

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

In the Matter of:

JAVARON DARNELL BUCKLEY,

Attorney-Respondent,

No. 6326645.

Commission No. 2023PR00037

COMPLAINT

Jerome Larkin, Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission, by his attorney, Michael Rusch, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 761(d), complains of Respondent, Javaron Darnell Buckley, who was licensed to practice law in Illinois on November 9, 2017, and alleges that Respondent has engaged in the following conduct, which subjects him to discipline pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 770:

*Criminal Conviction for Providing Alcohol to a Minor and Renting a Hotel Room for Liquor Consumption by a Minor*

1. At all times alleged in this complaint, there was in effect a criminal statute in Illinois, Chapter 235, Section 5/6-16(a)(iii) of the Illinois Compiled Statutes, which made it a misdemeanor offense to purchase or otherwise obtain alcoholic liquor and sell, give, or deliver the alcoholic liquor to a person under 21 years of age, unless in the performance of a religious ceremony or service.

2. At all times alleged in this complaint, there was in effect a criminal statute in Illinois, Chapter 235, Section 5/6-16(d) of the Illinois Compiled Statutes, which made it a misdemeanor offense to rent a hotel or motel room from the proprietor or agent thereof for the

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purpose of or with the knowledge that such room shall be used for the consumption of alcoholic liquor by a person under 21 years of age.

3. In December 2019, M.W., who was 17 years of age at the time, attended court at the McHenry County Courthouse with her mother.

4. Respondent, who was 35 years of age at the time, was also at the McHenry County Courthouse when he approached M.W., introduced himself, and began having a conversation with M.W. Respondent provided M.W. with his business card and telephone number. Approximately two weeks after meeting Respondent, M.W. contacted Respondent, and the two communicated via text message and telephone.

5. On January 17, 2020, Respondent arranged for M.W., who had recently turned 18 years old, to be picked up by a ride-share company and brought to the McHenry County Courthouse. While at the McHenry County Courthouse, M.W. accompanied Respondent while he conducted business in various courtrooms.

6. After Respondent completed his court appearances, he and M.W. left the courthouse, and Respondent took M.W. to a hotel located in Woodstock, where he proceeded to rent a room.

7. After Respondent rented the room, Respondent and M.W. went to a convenience store in Woodstock. Respondent entered the store, purchased a 750-milliliter bottle of Hennessy (an alcoholic liquor), a bottle of Coca-Cola, and condoms. Respondent and M.W. then returned to Respondent's hotel room and M.W. began consuming alcohol.

8. Approximately two hours later, Respondent and M.W. were video-recorded and observed by hotel staff in the lobby of the hotel. M.W. was incoherent and unable to walk without

assistance. Respondent pulled M.W. out of a hotel lobby chair. As Respondent and M.W. left the hotel, M.W fell to the ground.

9. Respondent then drove M.W. to her home where he was video-recorded holding M.W. upright while he opened the door to her residence. Respondent then dragged M.W. through the home and struggled to get her up the stairs. Respondent told M.W. to “get up” as she moaned and groaned.

10. M.W. told investigating officers that while she and Respondent were at the hotel, she consumed alcohol until she lost consciousness and does not recall what happened prior to waking up in the hospital. During her time with Respondent M.W., suffered a broken ankle but does not know how or when that occurred.

11. On June 29, 2021, a complaint was filed in the Circuit Court of the Twenty-Second Judicial Circuit of McHenry County charging Respondent with the offenses of providing liquor to a minor, a class A misdemeanor, in violation of 235 ILCS 5/6-16(a)(iii); battery, a class A misdemeanor, in violation of 720 ILCS 5/12-3(a)(2); and renting a hotel room for liquor consumption by a minor, a class A misdemeanor, in violation of 235 ILCS 5/6-16(c). The matter was captioned *People of the State of Illinois v. Javaron D. Buckley, Sr.*, case number 2021CM000584. On September 28, 2021, the McHenry County State’s Attorney’s Office filed a superseding information adding three additional counts to the June 29, 2021 complaint.

12. Count I of the superseding information charged that Respondent violated 235 ILCS 5/6-16(a)(iii), in that on or about January 17, 2020, Respondent purchased or acquired an alcoholic liquor and intentionally gave or delivered the alcoholic liquor to M.W., a person under the age 21.

13. Count II of the superseding information charged that Respondent violated 720 ILCS 5/12-3(a)(2), in that on or about January 17, 2020, Respondent knowingly and without legal

justification, intentionally made physical contact of an insulting and provoking nature with M.W. in that Respondent placed his hands on M.W.'s buttocks.

14. Count III of the Superseding Information charged that Respondent violated 235 ILCS 5/6-16(d) in that on or about January 17, 2020, Respondent rented a hotel room for the purpose of consuming alcoholic liquor or with the knowledge that the room was going to be used to consume alcoholic liquor by M.W., who was under 21 years of age.

15. On July 15, 2022, Respondent pled guilty in case number 2021CM000584 before the Honorable Tiffany E. Davis. Respondent pled guilty to violating sections 235 ILCS 5/6-16(a)(iii) and 235 ILCS 5/6-16(d) of the Liquor Control Act of 1934, and the McHenry County State's Attorney agreed to dismiss the remaining counts. Judge Davis accepted Respondent's guilty plea, and she set the matter for a sentencing hearing.

16. On August 10, 2022, the court held a sentencing hearing on Respondent's violations of sections 235 ILCS 5/6-16(a)(iii) and 235 ILCS 5/6-16(d) of the Liquor Control Act of 1934 and sentenced Respondent to a concurrent sentence of one-year conditional discharge and 30 days in McHenry County jail. The court ordered Respondent to have no contact with M.W or her family and ordered him to pay a \$500 fine and mandatory court costs.

17. By reason of the conduct described above, Respondent engaged in the following misconduct:

- a. committing a criminal act that reflects adversely on Respondent's honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a lawyer in other respects, by conduct including committing and being convicted of the offense of providing alcoholic liquor to a person under 21 years of age, in violation of 235 ILCS 5/6-16(a)(iii) and committing and being convicted of the offense of renting a hotel room with purpose of or with the knowledge that the hotel room would be used for the consumption of alcoholic liquor by a person under 21 years of age, in violation of 235 ILCS 5/6-16(d), in violation of Rule 8.4(b) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010).

