

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. 16.008

This Complaint is a family court matter involving a contested divorce. Complainant alleges the Judge was inattentive and that she had to recuse herself part way through the hearing. The Judge discovered that a former law partner was an attorney for Complainant in an earlier proceeding. Upon learning this fact, the Judge alerted the parties to this and granted Complainant's attorney's request for a *de novo* hearing. If founded, this would be a violation of Canon 3E(1)(b).

The Judicial Conduct Board conducted an initial inquiry including a review of the pleadings and orders filed by the parties in the Court, as well as a review of the transcript of the hearing. The judge handled the appearance of a conflict appropriately, alerting the parties and the presiding judge and then stepping down from the case when the conflict appeared 45 minutes into the hearing. 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 Complaint in Docket No. 16.008 is DISMISSED.

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Steven A. Adler".

By: Steven A. Adler