

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

In the Matter of:)	
)	
JASON LAWRENCE SPANGEHL,)	Commission No. 2024PR00074
Attorney-Respondent,)	
)	
No. 6304053.)	

COMPLAINT

Lea S. Gutierrez, Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission, by her attorney, Tammy L. Evans, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 753(b), complains of Respondent, Jason Lawrence Spangehl, who was licensed to practice law in Illinois on November 4, 2010, and alleges that Respondent has engaged in the following conduct which subjects him to discipline pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 770:

COUNT I

(Dishonesty and Lack of Diligence)

1. On or about June 6, 2023, Respondent and L.B. agreed that Respondent would represent L.B. and file a petition for alien relatives (Form I-130) for L.B.'s husband and his children in Jamaica. Respondent and L.B. agreed that L.B. would pay a flat fee of \$5,000.

2. Between June 6, 2023 and November 14, 2023, L.B. paid Respondent \$3,500 toward the balance of the \$5,000 flat fee and gave him a check in the amount of \$2,140 that was made payable to the Department of Homeland Security for the Form I-130 filing fee. L.B. also provided Respondent with pictures of her wedding and other documentation of her marriage.

3. On or about November 3, 2023, L.B. met with Respondent in his law office and signed the Form I-130.

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4. On or about November 8, 2023, Respondent told L.B. that he had filed the Form I-130.

5. Respondent's statement to L.B. that he had filed the Form I-130 was false because he had not filed it.

6. Respondent knew at the time that he made the statement to L.B. that he had filed the Form I-130 that it was false.

7. Between November 8, 2023 and December 15, 2023, L.B. contacted Respondent numerous times to request the tracking number for the Form I-130 that Respondent had purportedly filed for her husband and his children, and receipts for the \$3,500 that she paid him.

8. At no time did Respondent provide L.B. with receipts for the \$3,500 that she paid him or tracking numbers for the Form I-130 that he told L.B. he had filed for her husband and his children.

9. On December 1, 2023, Respondent was removed from the roll of attorneys for failing to comply with this Court's minimum continuing legal education ("MCLE") requirements.

10. On December 15, 2023, Respondent called L.B. and told her that he had not filed the Form I-130 and that he was no longer authorized to practice law.

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

- a. failing to act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client, by conduct including failing to file the Form I-130 for L.B.'s husband and his children, in violation of Rule 1.3 of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010);

- b. failing to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information, by conduct including failing to respond to L.B.'s requests for receipts for the \$3,500 that she had paid to Respondent, and failing to inform L.B. that he had not filed the Form I-130 for her husband and his children, in violation of Rule 1.4(a)(4) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010); and
- c. engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation by conduct including knowingly making the false statement to L.B. that he had filed the Form I-130 for her husband and his children when Respondent knew that he had not filed the Form I-130, in violation of Rule 8.4(c) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010).

COUNT II

(Making a False Statement About the Integrity of a Judge)

12. On or about January 29, 2024, after reading an article in the January 2024 Illinois Bar Journal in which Judge Ramona Sullivan discussed limited scope representation, Respondent made a post to his Facebook page about Judge Sullivan that stated, in part, the following:

“Judge Ramona Sullivan of the Urbana Illinois Circuit Court is a traitor to the Constitution of the United States and should be immediately disbarred. Allowing fetid scum like this to remain on the bench undermines the very principles of [j]ustice in this state. No single lawyer has done more to damage the integrity of the legal profession in Illinois than this sorry excuse for a lawyer, except maybe this scumbag [J.F.] I used to work for, but that’s another story.”

13. Respondent’s statement in paragraph 12, above, was false or he made it with reckless disregard to its truth or falsity because Judge Sullivan is not a traitor to the Constitution of the United States.

14. Respondent knew at the time he made the statement in paragraph 12, above, that it was false or made with reckless disregard as to its truth or falsity.

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

- a. making a statement that the lawyer knows to be false or with reckless disregard as to its truth or falsity concerning the qualifications or integrity of a judge, by conduct including making the post described in paragraph 12, above, to his Facebook page, in violation of Rule 8.2(a) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010); and
- b. conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation by conduct including making the false statement described in paragraph 12, above, in violation of Rule 8.4(c) 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/ Tammy L. Evans
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