

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS

In the Matter of:

PATRICIA MANILA MARTIN,  
Attorney-Movant,  
No. 6192345.

Supreme Court No. M.R.  
Commission No. 2023PR00034

MOTION PURSUANT TO SUPREME COURT RULE 762(a)

Movant, Patricia Manila Martin, respectfully represents to the Court that:

1. Movant was licensed to practice law in Illinois on May 8, 1986.
2. Movant desires to have her name stricken from the Roll of Attorneys pursuant to Rule 762(a), effective immediately.
3. Filed contemporaneously with this motion are 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 her name from the Roll of Attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Patricia Manila Martin  
Patricia Manila Martin

Patricia Manila Martin  
1841 S. Calumet Ave. Apt. 1508  
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6/26/2023 11:08 AM  
CYNTHIA A. GRANT  
SUPREME COURT CLERK

**FILED**

June 26, 2023

**ARDC CLERK**

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS

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AFFIDAVIT

Affiant, Patricia Manila Martin, being first duly sworn, states:

1. Affiant has filed with this Court a motion to strike her 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.
5. 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 she verily believes the same to be true.

**FILED**

June 26, 2023

/s/ Patricia Manila Martin  
Patricia Manila Martin

**ARDC CLERK**

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

Jerome Larkin, Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission (“ARDC”), by his attorney Scott Renfroe, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 762(a), states that on the date Patricia Manila Martin (hereinafter “Movant”) filed a motion requesting that her name be stricken from the Roll of Attorneys, a three-count complaint was pending before the ARDC’s Hearing Board charging Movant with intentionally using for her own purposes approximately \$240,000 in funds belonging to Oscar Lawton Wilkerson, Jr., following his relocation to a nursing home, with making a false statements to Mr. Wilkerson’s physician and close friend about the balance in Mr. Wilkerson’s investment, checking and money market accounts after she had closed those accounts, and with failing to produce documents in response to an ARDC subpoena. 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 indicated below:

## I. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Movant’s admissions, testimony from various witnesses, including Maceo R. Ellison, M.D., and attorneys for Oscar Lawton Wilkerson, Jr., and records from bank and investment accounts, the ARDC and the Circuit Court of Cook County would have established the following:

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A. *Misuse of Approximately \$240,000 Held for Oscar Lawton Wilkerson, Jr.'s Benefit*

1. In November 2020, Maceo R. Ellison, M.D., held a power of attorney for property authorizing him to act on behalf of his then-95-year-old friend, Oscar Lawton Wilkerson, Jr. Dr. Ellison recommended that Mr. Wilkerson be moved to a residential elder care facility, and he asked Movant, who was then a judge in the Circuit Court of Cook County and was also the niece of Mr. Wilkerson's former spouse, to assist him in managing Mr. Wilkerson's financial affairs. Movant agreed to assist Dr. Ellison and Mr. Wilkerson, and to use Mr. Wilkerson's property (including funds he held in checking and money market savings accounts, an investment account, the proceeds of an insurance annuity policy and a private pension and social security benefits) solely for Mr. Wilkerson's benefit. In December 2020, around the time Movant resigned her position as a judge, Mr. Wilkerson moved into Brookdale Senior Living in Orland Park ("Brookdale").

2. During the events described in this statement of charges, Movant maintained checking accounts at Fifth Third Bank ending in the four digits 8783, 7128 and 1988. Both Mr. Wilkerson and Movant were signatories on those accounts, but after moving into Brookdale, Mr. Wilkerson never made any transactions (including drawing checks) using any of those accounts.

3. As of December 26, 2020, Mr. Wilkerson held a checking account and a money market savings account at US Bank, as well as an Ameriprise investment account. He also received monthly pension checks from his former employer and a monthly payment of social security benefits. On December 26, 2020, Movant, holding herself out as having a power of attorney authorizing her to act for Mr. Wilkerson's benefit, closed out his US Bank checking and money market savings accounts, and received two cashier's checks representing the accounts' proceeds of \$115,353.45. Two days later, Movant deposited those checks into the Fifth Third Bank account ending in 8783. The balance in Fifth Third account 8783 prior to the deposit had been \$2,739.12.

4. On December 29, 2020, Movant wire-transferred \$110,000 out of the Fifth Third account ending in 8783 to a separate entity to purchase \$110,000 in cryptocurrency that she held in her own name and over which she maintained exclusive control. The source of funds for that purchase was the proceeds of Mr. Wilkerson's closed US Bank accounts, and Movant had not received authority from either Mr. Wilkerson or Dr. Ellison to use Mr. Wilkerson's funds for that purpose.

5. Between February 2, 2021, and February 1, 2023, Movant received and deposited into the three Fifth Third accounts an additional \$214,213.44 of funds belonging to Mr. Wilkerson, including \$119,714.94 from his Ameriprise investment account, a \$60,000 wire transfer, and at least 21 monthly pension payments of \$928.50. During that time, Movant continued to use Mr. Wilkerson's funds, without authority, to make additional cryptocurrency purchases and other expenditures for her own personal purposes. Movant also made eight authorized payments to Brookdale totaling \$68,363.09 on Mr. Wilkerson's behalf to pay for his residence and care.

6. As of April 6, 2021, Movant had made her last deposit of Mr. Wilkerson's funds into the Fifth Third account ending in 8783, and as of May 25, 2021, she had overdrawn the account. On July 20, 2021, Fifth Third Bank closed and charged off the account. As of May 25, 2021, Movant had made her last deposit of Mr. Wilkerson's funds into the Fifth Third Bank account ending in 7128, and on June 15, 2021, she had overdrawn that account. As of February 1, 2023, Respondent had made her last deposit of Mr. Wilkerson's funds into the Fifth Third Bank account ending in 1988, and on February 7, 2023, she had overdrawn that account.

7. As of February 1, 2023, Movant had received at least \$314,566.89 of Mr. Wilkerson's funds and had expended \$68,363.09 towards his care. As of February 7, 2023,

Movant had used at least \$246,203.80 of OLW's funds without his authority for her own personal purposes. Movant's use of those funds constitutes conversion.

*B. False Statement Concerning Account Balances, and Initiation of Litigation*

8. Between December 2020 and May 2022, Movant provided periodic updates to Dr. Ellison and Mr. Wilkerson regarding the purported status of Mr. Wilkerson's assets, including his investment account at Ameriprise and his accounts at US Bank. In April 2022, Movant met with Dr. Ellison and falsely informed him that Mr. Wilkerson's Ameriprise account contained approximately \$120,000, and that he had approximately \$50,000 remaining in his checking account. In fact, Movant had already closed those accounts and they had zero balances.

9. On or about July 20, 2022, Dr. Ellison was contacted by Brookdale and learned that Movant had not paid for Mr. Wilkerson's care for approximately two months and that his account was more than \$41,000 in arrears. Shortly thereafter, following inquiries at Ameriprise and at US Bank from which Dr. Ellison learned that Mr. Wilkerson's accounts had zero balances and had been closed, Dr. Ellison and Mr. Wilkerson hired attorney Eric Puryear to investigate Movant's handling of Mr. Wilkerson's finances.

10. Mr. Puryear corresponded with Movant over several weeks without obtaining answers to his questions, and on September 21, 2022, he filed a complaint on Mr. Wilkerson's behalf against Movant in the Circuit Court of Cook County, alleging Movant's conversion of an unknown amount of funds belonging to Mr. Wilkerson and his financial exploitation. On December 5, 2022, Movant filed an answer to the complaint in which she admitted that she had wrongfully assumed control over Mr. Wilkerson's property, that she had no authority to use his funds for any purpose other than for his benefit, and that she had intentionally deprived him of funds to which he was entitled.

11. Mr. Wilkerson died on February 8, 2023. On May 24, 2023, the Hon. Anna Demacoupolos entered a default judgment against Movant in the civil case in the amount of \$1,229,384.31 based on Movant's failure to respond to Mr. Puryear's discovery requests.

*C. Failure to Respond to the ARDC's Lawful Demand for Information*

12. On February 1, 2023, the Administrator received a charge regarding Movant from Mr. Puryear and docketed an investigation into Movant's conduct. On February 3, 2023, counsel for the Administrator sent a letter to Movant requesting a response to Mr. Puryear's allegations, including a description of the nature of Movant's relationship with Mr. Wilkerson; an accounting of any actions she undertook on his behalf; copies of all documents relating to her handling of funds in which Mr. Wilkerson had an interest, including all bank or investment account statements showing the receipt, transfer or distribution of such funds; and any relevant written correspondence, including text messages and electronic communications and notes of any relevant telephone conversations. At Movant's request, then later at the request of an attorney representing Movant, counsel for the Administrator agreed to extensions of time for Movant to submit a response to the request for information. On March 23, 2023, Movant's attorney wrote that "my client is continuing to collect the material requested in your request, which is taking her some time." A week later, Movant's attorney wrote that she was still awaiting the receipt of records from Movant, and that Movant had "had some technological problems transferring the bank documents..." Movant's counsel later submitted a response acknowledging Movant's conversion of Mr. Wilkerson's funds, consistent with the admissions made in Movant's *pro se* answer to the civil complaint, but she provided no records regarding Movant's handling of those funds. On April 3, 2023, counsel for the Administrator served Movant's counsel with a subpoena *duces tecum* that

required Movant to produce specific information and records relating to her handling of Mr. Wilkerson's assets on April 11, 2023.

13. As of April 29, 2023, Movant had not produced any materials responsive to the Administrator's subpoena *duces tecum*, and on that date her attorney withdrew from representing her. As of May 23, 2023, the date the members of Panel C of the Inquiry Board voted to file a complaint against Movant, she had not provided any information or records in compliance with the ARDC's subpoena *duces tecum*. Movant's production of documents in response to the subpoena *duces tecum* has never been waived or excused.

## II. CONCLUSIONS OF MISCONDUCT

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

- a. conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation, by knowingly converting funds belonging to Oscar Lawton Wilkerson, Jr., without authority, to her own use, and by falsely telling Dr. Maceo Ellison that she was then holding approximately \$170,000 of Mr. Wilkerson's funds in his retirement and checking accounts, when she knew she had closed those accounts and that those accounts had zero balances, in violation of Rule 8.4(c) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010); and



- b. failing to respond to a lawful demand for information from a disciplinary authority, by conduct including her failure to provide records responsive to the Administrator's February 3, 2023 letter and her failure to produce documents on or after April 11, 2023 in compliance with the Administrator's subpoena *duces tecum*, in violation of Rule 8.1(b) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010).

Respectfully submitted,

Jerome Larkin, Administrator  
Attorney Registration and  
Disciplinary Commission

By: /s/ Scott Renfroe  
Scott Renfroe

Scott Renfroe  
Counsel for Administrator  
130 East Randolph Drive, Suite 1500  
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NOTICE OF FILING

TO: Patricia Manila Martin  
Attorney-Movant  
[patm2245@yahoo.com](mailto:patm2245@yahoo.com)

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on June 26, 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, a copy was served on Movant, by email at [patm2245@yahoo.com](mailto:patm2245@yahoo.com) at or before 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerome Larkin, Administrator  
Attorney Registration and  
Disciplinary Commission

By: /s/ Scott Renfroe  
Scott Renfroe

Scott Renfroe  
Counsel for 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 at the address shown on the forgoing Notice of Filing, by email at [patm2245@yahoo.com](mailto:patm2245@yahoo.com) on June 26, 2023 at or before 4:00 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/ Scott Renfroe  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Renfroe

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