

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

In the Matter of:)
)
LACOULTON WALLS,)
) Commission No. 2025PR00001
Attorney-Respondent,)
)
No. 6197052.)

COMPLAINT

Lea S. Gutierrez, Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission, by her attorney, Rory P. Quinn, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 761(d), complains of Respondent, Lacoulton Walls, who was licensed to practice law in the State of Illinois on December 22, 1987, and alleges that Respondent has engaged in the following conduct which subjects Respondent to discipline pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 770:

Criminal Conviction - Obstruction of Justice

1. At all times alleged in this complaint, there was in effect a criminal statute in the United States, 18 U.S.C. § 1512(c), which provides, “[t]ampering with a witness, victim, or an informant. Whoever corruptly (1) alters, destroys, mutilates, or conceals a record, document, or other object, or attempts to do so, with the intent to impair the object’s integrity or availability for use in an official proceeding; or (2) otherwise obstructs, influences, or impedes any official proceeding, or attempts to do so, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 20 years, or both.”

2. At all times alleged in this complaint, there was in effect a criminal statute in the United States, 18 U.S.C. § 1519, which provides, “[d]estruction, alteration, or falsification of

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records in Federal investigations and bankruptcy. Whoever knowingly alters, destroys, mutilates, conceals, covers up, falsifies, or makes a false entry in any record, document, or tangible object with the intent to impede, obstruct, or influence the investigation or proper administration of any matter within the jurisdiction of any department or agency of the United States or any case filed under title 11, or in relation to or contemplation of any such matter or case, shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 20 years, or both.”

3. At all times alleged in this complaint, there was in effect a criminal statute in the United States, 18 U.S.C. § 1001(a)(2), which provides, in relevant part, “[s]tatements or entries generally. (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, whoever, in any matter within the jurisdiction of the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of the Government of the United States, knowingly and willfully . . . (2) makes any materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation; . . . shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 5 years or, if the offense involves international or domestic terrorism (as defined in section 2331), imprisoned not more than 8 years, or both.”

4. From January 2009 to July 2011, an individual with the initials C.C. recruited third parties he referred to as “straw buyers” to purchase eight properties from an individual named J.D. These straw buyers agreed to apply for mortgages using documents falsified by C.C. In return, J.D. would make payments to the straw buyers and C.C.

5. From January 2009 to July 2011, Respondent represented J.D. in the sale of seven properties located in Chicago to these straw buyers. These properties included 9328 S. Yates Boulevard, 8556 S. Exchange Avenue, 8031 S. Burnham Avenue, 7827 S. Maryland Avenue, 8735 S. Colfax Avenue, 6522 S. Rhodes Avenue, and 545 N. Avers Avenue.

6. Prior to July 2011, J.D. sold eight properties, including the seven listed in paragraph 7 to third parties.

7. On November 7, 2015, Respondent met with J.D. At that meeting, J.D. informed Respondent that J.D. was being investigated by federal criminal investigators for participating in fraudulent mortgage transactions, including the sale of the properties listed in paragraph 7. Respondent told J.D. not to admit any wrongdoing, and to falsely tell investigators that the payments to a co-conspirator were for construction work performed to rehab the properties before their sale, and therefore did not need to be disclosed in the HUD-1 closing statements.

8. On November 24, 2015, Respondent again met with J.D. and advised him to prepare and furnish to federal investigations fraudulent invoices that would reflect construction work that C.C. ostensibly performed on the properties. Then, Respondent advised J.D. to create fraudulent “scope of services needed” documents that would be maintained by J.D.’s companies.

9. On December 3, 2015, Respondent again met with J.D. Respondent examined the grand jury subpoenas issued to J.D.’s companies and stated “now I’m getting it. It opens my mind up to more that can be done, because I see more.” Respondent then created on his computer a fictitious document entitled “Scope of Construction Work for Independent SubContractors” (“subcontractor form”). Respondent instructed J.D. to use this form for all his files and furnish them to the grand jury to explain undisclosed payments to C.C. and others from the proceeds of the property transactions. Respondent gave J.D. multiple copies of the subcontractor form. He verbally advised J.D. to hand-write fictitious numbers on the forms, and he told J.D. that the forms should have “dirt on em” [sic] and “be a little messy,” Respondent finally advised J.D. that he should “beat em up” and “crinkle em up” so as to “really throw those motherfuckers off” when the forms were furnished to the grand jury.

10. On December 16, 2015, Respondent met with J.D. Respondent reviewed the completed subcontractor forms. After his review, Respondent stated “you want it to look like it’s a couple years old.” Respondent advised J.D. to scratch out some of the numbers and write in new numbers in the same spot because “these are worksheets, they not supposed to look pristine and proper.” Next, Respondent crumpled several of the documents up, told J.D. to make photocopies so the documents “can’t be analyzed,” and to get all HUD-1 statements out of his home and computer in case of a search.

11. On July 22, 2016, Respondent met with federal investigators. Respondent was asked if he had ever seen the subcontractor forms before, or if he had any involvement in filling them out. Respondent replied that he did not recall, did not remember seeing them, and denied any involvement in filling them out.

12. On May 23, 2019, a federal grand jury in the Northern District of Illinois charged Respondent and co-defendant C.C. in an eight-count indictment. Counts six, seven, and eight of the indictment charged Respondent with the offenses of witness tampering, falsification of records in a federal investigation, and false statements to a federal investigator. The matter was captioned as *United States of America v. La Coulton Walls, et al.*, docket number 19 CR 444.

13. On November 1, 2023, Respondent entered a voluntary plea of guilty to Counts six, seven, and eight of the indictment.

14. On November 13, 2024, Respondent was sentenced on counts six, seven, and eight to time served, six months of home confinement, and three years of supervised release.

15. As a result of the conduct set forth above, Respondent has engaged in the following misconduct:

- a. committing a criminal act that reflects adversely on the lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a lawyer in other respects, by committing the offenses of offenses of witness tampering in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1512(c), falsification of records in a federal investigation in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1519, and false statements to a federal investigator in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1001(a)(2), in violation of Rule 8.4(b) 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/ Rory P. Quinn
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