

SUPREME COURT OF KENTUCKY

John David Inman v. Kentucky Bar Association

2021-SC-0570-KB (Ky. Feb. 24, 2022) · No. 2021-SC-0570-KB · Decided February 22, 2022

SUMMARY

The Supreme Court of Kentucky suspended John David Inman from practicing law for 30 days, with the suspension probated for one year, based on his violation of SCR 3.130(8.4)(b). The violation arose from an assault conviction related to a domestic dispute. The order imposes conditions including no further criminal or disciplinary charges, a Kentucky Lawyers Assistance Program assessment, and compliance reporting.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of Kentucky
JURISDICTION	Kentucky
DECIDED	February 22, 2022
DOCKET	2021-SC-0570-KB
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Attorney disciplinary proceeding initiated by the respondent's agreed response to the movant's motion for a thirty-day suspension, probated for one year with conditions.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published opinion; precedential status not otherwise specified in the source

TOPICS

[administrative law](#) [probation](#) [criminal procedure](#)

PRACTICE AREAS

[attorney discipline](#) [professional responsibility](#) [legal ethics](#)

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Inman's criminal conduct violated SCR 3.130(8.4)(b).
2. Whether a thirty-day suspension from the practice of law, probated for one year with conditions, was an appropriate disciplinary sanction.

HOLDINGS

1. Inman's conduct constituted a violation of SCR 3.130(8.4)(b), which prohibits a lawyer from committing a criminal act that reflects adversely on the lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness, or fitness as a lawyer in other respects.
2. A thirty-day suspension, probated for one year subject to specified conditions, was an appropriate sanction for Inman's violation.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“It is a 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.” (Section II)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Inman, a Kentucky lawyer, was involved in a domestic dispute with his former fiancée on June 28, 2020, resulting in her sustaining bruising and Inman's arrest. He entered an Alford plea to fourth-degree assault involving domestic violence and received a 180-day sentence suspended for twelve months, conditioned in part on restitution and no contact with the victim. Inman reported the conviction to the KBA, pursued therapy and treatment for anxiety, ADHD, and alcohol-related issues, and agreed to undergo a Kentucky Lawyers Assistance Program assessment.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Inman moved for an agreed suspension after admitting that his conduct violated SCR 3.130(8.4)(b). The Kentucky Bar Association filed a response stating that it had no objection. The Supreme Court of Kentucky entered the requested thirty-day suspension, probated for one year, subject to specified conditions.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Kentucky Bar Ass’n v. Hemming, 152 S.W.3d 865 (Ky. 2005)
- Commonwealth v. Inman, Franklin District Court, Case No. 20-M-585