

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

FILED
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ARDC Clerk

In the Matter of:

SALENA RACHELLE YOUNG,

Attorney-Respondent,

No. 6279523.

Commission No. 2024PR00037

COMPLAINT

Lea S. Gutierrez, Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission (“Commission”), by her attorney, Rachel C. Miller, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 753(b), complains of Respondent, Salena Rachelle Young ("Respondent"), who was licensed to practice law in Illinois on May 8, 2003, and alleges that Respondent has engaged in the following conduct which subjects her to discipline pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 753(b):

COUNT I

(Dishonesty in Employment at the Illinois Attorney General’s Office)

1. Prior to November 16, 2021, Respondent operated Young Law Office as a sole practitioner. Beginning in December 2017 and continuing through August 2023, she served as a part-time Sangamon County Assistant Public Defender handling juvenile abuse and neglect cases.

2. On November 16, 2021, Respondent began working in a full-time position as an Assistant Attorney General in the General Law Bureau in Springfield.

3. At all times related to this complaint, the Illinois Attorney General policy and procedures manual, section 8.1.7, stated that, “Assistant Attorneys General shall not engage in the private practice of law.” Section 4.1.10(b)(2)(D) of the Illinois Attorney General policy and

procedures manual further stated that, “An employee may not engage in any paid or non-paid employment outside the office which may create an actual conflict of interest or an appearance of conflict of interest. An employee may not use office time, equipment, resources, or personnel in any outside paid or non-paid employment.”

4. Between November 16, 2021, and June 13, 2023, Respondent appeared on Wednesdays and Thursdays in Sangamon County for her juvenile abuse and neglect cases in her role as a Sangamon County Assistant Public Defender.

5. At no time when appearing in Sangamon County as a Sangamon County Assistant Public Defender between November 16, 2021, and June 13, 2023, did Respondent use benefit time or reflect on her timekeeping log that she was not engaged in work for the Illinois Attorney General.

6. On at least 36 occasions, Respondent submitted timekeeping records which showed she clocked in and worked on Wednesdays and Thursdays for the Illinois Attorney General’s Office.

7. Respondent’s timekeeping logs reflecting that she worked full days for the Illinois Attorney General’s office on Wednesdays and Thursdays was false, because she worked as a Sangamon County Assistant Public Defender at least part of the day on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

8. Respondent knew at the time that she submitted the timekeeping logs to the Illinois Attorney General’s office reflecting that she was clocked in and working for the Illinois Attorney General, as described in paragraph 6, above, that the timekeeping logs were false.

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

- a. engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation, by conduct including knowingly submitting false timesheets to the Illinois Attorney General's office, as described in paragraphs four and five, above, in violation of Rule 8.4(c) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010).

COUNT II

*(Conflict of Interest by Simultaneously working as an Assistant Attorney General
and Sangamon County Assistant Public Defender)*

10. The Administrator realleges and incorporates paragraphs one through eight, above.
11. As part of Respondent's duties as an Assistant Attorney General, she represented employees of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS).
12. In at least six separate matters between November 2021 and November 2022, Respondent represented DCFS as an agency or DCFS employees in various matters, including domestic relations matters, a probate matter, a guardianship matter, an administrative review of an indicated finding, and a civil lawsuit.
13. In Respondent's juvenile abuse and neglect matters in Sangamon County, DCFS routinely served as a witness in the cases.
14. By reason of the conduct described above, Respondent has engaged in the following misconduct:
 - a. representing a client when there is a significant risk that the representation of one or more clients will be materially limited by the lawyer's responsibilities to another client, a former client or a third person or by a personal interest of the lawyer, by conduct including representing clients in Sangamon County while employed by, and using office time for, the Illinois Attorney General, in violation of the Illinois Attorney General policy and procedures manual and Rule 1.7(a)(2) 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,

Lea S. Gutierrez, Administrator
Attorney Registration and
Disciplinary Commission

By: /s/ Rachel C. Miller
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