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STATE OF ILLINOIS  
JUDICIAL INQUIRY BOARD

**NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
JUNE 17, 2022**

**Contact: Executive Director Michael Deno  
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**JUDICIAL INQUIRY BOARD FILES COMPLAINT AGAINST MOHAMMED M. GHOUSE, ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, STATE OF ILLINOIS**

On June 17, 2022, the Illinois Judicial Inquiry Board filed a Complaint with the Illinois Courts Commission against Mohammed M. Ghouse, Associate Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County, State of Illinois, charging Respondent with conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice and that brings the judicial office into disrepute.

The Complaint alleges that on November 23, 2021, Respondent struck the rear end of a parked vehicle which resulted in damage to both vehicles. A police officer, who responded to the scene of the accident, smelled a strong odor of alcohol coming from Respondent's mouth when he questioned him. He also observed Respondent's eyes were glassy and bloodshot, and he was swaying back and forth. The Complaint also alleges that Respondent declined to take field sobriety tests at the scene. Respondent was subsequently arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol and issued citations for driving under the influence of alcohol and failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident. The Complaint further alleges that while at the police station, Respondent declined to take a Breathalyzer test.

On February 18, 2022, Respondent pled guilty to driving under the influence of alcohol and was sentenced to court supervision for a period of twelve months, fined \$1500.00, and ordered to complete the Court Sentence “DUI” Monitoring Program for remedial education and DASA Level II-M DUI counseling, including attendance at a Victim Impact Panel.

The Board’s Executive Director & General Counsel, Michael Deno, and Deputy Director, Natosha Cuyler Toller, will prosecute the Complaint.

**-ATTACHED IS A COPY OF THE COMPLAINT-**

**COURTS COMMISSION OF THE  
STATE OF ILLINOIS**



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & GENERAL  
COUNSEL, ILLINOIS COURTS COMMISSION

In re MOHAMMED M. GHOUSE )  
Associate Judge of the Circuit Court ) No. 22 - CC - 03  
of Cook County, State of Illinois )  
)

**COMPLAINT**

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15(c) of Article VI of the Constitution of the State of Illinois, the Illinois Judicial Inquiry Board (“Board”) complains against Judge Mohammed M. Ghouse, Associate Judge of the Circuit Court, Cook County, (“Respondent”), and charges Respondent with conduct that was prejudicial to the administration of justice and that brought the judicial office into disrepute.

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

1. Respondent has been an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois since 2016.
2. On November 23, 2021, Respondent drove a car while under the influence of alcohol.
3. Specifically, at approximately 8:34 p.m. on November 23, 2021, Respondent struck the rear end of a parked vehicle. The traffic accident resulted in damage to both vehicles. Hinsdale police officers responded to the scene. The officer who questioned Respondent smelled a strong odor of alcohol coming from his mouth. The officer also observed Respondent’s eyes were glassy and bloodshot and he was swaying back and forth.
4. While at the scene of the accident, Respondent declined to take field sobriety tests.

5. Respondent was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol and was issued citations for driving under the influence of alcohol and failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident.

6. At the Hinsdale Police Station, Respondent declined to take a Breathalyzer test. This resulted in an automatic suspension of his driver's license for six months.

7. On February 18, 2022, Respondent pled guilty to driving under the influence of alcohol under Case Number 2021DT002398. The Court sentenced Respondent to court supervision for a period of twelve months, fined him \$1500.00, and ordered him to complete the Court Sentence "DUI" Monitoring Program for remedial education and DASA Level II-M DUI counseling, including attendance at a Victim Impact Panel.

### **VIOLATIONS**

8. The above-described conduct of Respondent violated the Code of Judicial Conduct, Illinois Supreme Court Rule 61, which provides:

An independent and honorable judiciary is indispensable to justice in our society. A judge should participate in establishing, maintaining, and enforcing, and should personally observe, high standards of conduct so that the integrity and independence of the judiciary may be preserved. The provisions of this Code should be construed and applied to further that objective.

9. The above-described conduct of Respondent violated the Code of Judicial Conduct, Illinois Supreme Court Rule 62(A), which provides:

A judge should respect and comply with the law and should conduct himself or herself at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, the Judicial Inquiry Board, charging that the above-described conduct of Respondent constitutes conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice and conduct that brings the judicial office into disrepute, prays that the Illinois Courts Commission, after notice of public hearing, make such order in accordance with Section 15 of Article VI of the Illinois Constitution as the Commission may deem appropriate. Respondent has the right to file responsive pleadings to the charges within twenty-one (21) days after service of notice of this complaint.

Dated: June 17, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

JUDICIAL INQUIRY BOARD  
OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

By: Michael Deno  
One of its attorneys

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