

JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

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ANDREW H. MAASS, ESQ.
CHAIR

June 19, 2017

CLOSURE REPORT OF THE VERMONT JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD


Re: Docket No.: 17.012

This Complaint is the result of Complainant's view that the Judge was not prepared for the trial because he asked questions during the trial. Complainant also felt a post-trial status conference was handled inappropriately, and that the Judge had communications regarding the case with a Judge who had been recused. If founded, these actions would be violations of Canon 3B(2), 3B(7) and 3B(8).

The Judicial Conduct Board conducted an initial inquiry. The Board found no evidence the Judge's questions during trial did not serve a proper purpose, such as assessing witness credibility or clarifying aspects of the record. The Board also found no evidence Complainant was denied the right to be heard during the status conference, or that there were any inappropriate communications with the recused Judge. 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. 17.012 is DISMISSED.

JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

By: 
Barbara Blackman, Vice-Chair