

JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD



TELEPHONE: (802) 786-1063

P.O. BOX 310
RUTLAND, VT 05701-0310

BARBARA R. BLACKMAN, ESQ.
CHAIR

August 7, 2023

CLOSURE REPORT OF THE VERMONT JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

Re: Docket No.: 22.039

This Complaint contained allegations of violation of Rule 1.2 which provides, "A judge shall act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary, and shall avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety." *Vermont Code of Judicial Conduct*.

The Judicial Conduct Board conducted an Investigation, including engaging Special Counsel, who listened to pertinent parts of the hearing, reviewed the hearing transcript, interviewed the Complaint and client as well as the Respondent Judge. The results of the investigation demonstrate that many of the allegations were not supported by the audio recording of the hearing or transcripts but also determined that the allegations of the Complaint merited a Non-Public Written Warning.

Pursuant to Rule 8 (2) of the Rules of Supreme Court for Disciplinary Control of Judges, the Board issued Respondent Judge a non-public written warning. The Board concludes that the conduct is potentially a violation of the Code if proved but is not established by clear and convincing evidence; the conduct is potentially a violation of the Code, but on its own, discipline is not warranted; and the Board concludes that a Formal Complaint is not warranted.

This written warning is intended to alert Respondent Judge that the conduct might rise to the level of a violation requiring action if it occurred on multiple occasions.

To the extent the Complaint alleges ethical impropriety or a violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct, the Board has determined there is no cause for further proceedings. *Rules of the Supreme Court for the Disciplinary Control of Judges*, Rule 11.

Accordingly, the Complaint in Docket No. 21.007 is DISMISSED.

JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

By: 
Barbara R. Blackman, Chair