

COURTS COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

Shelley M. Bush

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & GENERAL COUNSEL, ILLINOIS COURTS COMMISSION

In re WILLIAM B. RAINES)
Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County,) No. 22 - CC - 02
State of Illinois)
)

COMPLAINT

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15(c) of Article VI of the Constitution of the State of Illinois, the Illinois Judicial Inquiry Board ("Board") complains against Judge William B. Raines, Circuit Court, Cook County, ("Respondent"), and charges Respondent with conduct that was prejudicial to the administration of justice and that brought the judicial office into disrepute.

SUMMARY OF ALLEGATIONS

Respondent, William B. Raines, is a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois. As further described in this Complaint, Respondent made derogatory, injudicious, and demeaning statements about two attorneys while being livestreamed on the bench.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

- 1. Respondent has been a Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County since 2014.
2. On January 11, 2022, Respondent presided over the post-conviction proceeding in the matter of the People of the State of Illinois v. Roosevelt Myles, 93CR01003/01 via livestream video. Attorneys Jennifer Bonjean and Samuel Kennedy represented the Petitioner Roosevelt Myles in that proceeding.
3. After court was adjourned, Respondent, while still on the bench, mistakenly believed that the livestream had ended and initiated a conversation with Assistant State's Attorney Anna Sedelmeier, Assistant State's Attorney Susie Bucaro, and Assistant Public

Defender Kyle Lappin. Through the course of that conversation, Attorney Jennifer Bonjean and Attorney Samuel Kennedy were mocked and ridiculed by Respondent.

4. During that conversation, Respondent, referring to Ms. Bonjean, stated: “Did you see her going nuts? Glasses off, fingers through her hair, the phone’s going all over the place. It’s insane.” Respondent further related that Ms. Bonjean’s behavior “was entertaining” for him and inquired: “Can you imagine waking up to her every day? Oh my God.”

5. During the conversation, Attorney Samuel Kennedy was also mocked and ridiculed. When a question was raised regarding who Attorney Samuel Kennedy was, Respondent stated: “That’s her man child.”

VIOLATIONS

6. The Board incorporates paragraphs 1-5 above.

7. Respondent made derogatory, injudicious, and demeaning statements about Attorney Jennifer Bonjean and Attorney Samuel Kennedy while being livestreamed on the bench.

8. In doing so, Respondent violated the Code of Judicial Conduct, Illinois Supreme Court Rule 61, Canon 1, which provides:

A Judge Should Uphold the Integrity and Independence of the Judiciary

An independent and honorable judiciary is indispensable to justice in our society. A judge should participate in establishing, maintaining, and enforcing, and should personally observe, high standards of conduct so that the integrity and independence of the judiciary may be preserved. The provisions of this Code should be construed and applied to further that objective.

9. Through this conduct Respondent also violated the Code of Judicial Conduct, Illinois Supreme Court Rule 62, Canon 2, which provides:

A Judge Should Avoid Impropriety and the Appearance of Impropriety in All of the Judge's Activities

(A) A judge should respect and comply with the law and should conduct himself or herself at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary.

10. Through this conduct, Respondent also violated the Code of Judicial Conduct, Illinois Supreme Court Rule 63, Canon 3, which provides in pertinent part:

A Judge Should Perform the Duties of Judicial Office Impartially and Diligently

(A)(2) A judge should maintain order and decorum in the proceedings before the judge.

11. Through this conduct, Respondent also violated the Code of Judicial Conduct, Illinois Supreme Court Rule 63, Canon 3, which provides in pertinent part:

A Judge Should Perform the Duties of Judicial Office Impartially and Diligently

(A)(3) A judge should be patient, dignified, and courteous to litigants, jurors, witnesses, lawyers, and others with whom the judge deals in an official capacity, and should require similar conduct of lawyers, and of staff, court officials, and others subject to the judge's direction and control.

12. Through this conduct, Respondent also violated the Code of Judicial Conduct, Illinois Supreme Court Rule 63, Canon 3, which provides in pertinent part:

A Judge Should Perform the Duties of judicial Office Impartially and Diligently

(A)(9) A judge shall perform judicial duties without bias or prejudice. A judge shall not, in the performance of judicial duties, by words or conduct manifest bias or prejudice, including but not limited to bias or prejudice based upon race, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation or socioeconomic status, and shall not permit staff, court officials and others subject to the judge's direction and control do so.


PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Judicial Inquiry Board, charging that the above-described conduct of Respondent constitutes conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice and conduct that brings the judicial office into disrepute, prays that the Illinois Courts Commission, after notice of public hearing, make such order in accordance with Section 15 of Article VI of the Illinois Constitution as the Commission may deem appropriate. Respondent has the right to file responsive pleadings to the charges twenty-one (21) days after service of notice of this complaint

Dated: June 17, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

JUDICIAL INQUIRY BOARD
OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

By: 
One of its attorneys

Michael Deno
Judicial Inquiry Board
555 W. Monroe
Chicago, Illinois 60661
(312) 814-5514
(312) 814-5719 (fax)