

JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD



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BARBARA R. BLACKMAN, ESQ.
CHAIR

August 8, 2022

CLOSURE REPORT OF THE VERMONT JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

Re: Docket No.: 21.020

This Complaint is the result of a contested probate matter and alleged violations of the Canons of Judicial Conduct by the Judge not permitting the Complainant and other heirs to ask questions at a remote hearing and by disconnecting one of the Complainants from the Hearing and showing bias against the Complainants.

The Judicial Conduct Board conducted an initial inquiry, including a review of the history of the case, and listening to audio of the remote hearings at issue. The Board found that neither the Complaint nor the record of the case supported the conclusion that the Judge exhibited bias in the case, and that when Complainant and another heir were discourteous, the Judge responded appropriately and conducted the hearings impartially, courteously and competently, and appropriately exercised control over the courtroom to maintain order and decorum.

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. 21.020 is DISMISSED.

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By: 
Barbara R. Blackman, Chair