

JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

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BARBARA R. BLACKMAN, ESQ.
CHAIR

June 1, 2022

CLOSURE REPORT OF THE VERMONT JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

Re: Docket No.: 21.013

This Complaint is the result of a criminal case where Complainant alleged racism, questioned the reasonableness of being held without bail, and excessive time to hold a hearing. The allegations potentially raised violations of Canon 2, Rule 2.3 "A judge shall perform the duties of judicial office, including administration duties, without bias or prejudice," and Canon 2, Rule 2.5 "In disposing of matters promptly and efficiently, a judge must demonstrate due regard for the rights of parties to be heard and to have issues resolved without unnecessary cost or delay."

The Judicial Conduct Board conducted an initial inquiry including a thorough review of the docket, reviewing the audio of each hearing held, and review of responses from the judges named. This review showed no evidence of racially based comments or rulings. Each judge's comments were to the point and respectful, even when Complainant interrupted the hearings. A review of the timeliness allegation showed that the hearings were held without undue delay.

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. 21.013 is DISMISSED.

JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

By: _____

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Barbara R. Blackman", is written over a horizontal line.

Barbara R. Blackman, Chair