

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

In the Matter of:

ROBERT SALVATORE REDA,

Attorney-Respondent,

No. 6199867.

Commission No. 2026PR00013

COMPLAINT

Lea S. Gutierrez, Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission, by her attorney, M. Katherine Boychuk, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 753(b), complains of Respondent, Robert Salvatore Reda, who was licensed to practice law in Illinois on February 7, 1989, and alleges Respondent has engaged in the following conduct, which subjects him to discipline pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 770:

COUNT I

(Commission of a Criminal Act – Disorderly Conduct)

1. At all times alleged in this complaint, there was in effect a criminal statute in Illinois, Chapter 720 Section 5/26-1(a)(1), entitled “disorderly conduct,” which made it a Class C misdemeanor offense for a person to knowingly commit any act in such unreasonable manner as to alarm or disturb another and to provoke a breach of the peace.

2. At all times alleged in this complaint, there was in effect a criminal statute in Illinois, Chapter 720 Section 5/12-3(a)(2), entitled “battery,” which made it a Class A misdemeanor offense for a person to knowingly and without legal justification make physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature with an individual.

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3. On May 19, 2019, Respondent was at a restaurant in downtown Lake Forest having dinner and drinking alcohol. When he was finished, he left the restaurant on foot. He saw two individuals, an eighteen-year-old with the initials A.M., and a seventeen-year-old with the initials G.L., skateboarding in the street on Bank Lane. Respondent called out to them, telling them that they should not skateboard in the street. The skateboarders yelled back at Respondent.

4. Respondent approached the skateboarders, and a verbal altercation ensued. Respondent then physically approached A.M. and headbutted him. Respondent then left the area.

5. On June 6, 2019, the Lake County State's Attorney filed a two-count criminal information against Respondent. Count One of the information charged Respondent with battery for knowingly and without legal justification causing bodily harm to A.M., by striking A.M. about the head, in violation of Chapter 720, Section 5/12-3(a)(1). Count Two of the information charged Respondent with battery for knowingly and without legal justification making contact of an insulting or provoking nature with A.M., by striking A.M. about the head, in violation of Chapter 720, Section 5/12-3(a)(2). An arrest warrant was issued the same day and bond set in the amount of \$30,000.

6. On June 7, 2019, a Lake Forest police officer arrested Respondent and notified him of a court date of June 28, 2019. Respondent posted bond and was released from custody. On June 28, 2019, Respondent appeared in court, represented by counsel, was arraigned, and pled not guilty to the charges.

7. On July 26, 2021, pursuant to a negotiated agreement, Respondent pled guilty to a reduced charge of disorderly conduct. Judge Theodore Potkonjak sentenced Respondent to a term of 12 months of supervision, subject to conditions. Those conditions included that Respondent not

have any contact with A.M., complete anger management treatment, and undergo substance abuse evaluation and treatment.

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 honesty, trustworthiness, or fitness as a lawyer, by conduct including committing the criminal offense of disorderly conduct, in violation of 720 ILCS 5/26-1(a)(1), in violation of Rule 8.4(b) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010).

COUNT II

(Commission of a Criminal Act – Disorderly Conduct)

9. At all times alleged in this complaint, there was in effect a criminal statute in Illinois, Chapter 720 Section 5/26-1(a)(1), entitled “disorderly conduct,” which made it a Class C misdemeanor offense for a person to knowingly commit any act in such unreasonable manner as to alarm or disturb another and to provoke a breach of the peace.

10. At all times alleged in this complaint, there was in effect a criminal statute in Illinois, Chapter 720 Section 5/12-3(a)(2), entitled “battery,” which made it a Class A misdemeanor offense for a person to knowingly and without legal justification make physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature with an individual.

11. On August 27, 2023, Respondent was at a restaurant in downtown Lake Forest, where he consumed alcohol. At the restaurant, Respondent heard that an unhoused individual was living in a tent in a wooded area several blocks away.

12. Respondent left the restaurant and walked to the wooded area near the intersection of Wisconsin Avenue and Oakwood Avenue. He went into the wooded area, discovered a tent, then dragged the tent out of the area and into the street. An unhoused man with the initials “C.K.”

was inside the tent when Respondent began dragging it out of the wooded area. Respondent then dragged the tent down the street. He also threw items belonging to C.K., including a backpack, into the street.

13. A witness to the incident, who was driving nearby in a convertible, stopped his car and called the police. While on the phone with the police, Respondent walked toward the witness's car and yelled at the witness, asking him "what's your problem?" and "what's wrong with you?" and calling him a "pussy." Respondent's actions caused the witness to fear for his safety.

14. Respondent left the area and walked in the direction of the restaurant. On his way back to the restaurant, a Lake Forest police officer stopped Respondent and attempted to interview him. Respondent told the officer that he did not know what he was being stopped for and that he was going to walk away. After being notified that he was being detained and was not free to leave, Respondent falsely denied that he had been on the corner of Oakwood Avenue and Wisconsin Avenue, and falsely claimed that he was not aware of anyone throwing belongings out of the wooded area. The police officer did not further detain Respondent.

15. Respondent's August 27, 2023 statements to the police officer that he had not been on the corner of Oakwood Avenue and Wisconsin Avenue, and that he was not aware of anyone throwing belongings out of the wooded area, were false, because Respondent had been on and near the corner of Oakwood Avenue and Wisconsin Avenue, and because Respondent had thrown belongings out of the wooded area.

16. Respondent knew that his August 27, 2023 statements to the police officer were false, because he himself had had been on and near the corner of Oakwood Avenue and Wisconsin Avenue, and because he himself had thrown belongings out of the wooded area.

17. Later that evening, at approximately 11:35 p.m., the police officer went to Respondent's residence. There, the police officer issued Respondent a City of Lake Forest citation for disorderly conduct, which contained a notification that an administrative hearing concerning the charge had been set for September 14, 2023.

18. On September 11, 2023, the Lake County State's Attorney's Office issued two non-traffic citations for two counts of disorderly conduct to Respondent, both containing notice of a court date of October 6, 2023, in the Circuit Court of Lake County. The first citation alleged that Respondent committed the offense of disorderly conduct by alarming and disturbing the witness while destroying a homeless encampment, and by calling the witness a "pussy" and advancing toward his vehicle while he was calling 911, in violation of Chapter 720, Section 5/26-1(a)(1). The second citation alleged that Respondent committed the offense of disorderly conduct by alarming and disturbing the witness by pulling C.K. into the street while C.K. was inside the tent, and throwing C.K.'s belongings into the street which the witness observed. The matter was docketed as *People of the State of Illinois v. Robert S. Reda*, No. 23CM00001394 and assigned to the Hon. James K. Simonian.

19. A Lake Forest police officer served the citations, described in paragraph 18, above, on Respondent on September 11, 2023. On that date, the City of Lake Forest voided the municipal citation referred to in paragraph 17, above, and vacated the hearing date of September 14, 2023.

20. On October 6, 2023, the Lake County State's Attorney filed a three-count criminal information against Respondent, superseding the two citations referred to in paragraph 18, above. Count One of the information charged Respondent with disorderly conduct for knowingly dragging C.K. in his tent in such an unreasonable manner as to alarm and disturb C.K., and provoke a breach of the peace, in violation of Chapter 720, Section 5/26-1(a)(1). Count Two of the

information charged Respondent with disorderly conduct for knowingly approaching the witness's vehicle in such an unreasonable manner as to alarm and disturb the witness, and provoke a breach of the peace, in violation of Chapter 720, Section 5/26-1(a)(1). Count Three of the information charged Respondent with battery for knowingly making physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature with C.K., in that he dragged C.K. while he occupied his tent, without lawful authority and without legal justification, in violation of Chapter 720, Section 5/12-3(a)(2). On October 6, 2023, Respondent appeared in court, represented by counsel, was arraigned, and pled not guilty to the charges.

21. On April 30, 2025, pursuant to a negotiated agreement, Respondent pled guilty to Count One of the information, which had charged him with disorderly conduct for knowingly dragging C.K. in his tent in such an unreasonable manner as to alarm and disturb C.K., and provoke a breach of the peace. In exchange for Respondent's plea of guilty to Count One, the Lake County State's Attorney dismissed Counts Two and Three. Judge Simonian sentenced Respondent to a term of 12 months of supervision, subject to conditions. Those conditions included that Respondent refrain from consuming or possessing alcohol, that Respondent perform 50 hours of community service, that Respondent complete a substance abuse evaluation, and that Respondent complete alcohol and anger management treatment.

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

- a. committing a criminal act that reflects adversely on his honesty, trustworthiness, or fitness as a lawyer, by conduct including committing the criminal offense of disorderly conduct, in violation of 720 ILCS 5/26-1(a)(1), 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/ M. Katherine Boychuk
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