



ATTORNEY REGISTRATION AND DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION
of the
SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS

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Springfield, IL 62704
(217) 546-3523 (800) 252-8048
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Robert Thomas Hanlon
robert@robhanlonlaw.com
statesattorney@shelbycounty-il.gov

Springfield
March 25, 2024

Re: Robert Thomas Hanlon
in relation to
Christopher Boehm
No. 2024IN00917

Dear Mr. Hanlon:

We have received a communication regarding your conduct from Christopher Boehm. A copy is attached. It is our policy to consider all communications we receive regarding attorneys who practice law in Illinois.

To assist us in determining whether any further action is warranted, please send me a written response within fourteen days setting forth the material facts relating to the matters raised in the attached communication. Include copies of any relevant documents. A copy of your response may be sent to Mr. Boehm for comment.

You may submit your response by email to klowry@iadc.org. If you choose to respond by regular mail, please do not staple or bind your response and do not use exhibit tabs.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Very truly yours,

/s/ David B. Collins
David B. Collins
Counsel
ARDC Litigation Division

DBC:kl
Attachment

From: Christopher Boehm <christopherjboehm80@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, March 8, 2024 2:50 PM

To: ARDC Information <l@iardc.org>

Subject: Complaint against Robert T. Hanlon

To whom it may concern:

I am attaching the complaint form and documentation for a complaint against Shelby County State's Attorney Robert T. Hanlon. Please let me know if you need any further information.

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Boehm



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COMPLAINT FORM

Use this form to file a complaint about:

- 1) an Illinois lawyer;
- 2) a non-Illinois lawyer who has provided legal services in Illinois; or
- 3) a non-lawyer who you are claiming has engaged in the unauthorized practice of law in Illinois.

Return the completed form by e-mail, mail or facsimile to:

ARDC
130 E. Randolph Dr., Ste. 1500
Chicago, IL 60601-6219
Phone: (312) 565-2600 or (800) 826-8625
Fax: (312) 565-2320
Email: information@iardc.org

or

ARDC
3161 W. White Oaks Dr., Ste. 301
Springfield, IL 62704
Phone: (217) 546-3523 or (800) 252-8048
Fax: (217) 546-3785
Email: information@iardc.org

1. Your name: Christopher J Boehm
Street address: 1405 East 2200 N Rd
City: Findlay State: IL Zip: 62534
Home phone: 217-855-4320 Work phone: _____ Cell phone: _____
Email address: christopherjboehm80@gmail.com

2. Name of lawyer/person you want to be investigated: Robert T. Hanlon
Name of law firm or business: Shelby County State's Attorney
Street address: 301 E Main Street
City: Shelbyville State: IL Zip: 62565
Phone: 217-273-5291
Email address: statesattorney@shelbycounty-il.gov

3. Have you previously contacted the ARDC regarding this matter? Yes _____ No X
If yes, when and how did you contact us? _____

4. Did you employ the lawyer/person you are complaining about: Yes _____ No X

4a. If you answered yes to question 4:
When did the employment start? _____
What was the fee agreement? _____

How much have you paid the lawyer/person to date? _____

over

My name is Christopher Boehm, and I am writing to file a complaint against Shelby County State's Attorney Robert Hanlon. I believe on two separate occasions Mr. Hanlon violated Rule 4.3 "Dealing With Unrepresented Person" and on one occasion he violated Rule 3.8 "Special Responsibilities of a Prosecutor," in both cases, I was the unrepresented person.

On December 11th, 2023, I filed an election objection petition against candidate Peter Otis in Shelby County under the belief that Mr. Otis had not appropriately completed his paperwork to run for Circuit Clerk. SA Hanlon sat on the board hearing the objections – Mr. Otis's wife had signed Mr. Hanlon's petition for the Shelby County State's Attorney race, which I pointed out as one of the two major conflicts of interest in that hearing. At the start of the hearing, Mr. Hanlon put everyone that was speaking, both petitioners and objectors under oath. I later learned from the Shelby County Clerk, who has participated in a number of these hearings, that this was not conventional or common to that proceeding. At that point, the possibility of perjury was on the table. I'm not a lawyer, but I knew that much. I was not represented by a lawyer, and Mr. Hanlon began to ask questions about the production of my filed objection, not the merits of the objection itself.

For the petition hearing, Mr. Hanlon set himself up as a judge. I believed that position to be an impartial one, which I articulated in my testimony before that panel. My objection was based upon failure to maintain consistency in dates on pages for the petition and other procedural errors (my concern was that if the petitioner could not fill out his paperwork appropriately, then how could he possibly do the important job of Circuit Clerk appropriately). The questions which caused me to assert the 5th were about how the copies of my petition were made, which had nothing to do with the basis of my objection. At no point did Mr. Hanlon advise me of my right to counsel or right to remain silent before he started asking questions that were designed to make me incriminate myself. After he had extracted the answers that he wanted, only then did he bring up the 5th amendment, and only then as a question. "Are you asserting your 5th amendment?" He never advised me what those rights were. His former clients the Edgar County Watchdogs, then used the whole set up to write a negative article about me attacking my character in online print; they had already written an article about my petition before the hearing as well (I've attached PDF's of both articles). Mr. Hanlon had already written a negative blog post about me, as well as shouted at me in a county board committee meeting in July of last year. Mr. Hanlon has a close personal relationship with the ECWD, and I believe his blogpost and their articles were attempts to ruin my credibility in my own community.

At no point in this process did Mr. Hanlon make me aware of my right to have counsel present as he asked questions. Rule 4.3 states, "When the lawyer knows or reasonably should know that the unrepresented person misunderstands the lawyer's role in the matter, the lawyer shall make reasonable efforts to correct the misunderstanding." It was my understanding that we were at the hearing to discuss the merits of my objection to Mr. Otis's petition, but from the nature of Mr. Hanlon's questions, it seemed he had other motives. I refused to answer questions outside the scope of the hearing, and that is when Mr. Hanlon asked me if I was "taking the fifth?" Unaware of what the legal ramifications of my answers were, I concluded the best decision was not to say anything, as Mr. Hanlon has a personal grudge against me and my family. Mr. Hanlon did not make me aware of my right to counsel at the hearing. He knew I was not represented and was not a lawyer.

The statements he extracted from that petition hearing are now pertinent to a grand jury investigation of the supervisor of assessments in Shelby County, Deborah Dunaway. Ms. Dunaway is a member of the opposing political party to Mr. Hanlon. Further, the statements he extracted while purportedly acting as a neutral judge and without advising me of my rights were later used by him to have an order of "use

immunity” entered for the purpose of forcing me to testify in front of the grand jury, potentially exposing me to a meritless perjury charge (I am attaching the documents for that immunity order). The order was entered ex parte the day before I was scheduled to testify before the grand jury. He gave me no notice, and the subpoena I was served the weekend before the grand jury had no information regarding the case. He simply began to read the order after questioning had started in the grand jury room.

At no point did he inform me that I had a right to have a lawyer present at the grand jury to explain my rights to me, just as he had not informed me of that at the petition hearing. In fact, when I told him I wanted a lawyer present, his response was to advise me that I could be jailed for contempt. When I insisted upon my right to have counsel present, he told me to leave the jury room, and wait in the hall but not to leave the building. He then finished with his witnesses for the day and dismissed the jury. I waited under the belief that I could be jailed if I left the building. He never acknowledged my right to have counsel present, and he never informed me I could leave the building without facing legal consequence. I had to discover that I was free to leave from another courthouse official.

Mr. Hanlon has charged my mother with two felonies for being a Shelby County Board member and a Cemetery Trustee for her township – he used the grand jury to get both indictments. He has personally insulted me in print online and in public settings. He clearly has a personal grudge against me and my family, and I believe he tried to use the objection hearing to set a perjury trap for me, and then attempted the same thing with the grand jury hearing and the immunity order. I am requesting a review of these actions from the Shelby County State’s Attorney. I have attached articles from his former clients the Edgar County Watchdogs, from Mr. Hanlon’s personal blog attacking my character, and documents relating to the grand jury proceedings.