

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

In the Matter of:)
)
HELGA KAHR ,)
)
Attorney-Respondent,) Commission No. 2022PR00082
)
No. 1383485.)

COMPLAINT

Jerome Larkin, Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission, by his attorney, Peter L. Rotskoff, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 761, complains of Respondent, Helga Kahr, who was licensed to practice law in the state of Illinois on October 31, 1974, and alleges that Respondent has engaged in the following conduct which subjects Respondent to discipline pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 770:

COUNT I

(Criminal convictions for theft while serving as the guardian for a disabled person)

1. In October 1995, Jeffrey Phillip Barrett (“Barrett”) was severely injured in a vehicle collision after his car collided head-on with a vehicle driven by a drunk driver who had crossed the center line of the road. As a result of the collision, Barrett suffered a traumatic brain injury and was unable to manage his personal or financial affairs.

2. On October 24, 2104, Respondent was appointed as guardian of Barrett’s financial estate and limited guardian of his person.

3. On or about February 14, 2018, Respondent used, without authority, \$282,673.90 from Barrett’s guardian account, to pay of a delinquent mortgage for property Respondent owned.

FILED

October 20, 2022

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4. On June 12, 2018, Respondent was charged, by a criminal information, with one count of Theft in the First Degree (\$280,671.50) and one count of Theft in the Second Degree (\$2,002.40), in violation of the Revised Code of Washington (“RCW”) sections 9A.56.030(1) and 9A.56.020(1). The charges alleged that Respondent exerted unauthorized control over funds belonging to Barrett. *State v. Kahr*, No. 18-1-00672-EA, Superior Court of Washington, King County.

5. On October 10, 2019, Respondent was found guilty, following a jury trial, of both charged offenses. The jury found that a number of aggravating circumstances existed, as set forth in Washington State statutes, including that the victim was particularly vulnerable or incapable of resistance. The court sentenced her to 18 months imprisonment.

6. On August 16, 2021, Respondent’s conviction and sentence were affirmed, see *State v. Kahr*, No. 80848-6-1, Court of Appeals of Washington, Division One.

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

- a. committing criminal acts that reflects adversely on her honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a lawyer in other respects, by committing the offenses of Theft in the First Degree and Theft in the Second Degree in the State of Washington, in violation of Rule 8.4(b) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010) and;
- b. conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation, by committing the offenses of Theft in the First Degree and Theft in the Second Degree in the State of Washington, in violation of Rule 8.4(c) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010).

WHEREFORE, the Administrator respectfully 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 fact and law, and a recommendation for such discipline as is warranted.

Respectfully submitted,
Jerome Larkin, Administrator
Attorney Registration and
Disciplinary Commission

By: /s/Peter L. Rotskoff
Peter L. Rotskoff

Peter L. Rotskoff
Counsel for the Administrator
3161 W. White Oaks Dr. Ste. 301
Springfield, IL 62704
Telephone: (312) 565-2600
Email: protskoff@iadc.org;
Email: ARDCeService@iadc.org
MAINLIB_#1551859_v1