

# JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD



TELEPHONE: (802) 777-9198

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

BARBARA R. BLACKMAN, ESQ.  
CHAIR

May 17, 2022

## CLOSURE REPORT OF THE VERMONT JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

Re: Docket No.: 21.007

This Complaint is the result of a probate case where the Complainant alleged that the Judge caused unnecessary delay in the administration of an estate.

The Judicial Conduct Board conducted an initial inquiry, including thorough review of the docket entries, review of the applicable Rules of Procedure, and a review of a response from the Judge.

Pursuant to Rule 8 (2) of the Rules of Supreme Court for Disciplinary Control of Judges, the Board hereby issues Respondent Judge a non-public written warning. The Board concludes that the conduct is potentially a violation of the Code if proved but is not established by clear and convincing evidence; the conduct is potentially a violation of the Code, but on its own, discipline is not warranted; and the Board concludes that a Formal Complaint is not warranted. The Board recognizes the difficulty presented in scheduling hearings during the Covid-19 Pandemic as well as the challenges caused by converting to the Odyssey system. Regardless, the Board finds that the delay here was unjustified. This written warning is intended to alert Respondent Judge that the conduct might rise to the level of a violation requiring action if it occurred on multiple occasions. The Board encourages Respondent Judge to give greater attention when scheduling matters.

To the extent the Complaint alleges ethical impropriety or a violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct, the Board has determined 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. 21.007 is DISMISSED.

JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

By: 

Barbara R. Blackman, Chair