

JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

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ANDREW H. MAASS, ESQ.
CHAIR

February 26, 2019

CLOSURE REPORT OF THE VERMONT JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

Re: Docket No.: 19.001

This Complaint is the result of a relief from abuse case. The allegations included: (1) that the judge was not hearing the case fairly and always ruling for the opposing party; (2) that the judge did not listen to Complainant's evidence; and (3) that the judge laughed at Complainant when Complainant asked for a restraining order.

The allegations regarding the judge's rulings and evidentiary issues during the hearings are properly matters for appeal, not under the jurisdiction of this Board. **Rule 6(17) of the Rules for Disciplinary Control of Judges states:**

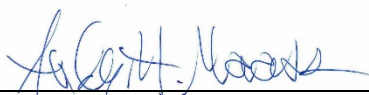
The Board shall not function as an appellate court to review the decisions of a court or judge nor exercise superintending or administrative control over determinations of courts or judges.

The Judicial Conduct Board conducted an initial inquiry, including a thorough review of the docket in this matter, and listening to the audio of each of the hearings held. The allegations regarding the judge "laughing" at Complainant were not supported by the audio recordings.

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. 19.001 is DISMISSED.

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By: 
Andrew H. Maass, Chair