

JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD



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BARBARA R. BLACKMAN, ESQ.
CHAIR

February 29, 2024

CLOSURE REPORT OF THE VERMONT JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

Re: Docket No.: 23.003

This Complaint is the result of a guardianship proceeding where the Complainant alleged that the Judge did not afford Complainant a right to be heard, that the Judge did not observe decorum in communications, and that the Judge was not impartial, potentially implicating Rules 2.2, 2.6, and 2.8(B) of the Vermont Code of Judicial Conduct.

The Judicial Conduct Board conducted an initial inquiry, including thorough review of the docket entries, review of the applicable Rules of Procedure, and a review of a response from the Judge.

The Board concluded after the Initial Inquiry that a Formal Complaint was not warranted, but, pursuant to Rule 8 (2) of the Rules of Supreme Court for Disciplinary Control of Judges, a written warning was the appropriate response.

Therefore, the Board has issued Respondent Judge a non-public written warning. 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 and provided suggestions for improvement. Respondent Judge was also notified that conduct that has been the subject of a written warning may later be used as the basis for a Formal Complaint if further complaints are filed within three years of the date the first complaint was filed with the Board. The fact that a judge has been the subject of one or more written warnings may be considered in determining the appropriate level of any later sanction.

Accordingly, proceedings regarding the Complaint in Docket No. 23.003 are closed.

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By: 
Barbara R. Blackman, Chair