

(No. 09 CC 1. - Respondent reprimanded.)

In re CIRCUIT JUDGE SHEILA M. McGINNIS
of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Respondent.

Order entered November 18, 2009

SYLLABUS

On June 3, 2009, the Judicial Inquiry Board filed a complaint with the Courts Commission, charging respondent with conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice and conduct that brings the judicial office into disrepute in violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct, Illinois Supreme Court Rules 61 and 62. In summary form, the complaint alleged that on May 9, 2008, respondent drove a car while under the influence of alcohol and rear-ended a vehicle at a stoplight. The traffic accident resulted in damage to the other motorist's vehicle. An officer detected alcohol on respondent's breath. Respondent declined to take a field sobriety test. Respondent was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol, to which she later pled guilty.

Held: Respondent reprimanded.

Sidley Austin LLP, of Chicago, for Judicial Inquiry Board.
William J. Harte, LTD., of Chicago, for respondent.

Before the COURTS COMMISSION: KILBRIDE, Chairman, CRESWELL, FRANKS, HARRISON, HUTCHINSON and WOLFF, commissioners. ALL CONCUR. McDADE, commissioner, did not participate in the final disposition of this matter.

ORDER

In a complaint filed on June 3, 2009, the Judicial Inquiry Board charged respondent, Sheila M. McGinnis, a Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County, with "conduct that was prejudicial to the administration of justice and conduct that brought the judicial office into disrepute" in violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct, Illinois Supreme Court Rules 61 and 62(a). In support of the charge, the complaint stated that on May 9, 2008, respondent drove a car while under the influence of alcohol and was involved in an accident that resulted in damage to the other vehicle.

On October 30, 2009, the parties' filed a Stipulation and Joint Recommendation and respondent stipulated to and admitted each of the allegations of fact and each of the alleged violations of the Code of Judicial Conduct as stated in the complaint. Based upon respondent's stipulation, the parties tendered a joint recommendation that the Illinois Courts Commission discipline respondent with a reprimand. Respondent also filed documents in support of the recommendation, noting respondent completed risk education and early intervention classes and attended a victim impact panel. It was further noted that respondent has never had any disciplinary action imposed by any jurisdiction relating to the conduct at issue.

Having considered the parties' Stipulation and Joint Recommendation, along with respondent's supporting documents, the Illinois Courts Commission being fully advised in the premises;

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby ordered that the Stipulation and Joint Recommendation filed in this cause is adopted. It is further ordered that respondent is reprimanded.

Respondent reprimanded.