

(No. 99 CC 3. - Respondent suspended.)

In re ASSOCIATE JUDGE LAMBROS J. KUTRUBIS
of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Respondent.

Order entered August 29, 2002

SYLLABUS

On October 26, 1999, the Judicial Inquiry Board filed a complaint, later amended, 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, 62, 63, 66 and 68. In summary form, the complaint alleged that respondent forged the signature of a former friend on twenty federal and state income tax returns for himself and entities in which he and/or his wife had a beneficial interest. In so doing, respondent falsely certified under penalty of perjury that his former friend had been paid to prepare, and did prepare, respondent's tax returns. The complaint also alleged that respondent failed to disqualify himself from adjudicating two cases: (1) a case against his girlfriend's daughter, who was charged with a municipal violation for gambling; and (2) a municipal violation case involving gambling against his friend and business partner. The complaint further alleged that respondent knowingly failed to disclose on his 1991, 1992, 1996 1997 and 1998 Judicial Statements the following information: (1) a loan he and his wife received from his wife's personal friend in the amount of \$14,000; (2) that he had been sued in an action relating to his ownership of a condominium; and (3) that he had been sued in two actions under the Illinois Liquor Control Act.

As a final matter, the amended complaint alleged that respondent engaged in an *ex parte* communication with a circuit court judge and attempted to use his judicial position to obtain an outcome-influencing continuance in a case involving respondent that had been marked "final" for trial.

Held: Respondent suspended.

Sidley & Austin, of Chicago, for Judicial Inquiry Board.
Collins & Bargione, of Chicago, for respondent.

Before the COURTS COMMISSION: McMORROW, Chairperson, BUCKLEY, CARR, JR., LAWRENCE, SLATER, WALTER 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 Lambros J. Kutrubis' Submission in Support of the Joint Recommendation, which were filed in this matter on August 29, 2002, 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 Kutrubis' Submission in Support of the Joint Recommendation filed in this cause are adopted. The respondent is therefore suspended from office for six months without compensation effective September 1, 2002.

Respondent suspended.