



Supreme Court of Wisconsin

OFFICE OF LAWYER REGULATION

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July 15, 2021

Hand Delivered

Sheila T. Reiff
Clerk of Supreme Court
110 East Main Street, Suite 215
Madison, WI 53703

Re: *Disciplinary Proceedings Against Matthew R. Meyer*
Initial Filing

Dear Ms. Reiff:

Enclosed for filing please find an original and two copies of the following:

- Order to Answer
- Complaint

We are also enclosing four copies for authentication. Please call Melissa Chicker at 608-267-2024 when the authenticated copies are ready to be picked up.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Laitsch".

THOMAS J. LAITSCH

Assistant Litigation Counsel

TJL:mc

Enclosures

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST MATTHEW R.
MEYER, ATTORNEY AT LAW.

CASE CODE 30912

OFFICE OF LAWYER REGULATION,

Complainant;

CASE NO. 2021AP_____-D

MATTHEW R. MEYER,

Respondent.


ORDER TO ANSWER

TO: Matthew R. Meyer
Meyer Van Severen SC
316 N. Milwaukee St., Ste. 550
Milwaukee, WI. 53202-5888

YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED to file with the Clerk of Court, Supreme Court of Wisconsin, Post Office Box 1688, Madison, Wisconsin 53701, and to serve on the counsel for the Office of Lawyer Regulation, at the address below, an Answer to the *Complaint* of the Office of Lawyer Regulation, within twenty (20) days of the date upon which this Order to Answer and *Complaint* in this proceeding are served on you, and in the event of your failure to do so, discipline deemed by the Supreme Court to be appropriate will be imposed upon you.

Dated this 15th day of July, 2021.

OFFICE OF LAWYER REGULATION



THOMAS J. LAITSCH
Assistant Litigation Counsel
State Bar No. 1001628

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IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST MATTHEW R.
MEYER, ATTORNEY AT LAW.

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OFFICE OF LAWYER REGULATION,

CASE NO. 2021AP _____ -D

Complainant;

MATTHEW R. MEYER,

Respondent.

COMPLAINT

NOW COMES the Supreme Court of Wisconsin - Office of Lawyer Regulation (OLR) by Assistant Litigation Counsel Thomas J. Laitsch, and alleges as follows:

1. The OLR was established by the Supreme Court of Wisconsin and operates pursuant to Supreme Court rules. This Complaint is filed pursuant to SCR 22.11.

2. Matthew R. Meyer (Meyer) is an attorney admitted to practice law in Wisconsin on October 17, 2012 (State Bar No. 1086261). Meyer's address listed with the State Bar of Wisconsin is Meyer Van Severen SC, 316 N. Milwaukee Street, Ste. 550, Milwaukee, WI. 53202-5888.

REGARDING SUTTER
OLR MATTER NO. 2019MA1337
COUNTS 1-2

3. Heather Sutter (Sutter) dated Meyer on and off for approximately three years. The relationship ended around August 23, 2019.

4. On October 15, 2019, Meyer was charged with four felonies, including substantial battery (substantial bodily harm with intent to cause bodily harm), threatening to communicate derogatory information, intimidation of a victim, and stalking. *State of Wisconsin v. Matthew Russell Meyer*, Milwaukee County Case No. 2019CF4573. The victim was Sutter.

5. On June 24, 2020, Meyer pled guilty to felony charges of threatening to communicate derogatory information and stalking. The substantial battery and intimidation of a victim charges were dismissed. On July 30, 2020, Meyer was sentenced to 18 months of initial confinement and two years extended supervision (stayed) on the threatening to communicate derogatory information charge and one year in the House of Corrections (straight time) on the stalking charge.

**Threats to Communicate Derogatory
Information and Stalking**

6. In late October, 2017, Sutter broke off her approximately nine month dating relationship with Meyer. Meyer subsequently engaged in a pattern of conduct aimed at Sutter to cause her to believe Meyer would ruin her life, commit acts of violence against her and her family and friends, damage her property, interfere with future relationships Sutter may have, and leave her without a job and money. Meyer also made threats to Sutter to ruin her reputation with her employer.

7. On April 14, 2018, during an argument in Meyer's apartment, Meyer punched Sutter in the face, resulting in a concussion and facial bruising significant enough for Sutter to miss approximately two weeks of work. At the time of this incident, Meyer and Sutter had separate apartments in the same building. Sutter returned to her apartment and called the police. After the police arrived to Sutter's apartment, Sutter informed them she did not want to pursue criminal charges because she feared Meyer.

8. On multiple occasions following April 2018, Meyer made unwelcome and persistent calls to Sutter. On at least one occasion, Meyer made in excess of 120 calls in one day. Sutter was employed as a physician assistant and was required to keep

her phone on at all times. Meyer also sent Sutter hundreds of unwelcome email messages. Meyer made threats of harm to Sutter and appeared at her apartment unannounced, and refused to leave.

9. On March 2, 2019, Meyer threatened Sutter with violence in her apartment. Sutter barricaded herself in her bathroom. Meyer locked Sutter in the bathroom and Sutter called the police. Sutter stated her bathroom door can be locked from the outside, and cannot be easily unlocked from the inside, as the handle will not turn the lock mechanism. Sutter was able to free herself before the police arrived, and told the police she did not want to press charges against Meyer because she was afraid of him.

10. Meyer also threatened to send negative information about Sutter to her employer, her family and friends, and the news media if she did not perform various tasks for Meyer. Those tasks included payments of debts he claimed to be owed, to reveal intimate details of Sutter's relationships with others, and to have sex with Meyer.

11. In early June 2019, Sutter again attempted to break up with Meyer and cut off all communication. On June 23, 2019, Meyer followed Sutter into the underground parking garage of Sutter's apartment. At this time Meyer and Sutter no longer lived in the same apartment building. Meyer opened the door to Sutter's

car, yelled at Sutter and poured an energy drink on Sutter's vehicle. Sutter reported this incident to the police.

12. During and after the relationship, Meyer communicated his intent to harm Sutter by using criminal defendants to enact violence on Sutter's family and men Meyer believed Sutter had been intimate with, by employing a private investigator to follow Sutter, and to sue Sutter for \$20,000 for posting a negative Google review of Meyer's law practice. Meyer repeatedly told Sutter he was insulated from legal consequences because of his position as a criminal defense lawyer.

13. On August 23, 2019, Sutter broke up with Meyer for the last time. During an argument in Meyer's apartment, Meyer grabbed Sutter by the back of her head, covered her mouth with his other hand and told Sutter to shut up. Sutter tried to call 911, but Meyer broke Sutter's phone by smashing it on the ground. Meyer then pushed Sutter who fell and injured her elbow.

14. After August 23, 2019, Sutter received hundreds of texts and email messages from Meyer despite Sutter's requests that Meyer cease attempting to communicate with her.

15. The criminal investigation revealed an extremely high number of calls from blocked phone numbers in rapid succession, including from phone numbers listed to Meyer.

16. On October 8, 2019, Sutter received 68 calls from blocked or spoofed phone numbers, 41 WhatsApp text messages, 12 WhatsApp phone/video calls and 12 emails from Meyer.¹

17. By using SpoofCard, Meyer was able to call and send Sutter text messages that appeared to be sent from other numbers in Sutter's contact list, such as friends and family.

18. During and after the relationship, Meyer threatened to damage and did damage Sutter's vehicle. On October 4, 2019, Sutter received email and texts from Meyer stating there was damage to Sutter's vehicle. Sutter later observed her vehicle had a flat tire and dents to the passenger side. Sutter reported this incident to the police.

19. Meyer told Sutter he had a key to her apartment despite Sutter never giving him one.

20. On October 6, 2019 Meyer send Sutter a photo of his laptop's screen, showing a draft email Meyer created, appearing to be from the email address Ksutter1960a@gmail.com. Kevin Sutter is Sutter's father. The email was addressed to Sutter's employer. The email purporting to be from Kevin Sutter but drafted by Meyer alleged Sutter violated HIPAA by discussing confidential patient

¹ Meyer used a third party app called Spoofcard that allowed Meyer to contact Sutter by changing the phone number that appears on the recipient's phone to disguise it was Meyer making the calls.

information in public, and that Kevin Sutter had audio recording of this.

21. Subsequent text messages from Meyer to Sutter threatened to send the email to Sutter's employer if Sutter did not give into Meyer's demands. Meyer later sent the email purporting to be from Kevin Sutter to Sutter's employer. The email indicated Kevin Sutter desired to meet the employer and turn over an audio recording in which Sutter allegedly discussed confidential patient information in public. No such audio recording existed.

Submission of Fabricated Character Reference Letters

22. Regarding the criminal case where Meyer was charged on October 15, 2019 with four felony counts, Meyer eventually plead guilty to one count of threatening to communicate derogatory information and one count of stalking. Meyer was sentenced on July 30, 2020.

23. Prior to sentencing and during plea discussions, Meyer's attorney submitted a settlement offer and a packet of documents to the Assistant District Attorney (ADA) prosecuting Meyer. The packet included character reference letters. The ADA rejected Meyer's attorney's settlement offer. Meyer's attorney then sent the same packet of documents to the District Attorney (DA) and Deputy Chief District Attorney (DCDA).

24. The packet submitted to the DA and DCDA contained the reference letters. One purported to be from Sergio Rodriguez (Rodriguez) who worked at Meyer's apartment building. Another purportedly was from Noah Taylor (Taylor), a friend of Meyer.

25. The criminal investigation concluded that the two character letters purportedly authored by Rodriguez and Taylor were fabricated by Meyer. Rodriguez and Taylor denied writing letters to the Judge on behalf of Meyer. As part of the final plea deal, the State agreed not to issue bail jumping charges for obstruction of justice for the fabricated letters.

COUNT 1

26. By engaging in conduct leading to a felony conviction of threatening to communicate derogatory information, and by engaging in conduct leading to a felony conviction of stalking, Meyer, in each instance, violated SCR 20:8.4(b).²

COUNT 2

27. By creating fabricated character reference letters for submission to the District Attorney's Office during plea negotiations, Meyer violated SCR 20:8.4(c).³

² SCR 20:8.4(b) provides: "It is professional misconduct for a lawyer to...commit a criminal act that reflects adversely on the lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a lawyer in other respects."

³ SCR 20:8.4(c) provides: "It is professional misconduct for a lawyer to...engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation."

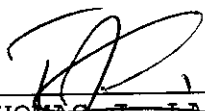
WHEREFORE, the Office of Lawyer Regulation asks the Supreme Court of Wisconsin to find Attorney Matthew R. Meyer violated the Supreme Court rules as alleged in this *Complaint*; to suspend Attorney Meyer's license to practice law in Wisconsin for two years; and to impose conditions on Attorney Meyer's reinstatement as follows:

- A. Provide OLR with signed releases for any mental health and AODA treatment provider who is providing or has provided treatment to Attorney Meyer within the last four years prior to his filing of a reinstatement petition;
- B. Provide proof of participation in mental health counseling.
- C. Comply with all terms and conditions of his probation related to Milwaukee County Case No. 19CF4573;
- D. Provide documentation of the completion of an anger management program.
- E. Provide documentation of the completion of a certified batterers treatment program.

and to grant such other relief as may be just and equitable, including an award of costs.

Dated this 15th day of July, 2021.

OFFICE OF LAWYER REGULATION



THOMAS J. LAITSCH
Assistant Litigation Counsel
State Bar No. 1001628

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