

JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

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ANDREW H. MAASS, ESQ.
CHAIR

December 12, 2017

CLOSURE REPORT OF THE VERMONT JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

Re: Docket No.: 17.033

This Complaint is the result of a longstanding child visitation matter and alleges bias toward the non-custodial parent and the non-custodial parent's attorney and for the Judge's demeanor toward the Complainant during a hearing on the matter. If founded, this would be a violation of Canon 3B(4), "a judge should be patient, dignified and courteous to litigants."

The Judicial Conduct Board conducted an initial inquiry including a thorough review of the history of the case, reviewing a response from the Judge and the audio recordings of the proceedings. The Board determined that, while the specific sentence objected to by the Complainant could be a cause for concern; it did not rise to the level of an ethical violation.

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. 17.033 is DISMISSED.

JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

By: Andrew H. Maass
Andrew H. Maass, Chair