

For Immediate Release
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Statement by Quanada Executive Director Megan Duesterhaus on the Illinois Judicial Inquiry Board Complaint against Judge Adrian

Quanada, an agency that provides services to victims of domestic and sexual violence in west-central Illinois, applauds the Illinois Judicial Inquiry Board for filing a legal [complaint](#) against Judge Robert K. Adrian following their investigation of his actions in the [Drew S. Clinton sexual assault case](#).

Adrian was investigated following complaints that he vacated his own prior ruling of guilt in the case in order to circumvent the law and a mandatory incarceration sentence, subsequently retaliated against a prosecutor, and knowingly made false statements while testifying under oath to the Judicial Inquiry Board. The Board charged Adrian with conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice and that brings the judicial office into disrepute, according to the complaint filed on Friday.

In October 2021, Clinton was found guilty of felony criminal sexual assault for putting a pillow over a girl's head and raping her. This January, Judge Adrian vacated the original conviction stating that "Mr. Clinton has served almost five months in the county jail, 148 days. For what happened in this case, that is plenty of punishment." The minimum sentence for felony sexual assault in Illinois is four years.

After local pushback, the case received national media attention culminating in 175,888 signatures on a change.org petition, protests, and an appeal of the Illinois Supreme Court.

We are fortunate in Illinois to have a mechanism through the Judicial Inquiry Board to hold judges accountable for actions that cast doubts upon the fairness of the criminal justice process. The Judicial Inquiry Board responded to a citizen complaint, completed an investigation, and took action with a level of seriousness and gravity that we respect and appreciate.

The Illinois Crime Victims' [Bill of Rights](#) provides that victims have "the right to be treated with fairness and respect for their dignity and privacy and to be free from harassment, intimidation, and abuse throughout the criminal justice system." The treatment that the survivor and her family received in Judge Adrian's courtroom did not meet that standard and perpetuated further harm.

Survivors are entitled to a criminal justice system in which they can place their trust from the beginning to the end. In the Clinton case, the police, sexual assault nurse examiners, crime lab analysts, and the prosecutors demonstrated that these parts of the

legal system in Adams County, Illinois, are worthy of that trust. Judge Adrian's ruling in this case was a betrayal of that trust. It is incumbent on the judiciary to take actions that can restore survivors' confidence in the entirety of the process.

About Quanada

Quanada provides services to victims of domestic and sexual violence in west-central Illinois including counseling, legal/medical advocacy, emergency shelter, and transitional housing. All services are inclusive, confidential, and free.

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