



ATTORNEY REGISTRATION AND DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION
of the
SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS

One Prudential Plaza
130 East Randolph Drive, Suite 1500
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6219
(312) 565-2600 (800) 826-8625
Fax (312) 565-2320

3161 West White Oaks Drive, Suite 301
Springfield, IL 62704
(217) 546-3523 (800) 252-8048
Fax (217) 546-3785

Robert Thomas Hanlon

Via Email: [REDACTED]

Chicago
July 11, 2024

Re: Robert Thomas Hanlon
in relation to
Christopher Boehm
No. 2024IN02409

Dear Mr. Hanlon:

We have received a communication regarding your conduct from Christopher Boehm. A copy is attached.

We have reviewed the communication and have determined that no action is warranted. We have so advised Mr. Boehm.

As you may know, our file in this matter is private and confidential.

Very truly yours,

[REDACTED]

Myrrha B. Guzman
Senior Counsel
ARDC Intake Division

MBG:kof
Attachment



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of the
SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS

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: **Chris Boehm**

Street address: [REDACTED]

City: **Findlay** State: **IL** Zip: **62534**

Home phone: Work phone: [REDACTED] Cell phone:

Email address: [REDACTED]

2. Name of lawyer/person you want to be investigated: **Robert T. Hanlon**

Name of law firm or business: **Former State's Attorney for Shelby County; Currently Netzke Olswang Law Group**

Street address: **(Based on ARDC Website) - 8605 West Bryn Mawr Suite 309**

City: **Chicago** State: **IL** Zip: **60631**

Phone: **(based on ARDC website) 312-622-7325**

Email address:

3. Have you previously contacted the ARDC regarding this matter? Yes No

If yes, when and how did you contact us?

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

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

4b. If you answered no to question 4 what is your connection to the lawyer/person?

Mr. Hanlon is the former State's Attorney for Shelby County.

5. If your request relates to a court case or other proceeding, please provide the following:

Name of court or agency:

Name of case:

Case number:

6. Please explain your complaint(s). Include important dates and names of witnesses and others involved. Use additional pages if necessary. Attach copies of documents that support your complaint, such as fee agreements, receipts, checks, letters and court papers.

During Mr. Hanlon's tenure, several events occurred which seem to be improper. Latest among these events was an apparently improper \$74,030 single payment directed by Mr. Hanlon to Ms. Denise Ambroziak, his First Assistant State's Attorney. This payment has decimated the budget for the current Shelby County State's Attorney, hampering the effective operation of that office.

Mr. Hanlon was the State's Attorney for Shelby County until he resigned in May 2024. (See attached newspaper article). On or about April 26, 2024, Mr. Hanlon entered into a "Separation of Employment Agreement" with Ms. Ambroziak. (See attached agreement). According to that agreement, Mr. Hanlon directed payment to Ms. Ambroziak in the amount of \$74,030 based on certain "guarantee[s]" made by Mr. Hanlon during "original negotiations for the hiring of employee," provisions of which negotiations formed "the original agreement between Employee and the State's Attorney." The agreement continues that, at the time of Mr. Hanlon's resignation, Ms. Ambroziak was on FMLA leave and that, during such leave her termination was unlawful. Nonetheless, according to the agreement, Ms. Ambroziak's termination was required because "the resignation of the State's Attorney automatically serves to sever the appointment of [Ms. Ambroziak] as the First Assistant State's Attorney." Accordingly, Mr. Hanlon authorized payment to Ms. Ambroziak in the amount of \$74,030, which sum was paid.

According to responses to FOIA requests, there was no employment contract between the Shelby County State's Attorney's Office and Ms. Ambroziak, who was apparently an "at-will" employee entitled to no guaranteed payments upon separation. The county board did not approve the payment or the agreement. Moreover, I am not aware of any information indicating that Ms. Ambroziak was on FMLA leave on the date of Mr. Hanlon's resignation. Finally, I have found no authority for Mr. Hanlon's assertion that his resignation required termination of Ms. Ambroziak's employment. Instead, based on the information available, it seems that Mr. Hanlon directed this payment, and Ms. Ambroziak accepted the payment, without any lawful authority or purpose. Mr. Hanlon's payment, and Ms. Ambroziak's acceptance thereof potentially violated 720 ILCS 5/33-3 (Official Misconduct) and potentially violated 720 ILCS 5/33-1 (Bribery).

Mr. Hanlon's and Ms. Ambroziak's conduct potentially constitutes a criminal act reflecting adversely on his and her honesty, trustworthiness, or fitness as a lawyer and involves dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

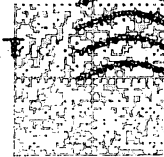
7-1-24

Chris Boehm
1405 E. 2200 North Road
Findlay, IL 62534

SPRINGFIELD IL 627

01 JUL 2024 PM

FIRST CLASS



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JUL 01 2024

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Springfield, IL 62704

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