

JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

TELEPHONE: (802) 786-1063



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

BARBARA R. BLACKMAN, ESQ.
CHAIR

August 4, 2023

CLOSURE REPORT OF THE VERMONT JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

Re: Docket No.: 23.002

This Complaint contained allegations of mistreatment of a witness, potentially implicating Vt. Code of Judicial Conduct Rule 2.6(A); "A judge shall accord to every person who has a legal interest in a proceeding, or that person's lawyer, the right to be heard according to law" and Vt. Code of Judicial Conduct Rule 2.8(B): A judge shall be patient, dignified, and courteous to litigants, jurors, witnesses, lawyers, court staff, court officials, and others with whom the judge deals in an official capacity"

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 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. **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.

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. 23.002 is DISMISSED.

JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

By: 
Barbara R. Blackman, Chair