

(No. 07 CC 2. - Respondent reprimanded.)

In re CIRCUIT JUDGE PATRICK YOUNG
of the Circuit Court of the Twentieth Judicial Circuit, Respondent.

Order entered December 20, 2007

SYLLABUS

On October 2, 2007, 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 December 3, 2006, respondent was involved in a collision with another motorist which resulted in injury to the other motorist and damage to that motorist's vehicle. Officers detected alcohol on respondent's breath and respondent appeared unstable after refusing to submit to a field sobriety test. Respondent was charged with driving a car while under the influence of alcohol, to which he was found guilty.

Held: Respondent reprimanded.

Sidley Austin LLP, of Chicago, for Judicial Inquiry Board.
The Kuehn Law Firm, of Belleville, for respondent.

Before the COURTS COMMISSION: FITZGERALD, Chairperson, CRESWELL, FRANKS, McBRIDE, McDADE, TOOMIN and WOLFF, commissioners. ALL CONCUR.

ORDER

In a Complaint filed on October 2, 2007, the Judicial Inquiry Board charged Respondent, Patrick Young, a circuit judge of the Twentieth Judicial Circuit, with "conduct that was prejudicial to the administration of justice and 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 December 3, 2006, Respondent drove a car while under the influence of alcohol and was involved in an accident in which the driver of another car sustained injuries.

On December 17, 2007, the parties' filed a Stipulation and Joint Recommendation wherein 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 a Submission of Facts in Support of the Joint Stipulation and Recommendation of Reprimand wherein it was noted that Respondent has been a judicial officer for eleven years and has never before been the subject of any judicial disciplinary proceeding. It was further noted that Respondent maintains an excellent reputation in the legal community as evidenced by his extremely high ratings in the Illinois Bar Association Poll since being elected in 1999, 2003 and 2006.

Having considered the parties' Stipulation and Joint Recommendation, along with Respondent's Submission of Facts, 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 are adopted. It is further ordered that respondent is reprimanded.

Respondent reprimanded.