:

SUMMARY OF ALLEGATIONS

Respondent, William B. Raines, is a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois. As further described in this Complaint, Respondent made derogatory, injudicious, and demeaning statements about two attorneys while being livestreamed on the bench.

ANSWER: Admitted that William B. Raines is a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois. The remaining allegations do not allege facts and in fact, allege legal conclusions and therefore, the remaining allegations are not admitted or denied.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

1. Respondent has been a Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County since 2014.

ANSWER: Admitted.

2. On January 11, 2022, Respondent presided over the post-conviction proceeding in the matter of the People of the State of Illinois v. Roosevelt Myles, 93CR01003/01 via livestream video. Attorneys Jennifer Bonjean and Samuel Kennedy represented the Petitioner Roosevelt Myles in that proceeding.

ANSWER: Admitted.

3. After court was adjourned, Respondent, while still on the bench, mistakenly believed that the livestream had ended and initiated a conversation with Assistant State's Attorney Anna Sedelmeier, Assistant State's Attorney Susie Bucaro, and Assistant Public Defender Kyle Lappin. Through the course of that conversation, Attorney Jennifer Bonjean and Attorney Samuel Kennedy were mocked and ridiculed by Respondent.

ANSWER: Admitted that after court was adjourned, there was a discussion which occurred between Judge Raines and the other individuals referenced in paragraph 3. Admitted that it was believed that the livestream of the court proceeding had stopped and that a recording was no longer occurring. Denied that Judge Raines initiated the discussion as alleged. The remaining allegations state conclusions, not facts, and therefore the allegations are neither admitted nor denied.

4. During that conversation, Respondent, referring to Ms. Bonjean, stated: "Did you see her going nuts? Glasses off, fingers through her hair, the phone's going all over the place. It's insane." Respondent further related that Ms. Bonjean's behavior "was entertaining" for him and inquired: "Can you imagine waking up to her every day? Oh my God."

ANSWER: Admitted that the statements alleged were made.

5. During the conversation, Attorney Samuel Kennedy was also mocked and ridiculed. When a question was raised regarding who Attorney Samuel Kennedy was, Respondent stated: "That's her man child."

ANSWER: Admitted that the statements alleged were made by Respondent.

VIOLATIONS

6. The Board incorporates paragraphs 1-5 above.

ANSWER: Respondent realleges his answers to paragraphs 1-5 above.

7. Respondent made derogatory, injudicious, and demeaning statements about Attorney Jennifer Bonjean and Attorney Samuel Kennedy while being livestreamed on the bench.

ANSWER: Admitted that the statements alleged were made by the Respondent and that the statements were inappropriate and should not have been made. The remaining allegations are not allegations of facts but conclusions or argumentative statements and therefore, the remaining are not admitted or denied.

8. In doing so, Respondent violated the Code of Judicial Conduct, Illinois Supreme Court Rule 61, Canon 1, which provides:

A Judge Should Uphold the Integrity and Independence of the Judiciary

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. Through this conduct Respondent also violated the Code of Judicial Conduct, Illinois Supreme Court Rule 62, Canon 2, which provides:

A Judge Should Avoid Impropriety and the Appearance of Impropriety in All of the Judge's Activities

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.

10. Through this conduct, Respondent also violated the Code of Judicial Conduct,

Illinois Supreme Court Rule 63, Canon 3, which provides in pertinent part:

A Judge Should Perform the Duties of Judicial Office Impartially and Diligently

(A)(2) A judge should maintain order and decorum in the proceedings before the judge.

ANSWER: Denied.

11. Through this conduct, Respondent also violated the Code of Judicial Conduct, Illinois Supreme Court Rule 63, Canon 3, which provides in pertinent part:

A Judge Should Perform the Duties of Judicial Office Impartially and Diligently

(A)(3) A judge should be patient, dignified, and courteous to litigants, jurors, witnesses, lawyers, and other with whom the judge deals in an official capacity, and should require similar conduct of lawyers, and of staff, court officials, and others subject to the judge's direction and control.

ANSWER: Denied.

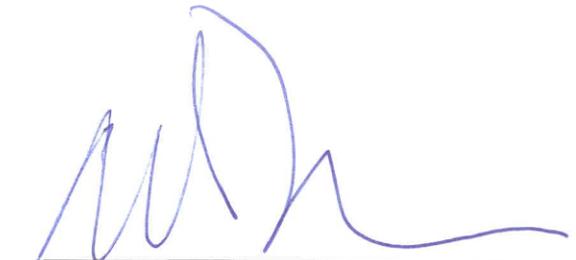
12. Through this conduct, Respondent also violated the Code of Judicial Conduct, Illinois Supreme Court Rule 63, Canon 3, which provides in pertinent part:

A Judge Should Perform the Duties of Judicial Office Impartially and Diligently

(A)(9) A judge shall perform judicial duties without bias or prejudice. A judge shall not, in the performance of judicial duties, by words or conduct manifest bias or prejudice, including but not limited to bias or prejudice based upon race, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation or socioeconomic status, and shall not permit staff, court officials and others subject to the judge's direction and control do so.

ANSWER: Denied.

WHEREFORE, Judge William B. Raines respectfully requests that the Courts Commission enter an order which is appropriate and just.



Attorney for Judge William B. Raines

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