

# JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

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BARBARA R. BLACKMAN, ESQ.  
CHAIR

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March 4, 2024

## CLOSURE REPORT OF THE VERMONT JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

Re: Docket No.: 23.038

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This Complaint contained allegations of violation of three (3) provisions of the Code of Judicial Conduct, Judicial Conduct, Rule 2.3(B), Rule 2.5(A), and Rule 4.1(A)(4).

The Judicial Conduct Board conducted an Initial Inquiry under Rule 7(1) of the Rules for Disciplinary Control of Judges. After the Initial Inquiry, the Board determined that the Complaint should move forward to an Investigation under Rule 7(2) and engaged Special Counsel to carry out an investigation of the Complaint.

Special Counsel reported to the Board and the Board concluded 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 two non-public written warnings regarding violation of Rule 2.8(B), which requires all judges to “be patient, dignified, and courteous to . . . court staff;” and Rule 2.5(A)’s competence requirement as well as Rule 2.5(B)’s requirement to “cooperate with other judges . . . in the administration of court business.”

The Board dismissed as unfounded allegations of violation of Rule 4.1 (A)(4), which provides “A judge shall not . . . participate in political caucuses or meetings.”

These written warnings are 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. 23.038 are closed.

JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

By:   
Barbara R. Blackman, Chair