

JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD



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BARBARA R. BLACKMAN, ESQ.
CHAIR

August 5, 2021

CLOSURE REPORT OF THE VERMONT JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

Re: Docket No.: 20.024

This Complaint is the result of a small claims hearing where Complainant believed the judge made factual errors in rulings in the case, which are matters for an appeals 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 Complainant was given 30 days to supplement the Complaint with specific allegations under the Board's jurisdiction. Complainant did supplement the Complaint, alleging the Judge showed bias in favor of the other party to the case by having a discussion with the someone affiliated with the other party in the waiting area outside the courtroom. Complainant was present during the conversation.

The Judicial Conduct Board conducted an initial inquiry including review of all correspondence from the Complainant, a review of the docket in this matter and a response from the judge involved. To the extent the Complaint alleges ethical impropriety or a violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct, the Board has determined that the Complaint is unfounded and there is no cause for further proceedings. *Rules of the Supreme Court for the Disciplinary Control of Judges, Rule 11.*

Accordingly, the Complaint in Docket No. 20.024 is DISMISSED.

JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

By: _____

Barbara R. Blackman, Chair