

JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD



TELEPHONE: (802) 786-1063

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

BARBARA R. BLACKMAN, ESQ.
CHAIR

December 26, 2024

CLOSURE REPORT OF THE VERMONT JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

Re: Docket No.: 24.036

This Complaint is the result of a matter in which the Complainant believed the Judge treated Complainant unequally because Complainant did not have an attorney, and that the Judge's demeanor during the hearings in question violated the Code of Judicial Conduct. In addition, the Complainant was dissatisfied with the outcome of the litigation, which is a matter for an appellate court, not this Board. **Rule 6(17) of the Rules for Disciplinary Control of Judges states:**

The Board shall not function as an appellate court to review the decisions of a court or judge nor exercise superintending or administrative control over determinations of courts or judges.

The Judicial Conduct Board conducted an initial inquiry including a full review of the underlying case, review of the audio of each hearing and review of a response from the Respondent Judge. To the extent the Complaint alleges ethical impropriety, or a violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct the Board has determined that the allegations regarding bias and demeanor in violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct are unfounded.

In addition, The Board found that the Complaint and the other materials submitted by the Complainant did not support or allege violations of any Canon of the Code of Judicial Conduct, but instead raised appellate issues. Therefore, the Board has determined that the Complaint falls outside of the Board's jurisdiction, and there is no cause for further proceedings *Rules of the Supreme Court for the Disciplinary Control of Judges*, Rules 6(17) & 7(1)

Accordingly, the Complaint in Docket No. 24.036 is DISMISSED.

JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

By: 
Barbara R. Blackman, Chair