

JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

TELEPHONE: (802) 786-1063
FACSIMILE: (802) 786-1161



P.O. BOX 310
RUTLAND, VT 05702-0310

ANDREW H. MAASS, ESQ.
CHAIR

September 6, 2019

CLOSURE REPORT OF THE VERMONT JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

Re: Docket No.: 18.019
In re. Hon. Roy C. Vance (Ret.)

This matter stems from a Complaint from the American Civil Liberties Union and Vermont Legal Aid that Judge Vance, while serving as an acting judge in the small claims division of the Superior Court, was repeatedly filing unlawful criminal arrest warrants.

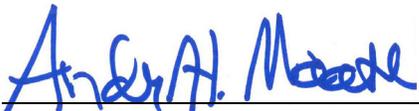
The Judicial Conduct Board retained Special Counsel to investigate and Special Counsel found that Judge Vance: (1) issued arrest warrants for judgment debtors without due process, financial disclosure hearings, or contempt hearings; (2) set “purge amounts” on the arrest warrants without a finding of an individual’s ability to pay; and (3) continued financial disclosure hearings on a rolling, on-going basis even after sufficient evidence to demonstrate a judgment debtor’s present inability to pay. The Board determined the findings of the investigation amounted to probable cause that Judge Vance violated Canons 2A, 3B(2) and 3B(8) of the Code of Judicial Conduct and instructed Special Counsel to file a Formal Complaint.

Special Counsel to the Board and counsel for Respondent indicated to the Board they had come to an agreement on stipulating to the violations of the Canons and the Board accepted the Stipulated Formal Complaint and issued a Public Reprimand to Roy C. Vance for violation of the Canons and ordering that Mr. Vance not seek, accept or hold judicial office again in the State of Vermont.

The Vermont Supreme Court issued an Entry Order on July 10, 2019 that it did not order review on its own motion, therefore the decision of the Judicial Conduct Board became final and has the same force and effect as an order of the Court.

Accordingly, the Complaint in Docket No. 18.019 is closed.

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By: 
Andrew H. Maass, Chair