

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.: 21.021

This Complaint is the result of a series of relief from abuse cases and a divorce case. The Complaint contained allegations of bias due to a perceived familiarity between the Judge and the Complainant's spouse, complaints that the Judge allowed untimely evidence, did not allow Complainant to present evidence or sufficient testimony, and concerns that a hearing was not properly continued due to Complainant's lack of childcare during the hearing.

The Judicial Conduct Board conducted an initial inquiry, including an extensive review of the docket, listening to the audio of the hearings in question, review of a response from the Judge and an analysis of the perceived familiarity between the Judge and the Complainant's spouse. The Board found no evidence of misconduct, bias, or violation of any Code of Judicial Conduct. Any evidentiary concerns raised by Complainant would be issues for an appeal but not, without other exacerbating facts, a basis for a judicial conduct complaint.

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. 21.021 is DISMISSED.

JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

By: 

Barbara R. Blackman, Chair