

# JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

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BARBARA R. BLACKMAN, ESQ.  
CHAIR

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December 14, 2024

## CLOSURE REPORT OF THE VERMONT JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

Re: Docket No.: 23.025

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This Complaint was a self-report of a possible ethics violation from a candidate for an elected judicial position, specifically reporting that the candidate attended two fund-raising events for partisan candidates for other local and/or federal positions, and contributed a small amount of money at each fund-raising event.

The Judicial Conduct Board conducted an initial inquiry pursuant to Rule 7(1) and determined that an Investigation under Rule 7(2) was necessary and engaged Special Counsel to carry out the investigation.

The self-reported conduct was investigated under Canon 4, Rule 4.3, governing the political conduct of candidates for election as probate judge or assistant judge. Rule 4.3 requires that candidates for election and reelection comply with the applicable provisions of Rules 4.1(a)(1) and 4.2. The Investigation showed that the Judge did not violate Canon 4 because the candidate was not required to comply with Rule 4.1(A)(5), and because Rule 4.2 expressly provides that non-incumbent candidates for a judicial position may make political contributions and attend fundraising events.

Accordingly, the Complaint in Docket No. 23.025 is DISMISSED.

JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

By:   
Barbara R. Blackman, Chair