

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

In the Matter of:)	
)	
ROBERT JAMES SEMRAD,)	
Attorney-Respondent,)	Commission No. 2021PR00044
No. 6226455.)	

COMPLAINT

Jerome Larkin, Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission, by his attorney, Michael Rusch, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 753(b) and 761(c), complains of Respondent, Robert James Semrad, who was licensed to practice law in the State of Illinois on November 10, 1994, and alleges that Respondent has engaged in the following conduct which subjects Respondent to discipline pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 770:

COUNT I

(Criminal conviction for domestic battery in Lake County, Illinois)

1. On June 10, 2015, Respondent returned to his residence in Highland Park, Illinois, after completing work for the day. Upon his return home, Respondent was greeted by his romantic partner, Y.N., and began to consume alcohol. Sometime later, Y.N. went upstairs to the bedroom and Respondent continued to consume alcohol and watch televised sports.

2. Eventually, Respondent retired to the bedroom and observed Y.N. on her phone. Respondent became angry and began to argue with Y.N. regarding her phone usage and spending habits. During this argument, Respondent grabbed Y.N.'s phone from her possession and threw it in the toilet. Respondent left the bedroom and went downstairs.

FILED
6/10/2021 12:43 PM
ARDC Clerk

3. At approximately 11:00 p.m., Y.N. came downstairs and ran towards the door to leave the residence. As she tried exiting the front door, Respondent grabbed her, preventing her from leaving the residence. Y.N. repeatedly told Respondent that he was hurting her. Respondent released his grip and Y.N. left the residence.

4. After leaving the residence, Y.N. drove herself to the Highland Park Police station and filed a police report.

5. On June 10, 2015, the Lake County State's Attorney's office charged Respondent with criminal sexual assault, in violation of 720 ILCS 5/11-1.20(a)(1); domestic battery, in violation of 720 ILCS 5/12-3.2(a)(1); and interfering with the reporting of domestic violence, in violation of 720 ILCS 5/12-3.5(a). The matter was captioned as *People of the State of Illinois vs. Robert J. Semrad*, case number 15CF1519.

6. On November 25, 2015, Respondent pleaded guilty to an amended charge of domestic battery, in violation of 720 ILCS 5/12-3.2(a)(2). As part of the plea agreement, on motion of the State, the trial court dismissed the remaining charges against the Respondent.

7. On November 25, 2015, the Honorable Christen Bishop ("Judge Bishop"), entered a judgment of conviction against Respondent for the crime of domestic battery. Judge Bishop sentenced respondent to 18 months' probation, 14 days in the county jail, 10 hours community service, the requirement that Respondent complete a drug/alcohol evaluation and treatment, sex offender evaluation and treatment, and mental health/psychiatric treatment, plus a \$5,000.00 contribution to the Lake County Children's Advocacy Center and the payment of fines and costs.

8. By reason of the conduct described above, Respondent engaged in the following misconduct:

- a. engaging in a criminal act that reflects adversely on his honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a lawyer in other

respects, in violation of Rule 8.4(b) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct, by virtue of having committed a criminal act of domestic battery, in violation of 720 ILCS 5/12-3.2(a)(2).

COUNT II

(2012 driving under the influence of alcohol in Cook County, Illinois)

9. On the morning of May 27, 2012, at approximately 3:30 a.m., a Burr Ridge police officer observed Respondent's 2012 Range Rover commit an unauthorized U-turn. The officer stopped Respondent's vehicle. Upon approach, the officer observed that Respondent's face was flush, that he emitted a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage, that he had glassy eyes, and that his speech was slurred.

10. The officer asked Respondent to perform field sobriety tests. During the field sobriety tests, Respondent showed numerous indicators of impairment and was placed under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol. After his arrest, Respondent refused to submit to a breathalyzer test.

11. On May 27, 2012, the Burr Ridge Police Department charged Respondent with driving under the influence of alcohol, in violation of 625 ILCS 5/11-501(a)(2); disobeying a traffic control device, in violation of 625 ILCS 5/11-305(a); and operating an uninsured motor vehicle, in violation of 625 ILCS 5/3-707. The matters were docketed as *People v. Robert J. Semrad*, case numbers YD396506, YD396507, YD396508, respectively (Cook County Circuit Court).

12. On May 16, 2013, the Honorable Kerry M. Kennedy accepted Respondent's guilty plea and sentenced him to 18 months court supervision on charge number YD396508 (driving under the influence of alcohol). Judge Kennedy ordered that Respondent complete a drug/alcohol evaluation and treatment, that he attend a victim impact panel, that he submit to random drug

testing, and that he pay fines and costs. On the motion of the State's Attorney, case numbers YD396506(disobeying a traffic control device) and YD396507(operating an uninsured motor vehicle) were stricken on leave.

13. By reason of the conduct outlined above, Respondent has engaged in the following misconduct:

- a. engaging in a criminal act that reflects adversely on the lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness, or fitness as a lawyer, in violation of Rule 8.4(b) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct, by virtue of having committed a criminal act of driving under the influence of alcohol, in violation of 625 ILCS 5/11-501(a)(2).

WHEREFORE, the Administrator requests that this case be assigned to a panel of the Hearing Board, that a hearing be conducted, that the panel make findings of fact and 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/Michael Rusch
Michael Rusch

Michael Rusch
Illinois Attorney Registration and
Disciplinary Commission
One Prudential Plaza
130 East Randolph Drive, Suite 1500
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6219
Telephone: (312) 565-2600
Facsimile: (312) 565-2320
Email: ARDCeService@iadc.org
Email: mrusch@iadc.org