

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

FILED

December 27, 2024

ARDC CLERK

In the Matter of: )  
)  
MARCEL ELIA YONAN, )  
) Commission No. 2024PR00081  
Attorney-Respondent, )  
)  
No. 6206071. )

COMPLAINT

Lea S. Gutierrez, Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission, by her attorney, Richard Gleason, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 761(c), complains of Respondent Marcel Elia Yonan, who was licensed to practice law in Illinois on May 9, 1991, and alleges that Respondent has engaged in the following conduct which subjects him to discipline pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 770:

*(Criminal Conviction for Domestic Battery)*

1. At all times alleged in this complaint, there was in effect a criminal statute in Illinois, Chapter 720, Section 5/12-3.2(a)(2), which made it a Class A misdemeanor offense to knowingly and without justification cause contact of an insulting or provoking nature to a family or household member.

2. On March 7, 2022, Respondent was present at his home located in Chicago. Respondent's ex-wife and daughter arrived at Respondent's home and began to argue with Respondent. During the course of that argument, Respondent struck his ex-wife about her head. Respondent then called the police.

3. Chicago police arrived on scene at approximately 9:30 pm on March 7, 2022. After interviewing Respondent's ex-wife and daughter, Chicago police officers placed Respondent

under arrest. On March 8, 2022, Chicago police officers filed a two-count criminal complaint against Respondent in the Circuit Court of Cook County. Count One of that complaint charged Respondent with domestic battery for knowingly and without justification causing contact of a insulting or provoking nature with his ex-wife, in violation of Chapter 720, Section 5/12-3.2(a)(2) of the Illinois Compiled Statutes. Count Two charged Respondent with domestic battery for knowingly and without justification causing contact of an insulting or provoking nature with his daughter, in violation of Chapter 720, Section 5/12-3.2(a)(2) of the Illinois Compiled Statutes. The Cook County Clerk of Court assigned the matter case number 22DV7067601.

4. On September 6, 2022, Judge Megan Goldish presided over a bench trial concerning the allegations contained in the two-count complaint in case number 22DV7067601, described in paragraphs two and three, above. On that day, Judge Goldish heard all of the witness testimony in the case and received all of the admissible evidence from the parties, including pictures of Respondent's ex-wife's injuries. After receiving all of the evidence, Judge Goldish found Respondent guilty of Count One (domestic battery of Respondent's ex-wife) and not guilty of Count Two (domestic battery of Respondent's daughter).

5. On that same day, Judge Goldish entered judgment on her finding of guilty and sentenced Respondent to 18 months of conditional discharge, with a scheduled termination date of March 6, 2024. As part of his sentence, Judge Goldish ordered that Respondent pay fines and costs in the amount of \$514 and complete domestic violence counseling as ordered by the probation department.

6. Judge Goldish further entered an 18-month order of protection against Respondent in favor of Respondent's ex-wife and daughter, scheduled to terminate on March 5, 2024. Among

other conditions, that order of protection prohibited Respondent from physically abusing or harassing his ex-wife and daughter, and required him to stay away from his ex-wife and daughter.

7. By March 6, 2024, Respondent had completed all requirements of his conditional discharge, and Judge Goldish terminated his conditional discharge satisfactorily. On the same date, Judge Goldish terminated the order of protection described in paragraph six, above.

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

- a. committing a criminal act that reflects adversely on his fitness as a lawyer, by conduct including knowingly and without justification causing contact of a insulting or provoking nature to his ex-wife, in violation of Chapter 720, Section 5/12-3(a)(2) of the Illinois Compiled Statutes, in violation of Rule 8.4(b) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010).

WHEREFORE, the Administrator 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/ Richard Gleason  
Richard Gleason

Richard Gleason  
Counsel for the Administrator  
130 East Randolph Drive, Suite 1500  
Chicago, Illinois 60601  
Telephone: (312) 565-2600  
Email: [rgleason@iadc.org](mailto:rgleason@iadc.org)  
Email: [ARDCeService@iadc.org](mailto:ARDCeService@iadc.org)