

(No. 01 CC 3. - Respondent reprimanded.)

In re CIRCUIT JUDGE WILLIAM G. SCHWARTZ
of the Circuit Court of Jackson County, Respondent.

Order entered November 30, 2001

SYLLABUS

On February 9, 2001, 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, immediately following his stepson's denial of admission to the Southern Illinois University School of Law, respondent banned all law students from appearing in his courtroom pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 711, which permits specified law students to render client services, including appearing in trial courts. The complaint indicated that the only law students affected by this ban were students at the aforementioned law school. The complaint further alleged that respondent's prohibition on 711 students in his courtroom was in retaliation for the rejection of his stepson's application to the law school, or created the appearance that it was in retaliation for the rejection for his stepson's application.

Held: Respondent reprimanded.

Sidley Austin Brown & Wood, of Chicago, for Judicial Inquiry Board.
Tabet DiVito & Rothstein LLC., of Chicago, for respondent.

Before the COURTS COMMISSION: McMORROW, Chairperson, BUCKLEY, CARR, JR., FUNDERBURK, KNECHT, LOUSIN, and WOLFF, commissioners. ALL CONCUR.

ORDER

This cause coming to be heard on the parties' Stipulation of Facts and Joint Recommendation and on respondent, Judge William G. Schwartz's Submission in Support of the Joint Recommendation of Reprimand, which were filed in this matter on November 2, 2001, and the respondent, having agreed in open court to the truth of the facts as stated in the stipulation and having further agreed that he entered into the stipulation and recommendation freely and voluntarily and with full knowledge of the facts and statements contained therein;

and the Illinois Courts Commission being fully advised in the premises;

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby ordered that the Stipulation of Facts, the Joint Recommendation and Judge Schwartz's Submission in Support of the Joint Recommendation of Reprimand filed in this cause are adopted. It is further ordered that the respondent is reprimanded.

Respondent reprimanded.