

BEFORE THE HEARING BOARD
OF THE
ILLINOIS ATTORNEY REGISTRATION
AND
DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

JACOB JOEL SWANSON,

Attorney-Respondent,

No. 6324729.

Commission No. 2023PR00053

COMPLAINT

Jerome Larkin, Administrator of the Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission, by his attorney, David B. Collins, pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 753(b), complains of Respondent, Jacob Joel Swanson, who was licensed to practice law in Illinois on November 10, 2016, and alleges that Respondent has engaged in the following conduct which subjects him to discipline pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 770:

COUNT I

(Possession and Use of Methamphetamine; Operating a Motor Vehicle with Methamphetamine in His System)

1. Between October 5, 2020 and April 28, 2023, Respondent worked as an assistant state's attorney in Montgomery County, where he handled traffic cases and juvenile abuse, neglect, and delinquency cases.
2. At all times alleged in this complaint, Section 720 ILCS 646/60 provided, in part, that it is unlawful for any person to knowingly possess methamphetamine.
3. On multiple occasions in 2021, 2022 and 2023, while employed as an assistant state's attorney, Respondent possessed and used methamphetamine. On approximately five

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occasions in the January through February, 2023 time frame, Respondent purchased methamphetamine.

4. During 2021, Respondent primarily used methamphetamine with an individual named M.J., although Respondent and M. J. sometimes used methamphetamine with individuals whose names are unknown to Respondent.

5. During 2022, Respondent used methamphetamine with an individual named D.C. and, later in the year, an individual named J. C. On one occasion in December of 2022, Respondent and J. C. purchased an “eight-ball” (consisting of 3 grams) of methamphetamine from an individual named S.LNU. (Last Name Unknown) in Jacksonville.

6. During the January through February, 2023 time frame, on approximately five occasions, Respondent purchased an eight-ball of methamphetamine from S.LNU. During these buys, Respondent met with S.LNU in either Jacksonville or Springfield. Although the price fluctuated, Respondent paid S.LNU \$120.00 on average for each eight-ball.

7. During the January through April, 2023 timeframe, Respondent used the methamphetamine he purchased from S.LNU himself, or with an individual named B.U.

8. At all times alleged in this complaint, Section 625 ILCS 5/11-501(a)(6) provided, in part, that it is unlawful for any person to operate a motor vehicle in the State of Illinois if “there is any amount of a drug, substance, or compound in the person’s breath, blood, other bodily substance, or urine resulting from [. . .] methamphetamine as listed in the Methamphetamine Control and Community Protection Act[.]”

9. On multiple occasions in 2021, 2022 and 2023, while Respondent was employed as an assistant state’s attorney, Respondent operated a motor vehicle in the State of Illinois while methamphetamine was in his system, in violation of 625 ILCS 5/11-501(a)(6).

10. By reason of his conduct described above, Respondent has engaged in the following misconduct:

- a. committing criminal acts, including possession and use of methamphetamine, in violation of Section 720 ILCS 646/60, and operating a motor vehicle while methamphetamine was in his system, in violation of 625 ILCS 5/11-501(a)(6), that reflect adversely on the lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a lawyer in other respects, in violation of Rule 8.4(b) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010); and
- b. engaging in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice while employed as a Montgomery County assistant state's attorney, he purchased, possessed and used methamphetamine and operated a motor vehicle while methamphetamine was in his system, both of which were illegal, in violation of Rule 8.4(d) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010).

WHEREFORE, the Administrator requests that this matter be assigned to a panel of the Hearing Board, that a hearing be held, and the panel make findings of fact, conclusions of fact and law, and a recommendation for such discipline as is warranted.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerome Larkin, Administrator
Illinois Attorney Registration and
Disciplinary Commission

By: /s/ David B. Collins
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