

(which were the main thrust of his defense) did not excuse his misconduct, but that they had contributed to his problems and that he had committed himself to in-patient treatment, was attending AA meetings regularly, and that he now seemed contrite and prepared to recognize the disastrous consequences of his personal problems and habits.

The Hearing Committee concluded: "In our deliberation we have weighed [the Respondent's] prior record, his behavior in the Guzman matter, his drinking problem, and his apparent willingness to face and control them along with our duty to the public and the legal profession. Our recommendation is a suspension for three years, with credit for the "time served", retroactive to October 18, 1984, the date of the Court's suspension.

At each stage in these proceedings, the Respondent replied through counsel to each of the petitions, with the most significant being the response to the Guzman charge (91 DB 85). It was at this time (December 24, 1985) the "New Matter" of Mr. Morrison's drinking problem was injected into the case. This issue was further developed in the Respondent's reply to the Hearing Committee's report in which the Respondent, through counsel, admitted to a long-standing drinking problem going back to personal family tragedies in the 1970's, elaborated on his steps to deal with it, and stressed the positive evaluation given to the Hearing Committee by various character witnesses, including a physician-lawyer.

The Disciplinary Counsel saw fit not to file formal exceptions to the Hearing Committee Report and instead replied,