

JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD



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ANDREW H. MAASS, ESQ.
CHAIR

October 24, 2019

CLOSURE REPORT OF THE VERMONT JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

Re: Docket No.: 18.008
In re. Hon. Bernard Lewis (Ret.)

This matter stems from a Complaint about a probate guardianship matter.

The Judicial Conduct Board retained Special Counsel to investigate. Special Counsel found that Judge Lewis: did not dispose of the matter promptly, efficiently and fairly in violation of Canon 3B(8).

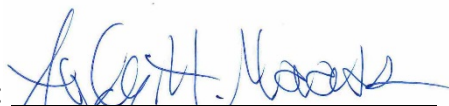
Special Counsel filed a Formal Complaint with the Board and began to conduct discovery. A Formal Hearing was scheduled for late October, 2019. During the pendency of the Formal Complaint, counsel for Respondent advised the Board they had come to an agreement on stipulating to violations of the Canons and subsequently filed Stipulated Facts and Conclusions of Law signed by Special Counsel for the Board, Judge Lewis' counsel and Judge Lewis.

The Board then issued a Public Reprimand stating that the Stipulated Facts and Conclusions of Law demonstrated repeated failure to address and decide issues, did not follow-up and enforce court orders, and kept motions unheard and pending for months or longer without justification, such conduct being in violation of Canon 3B(8) of the Vermont Code of Judicial Conduct.

The Vermont Supreme Court issued an Entry Order on October 8, 2019 that it did not order review on its own motion, therefore the decision of the Judicial Conduct Board became final and has the same force and effect as an order of the Court.

Accordingly, the Complaint in Docket No. 18.0008 is closed.

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By: 
Andrew H. Maass, Chair