

JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

FILED
SEP 06, 2019
STATE OF VERMONT
JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

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

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

ANDREW H. MAASS, ESQ.
CHAIR

**STATE OF VERMONT
JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD**

In re: Honorable Bernard Lewis

Docket No.: 18.008

PUBLIC REPRIMAND

The Honorable Bernard Lewis (ret.) is hereby publicly reprimanded for violating Canon 3B(8) of the Vermont Code of Judicial Conduct.

The Board references and incorporates herein the Stipulated Facts and Conclusions of Law reached by Judge Lewis and Special Counsel. The facts demonstrate that Judge Lewis did not complete all hearings as noticed, did not follow-up and enforce orders or hold parties accountable for directions of the judge, the Judge kept motions pending unheard and undecided for months or longer without justification resulting in a failure to dispose of matters promptly and efficiently. The repeated failure to address and decide issues that came before the Judge related to the conduct of the guardian and caused petitioners to incur significant attorney fees and resulted in inefficient use of both parties' and the Court's resources thereby constituting a failure to dispose of all judicial matters promptly, efficiently and fairly. The chronic failure to hold the guardian accountable for his actions with respect to his obligations while allowing him to pay himself enormous amounts of money over 7 1/2 years, despite repeated filings that brought such issues to the Court's attention, exemplifies a failure to dispose of issues

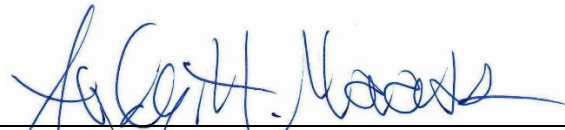
STATE OF VERMONT JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD
IN RE HON. BERNARD LEWIS
PUBLIC REPRIMAND

fairly. The facts suggest, though do not conclude, that the Judge's failure to dispose of the judicial matters for this guardianship promptly, efficiently and fairly may have also resulted in the unnecessary depletion of assets to the detriment of petitioners.

The Board recognizes that Judge Lewis no longer presides as a judge within the state of Vermont.

Based upon the Stipulation and Conclusions of Law, the Board accepts Judge Lewis' stipulation to Public Reprimand in lieu of further proceedings including the Formal Hearing previously scheduled to begin October 29. This decision with Public Reprimand is final, subject to review by the Vermont Supreme Court under Rules 10(3) and 12(3) of the Rules for Disciplinary Control of Judges.

DATED September 6, 2019.



Andrew H. Maass, Chair
Judicial Conduct Board