

**BEFORE THE HEARING BOARD
OF THE
ILLINOIS ATTORNEY REGISTRATION
AND
DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION**

In the Matter of:

CHARLES W. DOBRA, Administrator's No. 92 CH 292

Attorney-Respondent,

No. 647039.

REPRIMAND

1. The Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission, by its Hearing Board, the members thereof whose names are affixed hereto, administer this reprimand to Charles W. Dobra, an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Illinois on April 28, 1975.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

1. Respondent, Charles W. Dobra, was licensed to practice law in Illinois on April 28, 1975, and there are no prior disciplinary proceedings against him.

2. On May 29, 1992, the Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission filed a one-count complaint against Respondent. The gravamen of the complaint was that Respondent did not conduct formal discovery or properly protect his client by not extending the time in which to conduct discovery in a pending litigation matter, and the Respondent did not properly withdraw from that litigation matter involving the client.

3. The Administrator and Respondent have entered into a stipulation. The panel adopts that stipulation, and a copy of the stipulation is attached to this reprimand.

4. The Panel agrees with the Administrator and with Respondent that, based upon the uncontested facts described in the stipulation, a reprimand is the appropriate discipline herein.

5. The Panel has considered as mitigating factors Respondent's seventeen (17) years of law practice without prior discipline, Respondent's lengthy service in the United States Naval Reserve, Judge Advocate Corps, and Respondent's reputation for truthfulness and veracity in the local legal community. Respondent has also expressed remorse about his conduct and the stipulated testimony of opposing and successor counsel suggests that no prejudice attached to the client as a result of Respondent's conduct.

6. The purpose of disciplinary proceedings is to determine whether professional misconduct has occurred and what sanction should be imposed. Sanctions are imposed not to punish an attorney, but to protect the public and to maintain the integrity and reputation of the Bar, to protect the courts and the administration of justice from reproach, and to deter the respondent herein and

other attorneys from misconduct. See, e.g. In re Levin, 101 Ill.2d 535, 463 N.E.2d 715 (1984); In re Lamberis, 93 Ill. 2d 222, 443 N.E.2d 549 (1982).

7. In considering sanctions to be imposed, we have considered the general principle that lawyers should make every reasonable effort to zealously represent their clients by conducting appropriate discovery and to protect their client's interests by timely and properly withdrawing from a matter where warranted. We have also considered Rule 1.1(a) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct, which states that a lawyer shall provide competent representation to a client. Competent representation requires the legal knowledge, skill, thoroughness and preparation necessary for the representation. We have finally considered the American Bar Association Standards for Imposing Lawyer Discipline.

8. In view of the matters set forth above, the Panel has determined that the appropriate sanction in this instance is a reprimand.

REPRIMAND

To: Charles W. Dobra

1. Your conduct in this matter was not proper and you are therefore reprimanded and admonished not to repeat the conduct which resulted in the imposition of this discipline.

2. You are further advised that while this reprimand is not formally presented to the Illinois Supreme Court, it is a matter of record and is not to be taken lightly. This reprimand is a matter of public record and is on file with the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission and may be admitted into evidence in subsequent disciplinary proceedings relating to you.

3. Because reprimands are now public, it is the hope and desire of the below named Panel that this reprimand will not only discourage you, but all other attorneys, from engaging in the same or similar conduct in the future.

S/(Charles T. Beckman, Chair, for the entire Panel)

DATE ENTERED: March 16, 1993

Charles T. Beckman, Chair of the Panel, hereby certifies that he consulted with panel members Joseph Polito and Ernest Summers, III prior to entering this Reprimand and further certifies that all Panel members concur in the entry of this Reprimand.