

(No. 99 CC 2. - Respondent reprimanded.)

In re CIRCUIT JUDGE CYNTHIA RACCUGLIA
of the Circuit Court of LaSalle County, Respondent.

Order entered October 9, 2001

SYLLABUS

On June 29, 1999, 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, in the early morning of September 6, 1998, a police officer observed respondent's automobile and another automobile stopped in the middle of the road. The individuals in the other automobile advised the officer that they had just pulled respondent's automobile out of a ditch into which respondent had driven her car. After respondent left the scene in her automobile, the officer followed respondent and observed the following behavior by respondent: weaving from side to side; drifting off the side of the road and then back onto it again; and driving down the train tracks. The officer then stopped respondent, who was stumbling when she exited her automobile. The officer detected a strong odor of alcohol on respondent's breath and observed that she could not keep her balance, that her eyes were glassy, and that she was slurring her words. The complaint indicated that, when asked by the officer whether she had been drinking alcohol, respondent lied to the officer. Respondent then failed several field sobriety tests and refused to take a Breathalyzer test. The complaint further alleged that respondent repeatedly asked the officer if he knew who she was in an effort to use her judicial office to influence him not to charge her with a traffic violation. Respondent was taken into custody and issued a citation for operating a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol.

Held: Respondent reprimanded.

Sidley Austin Brown & Wood, of Chicago, for Judicial Inquiry Board.
Katz Randall & Weinberg, of Chicago, for respondent.
Anthony C. Raccuglia & Associates, of Peru, for respondent.

Before the COURTS COMMISSION: McMORROW, Chairperson, BUCKLEY, FUNDERBURK, KNECHT, LAWRENCE, WALTER, and WOLFF, commissioners. ALL CONCUR.

ORDER

This cause coming to be heard on the parties' Stipulation of Facts and Joint Recommendation, which were filed in this matter on September 7, 2001, and the respondent, Judge Cynthia Raccuglia, having agreed in open court to the truth of the facts as stated in the stipulation, and having further agreed that she 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 and the Joint Recommendation filed in this cause are adopted. It is further ordered that the respondent is reprimanded.

Respondent reprimanded.