

SUPREME COURT OF MISSOURI

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October 3, 2023

Via email Only: tonymess@gmail.com

Tony Messenger
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Re: Inquiry regarding Attorney Robert E. Jones

Dear Mr. Messenger:

In further review of our records, a letter of Admonition was issued in September, 2023 to attorney Robert Edward Jones, Missouri Bar No. 35111. Attached is a copy of the Admonition letter.

Mr. Messenger, your voicemail message of October 2, 2023, states your request is pursuant to the provisions of the Missouri Sunshine Law, Section 610.010, et seq., RSMo. Please note, the Missouri Sunshine Law does not apply to the disclosure of attorney disciplinary records. Disclosure of such records is governed by Missouri Supreme Court Rule 5.31. See also Missouri Constitution, Article V, Section 5 and Section 610-021 (14), RSMo. Attorney disciplinary records are public only when ordered by the Missouri Supreme Court, or requested by the subject attorney, and when explicitly made public by Missouri Supreme Court Rule 5.31.

I hope this information is of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

OFFICE OF CHIEF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL

**REGION X DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE
UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE MISSOURI SUPREME COURT
OFFICE OF CHIEF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL**

MARC A. LAPP, REGION SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE

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PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

September 1, 2023

Mr. Robert Edward Jones, Esq.
130 S. Bemiston Ave., Ste. 200
St. Louis, MO 63105

Certified Mail: 7021 1970 0000 3868 0976

Re: Region X Disciplinary Committee - Letter of Admonition
Robert Edward Jones, Esq. File No. 23-173-X

Dear Mr. Jones:

The Region X Disciplinary Committee (Div. III) has concluded its investigation of the above-referenced matter. This correspondence shall serve as formal notification that the Region X Disciplinary Committee finds there is probable cause to believe that you have violated the Missouri Supreme Court Rules of Professional Conduct and further voted to administer a Letter of Admonition to you, pursuant to Rule 5.12.

The following rule of professional conduct was implicated by your conduct:

Rule 4-3.3(a)(1): Candor Toward the Tribunal

“A lawyer shall not knowingly make a false statement of fact or law to a tribunal or fail to correct a false statement of material fact or law previously made to the tribunal by the lawyer.”

On February 2, 2022, you filed a Petition and Application Requesting Withdrawal of Candidacy and Removal from the Ballot on behalf of a candidate for a Board of Aldermen seat with the City of Ballwin. You appeared before the court on February 4, 2022 on behalf of the candidate and obtained a consent order and judgment removing the candidate from the ballot. You represented to the court that an attorney-client relationship existed between you and the candidate. However, at no time did the candidate retain you or consent to you representing him in the legal proceeding. You were paid by the City for your legal services to the candidate.

The Committee recognized as a mitigating factor that you refunded the legal fees, however, that does not excuse the conduct.

This Committee found that the violation was not of such a nature that further proceedings are warranted and is offering you a letter of admonition.

Please be advised this letter constitutes a Letter of Admonition by the Region X Disciplinary Committee under the authority of Rule 5.12.

This Admonition, if accepted, will become part of your record and will be available to the public pursuant to Supreme Court 5.31(b)(3). It also may be considered in connection with any future disciplinary investigations. Under Supreme Court Rule 5.12(b), you have the right to reject this admonition. If that is your decision, you must so inform me in writing within 15 days of your receipt of this letter. If I do not receive your written rejection of this admonition, we will consider the admonition has been accepted. We have no authority or discretion to extend the 15-day period set forth in Rule 5.12(b).

If you reject the Admonition, it is required that an Information be prepared and filed against you concerning the issues presented herein, which Information will be litigated in front of a panel of disciplinary hearing officers. See Rule 5.12 et seq. concerning the procedures in reference to an Information. If we file an Information, we will not be limited to seeking an Admonition, but we may also seek other forms of disciplinary action and we also may allege violations in addition to the specific violations addressed above.

If you have any questions in connection with this procedure, please contact me.

Very truly yours,

//s//

Marc A. Lapp, Esq. 
Special Representative, OCDC on behalf of
Region X Disciplinary Committee

cc: Ms. Laura Elsbury, OCDC