

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

In the Matter of:)	
)	
JAMES THOMAS ROLLINS,)	
)	Commission No. 2021PR00054
Attorney-Respondent,)	
)	
No. 6291928.)	

COMPLAINT

Jerome Larkin, Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission, by his attorney, Scott Renfroe, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 753(b), complains of Respondent James Thomas Rollins, who was licensed to practice law in Illinois on May 10, 2007, and alleges that Respondent has engaged in the following conduct which subjects him to discipline pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 770:

(Creation and Submission of Fraudulent Capital Expense Documents)

1. On or before March 2016, Respondent and attorneys Douglas Sinars (“Sinars”), Megan Slowikowski (“Slowikowski”), and James Tomaska (“Tomaska”) agreed to form a limited liability corporation to engage in the practice of law under the name “Sinars Rollins, LLC.” Sinars Rollins, LLC was to be based in Chicago and planned to concentrate its activities in the defense of companies and insurance carriers involved in asbestos-related litigation.

2. Respondent agreed with his fellow shareholders that he would contribute \$100,000 in capital in exchange for a 32.5% ownership interest in the firm. Respondent’s capital contribution was to be in the form of cash or the payment of firm-related start-up expenses which would then be credited towards the capital contribution requirement.

3. Over the course of several months in 2016, Respondent fabricated and submitted various purported bills, receipts or bank statements to the Sinars Rollins, LLC firm that he asked to be credited towards the satisfaction of his \$100,000 capital contribution obligation. Those documents, totaling \$81,859.39, purported to establish that Respondent had paid \$17,175 to Lyons Law Group, LLC for legal services on March 2, 2016; that Respondent had paid \$17,550 to Edward Technology for Information Technology (“IT”) services on March 21, 2016; that Respondent had paid \$18,500 to an unnamed company for servers on March 2, 2016; and that Respondent had paid \$28,634.39 to Micro Center Computers and Electronics for computer hardware on March 2, 2016.

4. The purported bills, receipts and bank statements that Respondent submitted to Sinars Rollins, LLC, and that he asked to be credited towards his capital contribution, were false. Respondent had not paid \$17,175 to Lyons Law Group, LLC for legal fees related to the firm’s formation. Rather, the firm itself paid Lyons Law Group, LLC \$4,996.60 on March 21, 2016. Respondent had not paid \$18,500 for server costs nor \$17,550 to Edward Technology; the firm itself paid Edward Technology \$13,580.66 on March 24, 2016 for IT services (including server costs). Finally, Respondent had not paid \$28,634.39 to Micro Center; the actual expense was only \$18,071.81 and that amount was paid by Respondent on March 2, 2016.

5. Respondent knew that the purported documents relating to the claimed capital contributions were false, because he had created them using a common word-processing program, and he knew that the fabricated documents did not reflect either the amounts paid to those vendors, nor the actual circumstances of the payments made to those vendors.

6. In or around May 2017, the firm’s bookkeeper noticed irregularities in the documents Respondent submitted to the firm (described in paragraphs three through five, above), and asked Respondent for additional information to support his claimed capital contributions.

Respondent then provided the Sinars Rollins LLC firm what purported to be two personal checks made out to “Kevin Lyons Law Group” and “Errol Janeuz” (a person affiliated with Edward Technology) in the amounts of \$17,175.00 and \$17,550.00, respectively.

7. The purported checks that Respondent provided to Sinars Rollins, LLC were false, because the firm, and not Respondent, had already paid \$4,996.60 to Lyons Law Group, LLC on March 21, 2016 (not the \$17,175 reflected in the purported check) and \$13,580.66 to Edward Technology on March 24, 2016 (not the \$17,550 reflected in the purported check to Errol Janueuz).

8. Respondent knew that the documents described in paragraphs six and seven, above, were false because he had created them himself using a computer program, and he knew that the documents did not describe the actual amounts paid by to the vendors, nor the circumstances of the actual payments.

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

- a. conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation, by conduct including falsifying and submitting capital expense invoices that he knew he had not actually incurred nor paid, in violation of Rule 8.4(c) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerome Larkin, Administrator
Attorney Registration and
Disciplinary Commission

By: /s/Scott Renfroe
 Scott Renfroe

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