

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS

In the Matter of:

STEVEN GARY SILETS,

Attorney-Movant,

No. 2604825.

Supreme Court No. M.R.

Commission No. 2023PR00024

MOTION PURSUANT TO SUPREME COURT RULE 762(a)

Movant, Steven Gary Silets, through his counsel, respectfully represents to the Court that:

1. Movant was licensed to practice law in Illinois on November 27, 1973.
2. Movant desires to have his name stricken from the Roll of Attorneys pursuant to

Rule 762(a), effective immediately.

3. Filed contemporaneously with this motion is a statement of charges prepared by the Administrator and Movant's affidavit in support of this motion.

WHEREFORE, Movant respectfully requests that the Court enter an order striking his name from the Roll of Attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ John J. Duffy

John J. Duffy

John J. Duffy  
Counsel for Movant  
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**FILED**

May 9, 2023

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No. 2604825.

STATEMENT OF CHARGES PURSUANT TO  
SUPREME COURT RULE 762(a)

Jerome Larkin, Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission, by his attorneys, Jonathan M. Wier and Michael Rusch, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 762(a), states that on the date Steven Gary Silets (hereinafter "Movant") filed a motion requesting that his name be stricken from the Roll of Attorneys, the Administrator was investigating allegations that Movant charged unreasonable fees in connection with his court-appointed representation, made false statements to the tribunal in submitting fee petitions for those services, and engaged in conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice. Had Movant's conduct been the subject of a hearing, the Administrator would have introduced the evidence described below, and that evidence would have clearly and convincingly established the misconduct set forth below:

## I. FACTUAL BASIS

Movant's admissions, court records and other documents, and the testimony of various other individuals would establish the following facts:

A. *Respondent's Background*

1. Movant is 74 years old and was licensed to practice law in Illinois on November 27, 1973. Movant is a sole practitioner in Northbrook, and he practices primarily in the area of child protection. He represents indigent defendants by court appointment by the Presiding Judge's Office for the Circuit Court of Cook County, Department of Juvenile Justice and Child Protection, Child Protection Division. He did not register as active in 2023.

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B. *Charging Unreasonable Fees, Making False Statements to the Tribunal, and Engaging in Conduct Prejudicial to the Administration of Justice.*

2. Since at least 1981, Movant had been a participant in the Circuit Court of Cook County's juvenile court conflict bar attorneys' program. As a participant in this program, Movant represented indigent minors and adults in the Juvenile Justice and Child Protection Divisions. As a court-appointed attorney, Movant submitted fee petitions relating to his representation and the court would review those petitions and enter orders approving payments of fees and expenses to Movant.

3. In or about August 2021, the Circuit Court of Cook County implemented new procedures for collecting data and reviewing fee petitions and corresponding court orders for payment to court-appointed attorneys in juvenile and criminal court cases. This allowed the court's finance staff to review approximately 343 fee petitions submitted by Movant as well as the court orders providing for payment of fees to him.

4. The court's finance staff's review showed that Movant had, from August 2021 until approximately October 2022, billed over 4,000 hours as a court-appointed attorney in the Circuit Court of Cook County. The review revealed that Movant had petitioned for payment of fees for approximately 3,274 hours in a twelve-month period. This equated to more than 62 hours of billable work each week. In addition, Movant's petitions claimed that on 27 days, he spent more than eight hours in court working on the matters to which he had been appointed.

5. Movant concedes that the petitions he filed with the court were not accurate in that they overstated the amount of time he actually expended on the matters described in the petitions, and that in reliance on those petitions the court awarded him fees that were unreasonable.

II. CONCLUSIONS OF MISCONDUCT

6. By reason of the conduct described above, Movant has engaged in the following misconduct:

- a. charging an unreasonable fee for the work he performed as a court-appointed attorney in the Circuit Court of Cook County because the amount of time reflected in fee petitions Movant submitted overstated the amount of time he had spent working on them, in violation of Rule 1.5(a) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010);
- b. making false statements to the Circuit Court of Cook County by submitting fee petitions that overstated the hours that Movant spent working on the court-appointed matters, in violation of Rule 3.3(a)(1) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010);
- c. engaging in conduct involving misrepresentation by submitting fee petitions that overstated the hours that Movant spent working on the court-appointed matters, in violation of Rule 8.4(c) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010); and
- d. engaging in conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice by submitting fee petitions to the Circuit Court of Cook County that overstated the hours that Movant spent working on the matters for which he had been court-appointed, in violation of Rule 8.4(d) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010).

Respectfully submitted,

Jerome Larkin, Administrator  
Attorney Registration and  
Disciplinary Commission

By:           /s/ Jonathan M. Wier            
Jonathan M. Wier

Jonathan M. Wier, [jwier@iadc.org](mailto:jwier@iadc.org)  
Michael Rusch, [mrusch@iadc.org](mailto:mrusch@iadc.org)  
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AFFIDAVIT

Affiant, Steven Gary Silets, being first duly sworn, states:

1. Affiant has filed with this Court a motion to strike his name from the Roll of Attorneys licensed to practice law in Illinois, pursuant to Rule 762(a).

2. Affiant has received and reviewed a copy of the Administrator's statement of the charges that were pending against Affiant as of the filing of the instant motion. If the case proceeded to a hearing, the Administrator would present the evidence described in the statement of charges, and the evidence would clearly and convincingly establish the facts and conclusions of misconduct set forth in the statement of charges.

3. Affiant's motion is freely and voluntarily made.

4. Affiant understands the nature and consequences of this motion.

Under penalties as provided by law pursuant to Section 1-109 of the Code of Civil Procedure, the undersigned certifies that the statements set forth in this instrument are true and correct, except as to matters therein stated to be on information and belief and, as to such matters, the undersigned certifies as aforesaid that he verily believes the same to be true.

Date: 5-9-23

  
Steven Gary Silets

Steven Gary Silets  
Movant  
P.O. Box 602  
Northbrook, IL 60065-0602  
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Email: [ssilets@aol.com](mailto:ssilets@aol.com)  
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Commission No. 2023PR00024

NOTICE OF FILING

TO: John J. Duffy  
Counsel for Movant  
Swanson Martin & Bell, LLP  
330 North Wabash Avenue, Suite 3300  
Chicago, IL 60611  
(312) 222-8574  
Email: [jduffy@smbtrials.com](mailto:jduffy@smbtrials.com)

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on May 9, 2023, electronic copies of Movant's MOTION PURSUANT TO SUPREME COURT RULE 762(a), Administrator's STATEMENT OF CHARGES, and Movant's AFFIDAVIT, were submitted to the Clerk of the Supreme Court for filing. On that same date, copies were served on Movant, by e-mail to his counsel at [jduffy@smbtrials.com](mailto:jduffy@smbtrials.com), at or before 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerome Larkin, Administrator  
Attorney Registration and  
Disciplinary Commission

By: /s/ Jonathan M. Wier  
Jonathan M. Wier

Jonathan M. Wier  
Michael Rusch  
Counsel for the Administrator  
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PROOF OF SERVICE

The undersigned, an attorney, hereby certifies, pursuant to the Illinois Code of Civil Procedure, 735 ILCS 5/109, that the Administrator served copies of the Notice of Filing, Movant's MOTION PURSUANT TO SUPREME COURT RULE 762(a), Administrator's STATEMENT OF CHARGES PURSUANT TO SUPREME COURT RULE 762(a) and Movant's AFFIDAVIT, on the individual listed on the forgoing Notice of Filing, by e-mail at [jduffy@smbtrials.com](mailto:jduffy@smbtrials.com) on May 9, 2023 at or before 5:00 p.m.

Under penalties as provided by law pursuant to Section 1-109 of the Code of Civil Procedure, the undersigned certifies that the statements set forth in this instrument are true and correct, except as to matters therein stated to be on information and belief and as to such matters the undersigned certifies as aforesaid that he verily believes the same to be true.

/s/ Jonathan M. Wier

Jonathan M. Wier

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