

JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

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Steven A. Adler, Esq.
Chair

July 12, 2016

Closure Report of the Vermont Judicial Conduct Board

Re: Docket No. 16.001 & 16.009

These two Complaints involve the same matter which began with a Relief from Abuse ("RFA") Order, followed by a criminal trial for alleged violations of the RFA Order, and ultimately a bench trial for a related real estate partition matter between the parties. Complainant alleges, particularly with respect to the partition matter, that the Judge exhibited bias against Complainant and her attorney, gave the other side more time to present his case and would not permit witnesses to testify on behalf of Complainant. The Complaint also alleges that the Judge talked-down to Complainant's attorney. If the allegations were founded, these would be violations of Canon 3.

The Judicial Conduct Board conducted an initial inquiry including a detailed review of the pleadings and orders filed by the parties in the Court, as well as a review of the audio tape of the hearing and the transcript of that hearing. That review indicates that Complainant's attorney was experiencing some difficulty in presenting the case, and that the Court did assist the attorney in laying a proper foundation for evidence. 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.

The Complaints in Dockets No. 16.001 and 16.009 are DISMISSED.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven A. Adler".

By: Steven A. Adler