

JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD



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ANDREW H. MAASS, ESQ.
CHAIR

October 2, 2020

CLOSURE REPORT OF THE VERMONT JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

Re: Docket No.: 19.007 and 19.014

These two Docket Numbers arise from reports of poor treatment of attorneys and staff, including a complaint by a litigant of poor treatment of the litigant's attorney. If determined to be true, these actions would be violations of Vermont Code of Judiciary Conduct Rule 1.2 (Promoting Confidence in the Judiciary), Rule 2.2 (Impartiality and Fairness); Rule 2.3 (Bias, Prejudice and Harassment) and 2.4(B&C) (External Influences).

The Judicial Conduct Board conducted an initial inquiry including review of the docket entries and of the audio of the hearing that was the subject of a Complaint. The Board then determined it was necessary to engage Special Counsel to do an Investigation pursuant to Rule 7(2) of the *Rules of the Supreme Court for the Disciplinary Control of Judges*.

Special Counsel conducted a very thorough Investigation including review of audio of various hearings, interviews and documents independently received.

Special Counsel reported the results of the Investigation, finding no probable cause that the Respondent Judge had violated the Vermont Code of Judiciary Conduct. After review of Special Counsel's Report on both Dockets, the Board accepted the findings with a decision to issue a Non-Public Written Warning. In reaching this determination, the Board was mindful of the actions the Judge has already taken in mitigation and acknowledgement of the contents of the Complaints.

The Board issued the Judge a Non-Public Written Warning pursuant to Rule 8(2) of the *Rules of the Supreme Court for the Disciplinary Control of Judges*. In accordance with Rule 8(2), the Judge was reminded the Non-Public Written Warning may be considered in determining the appropriate level of any later sanction.

Accordingly, the Complaints in Docket No. 19.007 and 19.014 are DISMISSED with the issuance of a Non-Public Written Warning.

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By: Andrew H. Maass
Andrew H. Maass, Chair