SALVATORE T. ALFANO, P.A.
A Professional Corporation
55 Washington Street
P.O. Box 1450
Bloomfield, New Jersey 07003
(973) 743-9390
Attorney for Respondent
Harold Cook III

FILED
JUL 11 2011
A. C. J. C.

IN THE MATTER OF
HAROLD P. COOK
JUDGE OF THE
MUNICIPAL COURT

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

DOCKET NO. A2jc2009-301

ANSWER OF RESPONDENT

Respondent by way of answer to the complaint says:

1. Paragraph 1 is admitted.

2. Paragraphs 2 a. - c. are admitted except that respondent believes that he did not begin serving in Ringwood until 1993. Respondent further notes that he has taken a voluntary leave of absence without pay from his judicial positions pending the resolution of the within complaint.

3. Paragraph 3 is admitted. Respondent further notes that he has taken a voluntary leave of absence without pay from these positions pending the resolution of the within complaint.

4. Paragraph 4 is admitted except that respondent ceased being a member of the firm on or about October 15, 2010.

5. As to paragraph 5, respondent admits that the law firm of Perconti and Cook ceased doing business as of October 15, 2010 and

that he began his own law firm subsequent thereto. That firm employs former associates of Perconti and Cook.

6. Paragraph 6 is admitted.

7. Paragraph 7 is admitted.

8. Paragraph 8 is admitted but respondent notes that Sean Caposella was the Chief Executive Officer of Jefferson Loan.

8a. - Paragraph 8a is admitted except that Jefferson Loan voluntarily decided to liquidate in December 2006.

8b. - As to paragraph 8b., it is admitted that subsequent to December 2006 Jefferson Loan continued to operate to collect outstanding loans that it had made. Jefferson Loan is no longer in operation; Valley National Bank is collecting Jefferson Loan's outstanding loans.

COUNT ONE

9. As to paragraph 9, Respondent repeats his answer to paragraphs 1-8 as if set forth at length herein.

10. As to paragraph 10, respondent admits that he has been named a party in numerous lawsuits.

11. Paragraph 11 is admitted.

12. Paragraph 12 is admitted.

13. Paragraph 13 is admitted.

14. Paragraph 14 is admitted except that the Court's findings were limited to plaintiffs and that the actual award of damages was $71,000.00. Pre-judgment interest of $28,400.00 was also awarded.

Respondent specifically denies that he breached his fiduciary duty.

15. As to paragraph 15, respondent admits that there are substantial outstanding monetary judgments on which he is jointly and severally liable. Most of these judgments are based on personal guarantees by respondent of obligations owed by limited liability companies which owned real estate. Respondent further states that he believes that he is entitled to a fair market credit on certain of these judgments and that he is in the process of attempting to resolve most of these outstanding judgments. Respondent further admits that one of his creditors has garnished his salaries in the municipalities where he is a municipal judge.

16. Paragraph 16 is denied.

17. As to paragraph 17, respondent admits that on June 3, 2009 a deed regarding the Beach Haven property, which respondent executed on August 16, 2008, was recorded. That deed transferred respondent's interest in property located in Beach Haven New Jersey, which he held with his wife as tenants by the entirety, to his wife. There was no lawsuit by plaintiff Kleinert pending at that time. Nor had the debt to plaintiff Kleinert matured at that time. Respondent further admits that he drew a deed for his wife, which she executed on April 8, 2010, transferring the Beach Haven Property which she held alone at that time to her daughter and herself. That deed was recorded on June 2, 2010. Respondent further admits that there was litigation pending at the time of

this transfer seeking to void the first transfer referred to in this paragraph and that the second transfer was found to be a fraudulent transfer and voided by a summary judgment Order dated April 15, 2011. A notice of appeal has been filed from that Order. Respondent specifically denies any intent to defraud creditors.

17a. As to paragraph 17a, respondent admits that the plaintiff referred to therein filed a fraudulent transfer suit and that an Order was entered on October 4, 2010 as a result of a telephone status conference on September 23, 2010. That Order provided that plaintiff could - to the extent it obtained a final judgment on a lawsuit pending in Monmouth County - attach respondent's interest in certain properties to the extent that respondent had an interest prior to any transfers. The Court did not make any findings of fact and respondent specifically denies any allegation that he had any intent to defraud creditors.

17b. Paragraph 17b is admitted subject to respondent's answer to paragraph 17. That summary judgment Order is on appeal. Respondent specifically denies any intent to defraud creditors.

18. As to paragraph 18, respondent admits that the Orders referred to therein were entered but denies that he was attempting to avoid creditors.

19. Paragraph 19 is denied.

20. Paragraph 20 is admitted. Respondent was unaware of this directive which was issued prior to respondent becoming a municipal

judge.

21. Paragraph 21 is admitted.

22. Paragraph 22 is admitted upon information and belief. Respondent notes that he was unaware of the document referred to therein.

23. Paragraph 23 is denied.

24. Paragraph 24 is denied.

25. Paragraph 25 is denied.

26. Paragraph 26 is denied.

COUNT II

27. As to paragraph 27, respondent repeats his answer to paragraphs 1-26 as if set forth at length herein.

28. As to paragraph 28, respondent admits that his law firm made political contributions on behalf of his partner; respondent believed at the time that this was appropriate and did not violate any law or the canons.

29. Paragraph 29 is admitted.

30. As to paragraph 30, respondent admits that Puddingstone made political contributions and upon information and belief that Jefferson Loan made the contribution referred to therein. Respondent denies that he was a majority shareholder in Puddingstone - he owned a 1/3 interest and was not the managing member. Respondent further states that Sean Caposella was the Chief

Executive Officer of Jefferson Loan.

31. As to paragraph 31, respondent denies that he intended to violate the canon prohibiting political contributions but in retrospect believes that the contributions in question should not have been made.

COUNT III

32. As to paragraph 32, respondent repeats his answer to paragraphs 1-31.

33. Paragraph 33 is admitted. Respondent states that he was not aware that the attorney who handled these matters was handling probable cause hearings and immediately stopped him from doing so upon learning of the same. Respondent further notes that he was not the managing partner of the firm and the attorney who handled the probable cause hearings reported directly to the managing partner.

34. Paragraph 34 is admitted.

35. Paragraph 35 is admitted upon information and belief.

36. Paragraph 36 is admitted. But see answer to paragraph 33.

37. Paragraph 37 is denied.

ADDITIONAL FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED

1. Respondent has been a municipal court judge for over twenty years. During that time period he has gained a reputation as a fair and impartial judge who promoted respect for the law. Annexed as Exhibits A-J are letters from law enforcement officers and practitioners attesting to this fact.

Robert Braco, the North Haledon Police Chief writes:

... Through all the years of knowing Harold, especially during his years as a judge, I have always found him to be a fair sensible and dedicated person and jurist. Even when I may have not agreed with his decisions, they were always based on the facts presented to him and decided accordingly.

See Exhibit A

The Chief of Police of Ringwood - Bernard F. Lombaedo - writes:

... While serving in that capacity Judge Cook has always been a true professional. He has always been compassionate, fair and forthright. He bases all of his decisions on established law, never being anything less than gracious to both the defendants and complainants. His knowledge of the law is obviously excellent. This is demonstrated constantly through his record of very few appeals and his success in the few appeals that have been filed against his legal decisions.

Judge Cook is highly respected by the entire Ringwood Police Department. He is always available when called upon. He makes himself available to victims of Domestic Violence at all hours of the night. He is always compassionate towards the victim and never hesitates to issue restraining orders when the facts warrant it. He works well with our detective bureau by making himself available to review affidavits and sign search warrants even if called upon during off hours, weekends and holidays.

See Exhibit B.

The Chief of Police of Wanaque writes:

...I have been assigned as the Court Liaison and also as the Chief of Police for the Wanaque Police Department and have always found Judge Cook to be a responsive and fair jurist to both the complainants and defendants in all Municipal Court matters. Judge Cook has shown to be extremely understanding and sympathetic to some defendants who have difficulties with our judicial system or by way of their economic status. Judge Cook would always apply the law in his decision and is and

always will be found in high regard by the legal community.

See Exhibit C.

The president of the Passaic County Chief's Association writes:

> **...While serving as the current President of the Passaic County Police Chief's Association, I have been approached by several of my fellow chief's reporting that Judge Cook has become the subject of an inquiry related his private law practice. Many of these chiefs have been involved with Judge Cook during his service as Municipal Judge in several Passaic County jurisdictions. They all speak very highly of him and feel that he has been very professional when dealing with their departments.**
>
> **From a personal standpoint, I have dealt with Judge Cook on several occasions during my career when I was assigned to the patrol division, in the detective bureau, and later when I became chief. He has signed complaint warrants, set bails, done arraignments, and has been available as our "covering judge" many times. I have found him to be very professional, knowledgeable, and honest in all my dealings with him. I was always glad when Judge Cook was available when needed as a local judge.**

See Exhibit D.

Ralph Fava, a well respected Passaic County lawyer and a municipal prosecutor writes:

> **I have known Harold P. Cook, III, for over thirty years. I have been in the unique position of observing him in his position as Municipal Court Judge in several towns I serve as Municipal Prosecutor. I estimate that I have witnessed him preside at over one thousand Court sessions.**
>
> **Judge Cook has treated each and every defendant, complainant and witness with courtesy and respect. While I have not always agreed with all of his decisions, they were well reasoned and based on a full understanding of the law.**
>
> **Further, he has always exhibited fairness and courtesy to all attorneys who appeared before him. He has demonstrated**

outstanding patience with pro se litigants and appropriately guarded their rights. If there was any question of a conflict, he immediately recused himself. I can say, without reservation, that he has always been honest, fair and candid.

See Exhibit E.

John J. Segretto, the municipal prosecutor of Haledon, writes:

I have been practicing for twenty years and have appeared in many municipal courts in this State. I can say without hesitation or reservation that Judge Cook is one of the finest municipal court judges before whom I have appeared. I believe most lawyers who have appeared before Judge Cook would agree. I have been particularly impressed with Judge Cook's treatment of prisoners who appear in our court as well as indigent defendants. Judge Cook treats all who appear before him with dignity and respect. I cannot recall an instance wherein Judge Cook lost his temper or was in anyway disrespectful to an attorney or defendant. Judge Cook's adherence to the protection of defendants' constitutional rights and his insistence on the State meeting its constitutional burden was immediately apparent upon the commencement of my duties as Prosecutor and it defines each one of our court sessions.

See Exhibit F.

A veteran municipal prosecutor, Blanche Goldstien, writes:

Up until a few years ago I held the position of Prosecutor for the City of Clifton for twenty-four years. During those years, I had the good fortune to meet Harold Cook when he took over as acting Judge in Clifton Municipal Court on those dates when the regular judge was on vacation or was unable to preside for other reasons. He was one amongst several Jurors that filled in for the regular judge on those occasions and that enabled me to make comparisons. His knowledge of the many areas of law that came up in Municipal Court was always impressive. His attitude towards the citizens that appeared before him was even handed, firm and never demeaning. The many defense lawyers that appeared at each session were treated with respect. He followed the

letter of the law in a fair manner and with good judgment. I came to see that this behavior was typical of Judge Cook in his capacity as a Jurist.

See Exhibit G.

One of New Jersey's preeminent criminal defense lawyers - Joseph Afflitto Sr. - writes:

Over the years, I and members of my firm and many of the associates who were previously employed here, had the occasion to appear in the various Courts presided over by Judge Cook. Judge Cook always conducted himself in a dignified manner and demonstrated a great deal of competence. Even in those cases where our clients did not prevail, we always left the Court satisfied that we were treated fairly.
Over time, I've had discussions about Judge Cook with many other attorneys, police officers, prosecutors and litigants and have no reservation stating that he has a reputation of being one of the most respected Municipal Court Judges in this part of the State.

See Exhibit H.

Another preeminent criminal defense attorney - Kalman Geist - writes:

Over the years I have appeared on a number of occasions in several of the courts presided over by Judge Cook. He always impressed me as a competent, compassionate and fair jurist who took his position as a representative of the judiciary seriously. Both litigants and lawyers respected him for the way he conducted the proceedings in his courts.

See Exhibit I.

And Patrick C. DeMarco Esq. a former chair of a Passaic County District Ethics Committee and a practitioner with over 40 years

experience writes:

> **I have had the opportunity to appear before Mr. Cook on countless occasions in his capacity as a Municipal Court Judge. As a result of these numerous appearances, I can attest to the efficient, courteous and even-handed manner in which he treats all those who appear before him, whether they be attorneys, defendants, complaining witnesses, police officers, etc.**

See Exhibit J.

2. Respondent's financial difficulties were caused in large part by the well documented downturn in the economy in general, the real estate market in particular and the filing of a bankruptcy by one of his partners who was a guarantor on most of the loans that are the subject of litigation. Respondent specifically denies that he engaged in any fraudulent conduct.

3. Respondent at all times acted in good faith and never intended to violate any applicable law.

WHEREFORE respondent submits this answer on this 9th day of July 2011.

Salvatore T. Alfano
Attorney for respondent

Exhibit A

103 Overlook Avenue
North Haledon, New Jersey 07508
June 28, 2011

Candace Moody
Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct
P.O. Box 037
Trenton, New Jersey 07625

Re: Judge Harold P. Cook III

This letter is being submitted on behalf of Judge Harold P. Cook III. I have known Harold for almost forty years on both a personal and professional level. On a personal level, I have known Harold from growing up in the same town. Though I was not very close to him at that time, we did have friends in common and did socialize together on occasions.

A few years later when he became a Councilman in the Borough of North Haledon, I was then a patrol officer with the North Haledon Police Department and knew him through the department's interaction with the council. When he was appointed as the North Haledon Municipal Judge, our interaction was obviously more frequent and on a professional basis. Since his appointment as a judge, I have risen up through the ranks of the police department and am now the North Haledon Chief of Police. Through all the years of knowing Harold, especially during his years as a judge, I have always found him to be a fair, sensible, and dedicated person and jurist. Even when I may have not agreed with his decisions, they were always based on the facts presented to him and decided accordingly.

Knowing him as I do, I believe he will do whatever he is able to in order to resolve the issues regarding the complaint that has been filed by the Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct.

In closing, if I can be of any further assistance, I can be contacted at the North Haledon Police Department.

Sincerely,

Robert Bracco

Exhibit B

BOROUGH OF RINGWOOD

POLICE DEPARTMENT
60 MARGARET KING AVENUE
RINGWOOD, NJ 07456

TEL: 973-962-7017
FAX: 973-962-7335
E-mail: lombardo@ringwoodpolice.com

BERNARD F. LOMBARDO
CHIEF OF POLICE

July 6, 2011

Advisory Committee On Judicial conduct
P.O. Box 037
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0037

Att: Candace Moody, Esq.

Dear Ms. Moody:

The Honorable Harold P. Cook III has been the Municipal Judge for the Borough of Ringwood since July 7, 1995. While serving in that capacity Judge Cook has always been a true professional. He has always been compassionate, fair and forthright. He bases all of his decisions on established law, never being anything less than gracious to both the defendants and complainants. His knowledge of the law is obviously excellent. This is demonstrated constantly through his record of very few appeals and his success in the few appeals that have been filed against his legal decisions.

Judge Cook is highly respected by the entire Ringwood Police Department. He is always available when called upon. He makes himself available to victims of Domestic Violence at all hours of the night. He is always compassionate towards the victim and never hesitates to issue restraining orders when the facts warrant it. He works well with our detective bureau by making himself available to review affidavits and sign search warrants even if called upon during off hours, weekends and holidays.

On a personal note, Judge Cook has been the Borough's Judge for sixteen (16) years. As a Law enforcement professional with almost 30 years of law enforcement experience, I have had the opportunity to work with numerous Judges both at the Municipal level and the Superior Court level. Judge Cook ranks as one of the best Judges that I have ever had the honor to work with.

Sincerely,

Bernard F. Lombardo
Chief of Police

Exhibit C

POLICE DEPARTMENT

579 Ringwood Avenue
Wanaque, New Jersey 07465

JOHN W. RENO
CHIEF OF POLICE

HEADQUARTERS
(973) 835-5600
Fax (973) 835-6737

Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct
P.O. Box 037
Trenton, NJ 08625-0037
ATTN: Candace Moody, Esq.

June 30, 2011

RE: Judge Harold P. Cook

On April 13, 1989 Harold P. Cook was appointed as the Municipal Judge for the Borough of Wanaque and has served in a fair and honorable capacity in that position to this date. . During this time I have been assigned as the Court Liaison and also as the Chief of Police for the Wanaque Police Department and have always found Judge Cook to be a responsive and fair jurist to both the complainants and defendants in all Municipal Court matters. Judge Cook has shown to be extremely understanding and sympathetic to some defendants who have difficulties with our judicial system or by way of their economic status. Judge Cook would always apply the law in his decision and is and always will be found in high regard by the legal community.

As a side note, Judge cook has been reappointed by the governing body of the Borough of Wanaque every three years based on his fair and impartial manner in which he conducted the affairs of the Wanaque Municipal Court.

Respectfully,

John W. Reno
Chief of Police
Borough of Wanaque

Exhibit D

BOROUGH OF TOTOWA POLICE DEPARTMENT

PASSAIC COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

ROBERT W. COYLE
CHIEF OF POLICE

MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
Totowa Road at Cherba place
Totowa Boro, NJ 07512-9989
Phone: (973) 790-3700
Fax: (973)-595-8781

July 15, 2011

Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct
P.O. Box 37
Trenton, N.J. 08625-0037

Attn: Candace Moody, Esq.

To Whom it may Concern:

This communication is written as a character reference for Judge Harold P. Cook III. While serving as the current President of the Passaic County Police Chief's Association, I have been approached by several of my fellow chief's reporting that Judge Cook has become the subject of an inquiry related to his private law practice. Many of these chief's have been involved with Judge Cook during his service as Municipal Judge in several Passaic County jurisdictions. They all speak very highly of him and feel that he has been very professional when dealing with their departments.

From a personal standpoint, I have dealt with Judge Cook on several occasions during my career when I was assigned to the patrol division, in the detective bureau, and later when I became chief. He has signed complaint warrants, set bails, done arraignments, and has been available as our "covering judge" many times. I have found him to be very professional, knowledgeable, and honest in all my dealings with him. I was always glad when Judge Cook was available when needed as a local judge.

Chief Robert Coyle

Exhibit E

COPY

RALPH M. FAVA, JR.
ATTORNEY AT LAW

ADMITTED IN NJ & NY

274 LAFAYETTE AVENUE
HAWTHORNE, NEW JERSEY 07506
PHONE 973-423-0275
FAX 973-423-4267

July 6, 2011

Supreme Court of New Jersey
Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct
PO Box 037
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

ATTN: Disciplinary Counsel
Candace Moody, Esq.

Dear Ms. Moody:

I write this letter as I am dismayed by the treatment Harold Cook has received in the local newspapers. I have no idea what his financial situation may be, but I know him as a person of high character, honesty and courtesy. I want to set the record straight as to Mr. Cook's behavior as a Municipal Court Judge.

I have known Harold P. Cook, III, for over thirty years. I have been in the unique position of observing him in his position as Municipal Court Judge in several towns I serve as Municipal Prosecutor. I estimate that I have witnessed him preside at over one thousand Court sessions.

Judge Cook has treated each and every defendant, complainant and witness with courtesy and respect. While I have not always agreed with all of his decisions, they were well reasoned and based on a full understanding of the law.

Further, he has always exhibited fairness and courtesy to all attorneys who appeared before him. He has demonstrated outstanding patience with pro se litigants and appropriately guarded their rights. If there was any question of a conflict, he immediately recused himself. I can say, without reservation, that he has always been honest, fair and candid.

If you have any questions about any of the above, do not hesitate to contact me at the above telephone number.

Respectfully,

RALPH M. FAVA, JR.

RMF/av
cc: Salvatore Alfano, Esq.

Exhibit F

LAW OFFICES

SEGRETO
SEGRETO & SEGRETO

JOHN F. SEGRETO
(1928-2007)

JOHN J. SEGRETO
PAUL A. SEGRETO

329 BELMONT AVENUE
HALEDON, NJ 07508

TEL (973) 389-1999
FAX (973) 389-2999
segretolawfirm@aol.com

July 6, 2011

Supreme Court Advisory Committee
On Judicial Conduct
Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex
P. O. Box 037
Trenton, NJ 08625
Attn: Candace Moody, Esq.
Disciplinary Counsel

Re: Honorable Harold P. Cook, III MCJ

Dear Ms. Moody:

I submit this letter on behalf of Judge Cook. I have been the Municipal Prosecutor for the Borough of Haledon for the past six and one-half years. Judge Cook has been our Judge for all of those years.

I have been practicing for twenty years and have appeared in many municipal courts in this State. I can say without hesitation or reservation that Judge Cook is one of the finest municipal court judges before whom I have appeared. I believe most lawyers who have appeared before Judge Cook would agree. I have been particularly impressed with Judge Cook's treatment of prisoners who appear in our court as well as indigent defendants. Judge Cook treats all who appear before him with dignity and respect. I cannot recall an instance wherein Judge Cook lost his temper or was in anyway disrespectful to an attorney or defendant. Judge Cook's adherence to the protection of defendants' constitutional rights and his insistence on the State meeting its constitutional burden was immediately apparent upon the commencement of my duties as Prosecutor and it defines each one of our court sessions.

Judge Cook has served as a municipal court judge for numerous municipalities with distinction and honor for close to twenty five years. We respectfully believe that he should continue to do so. We ask that the Advisory Committee consider Judge Cook's long-standing judicial service and our observations of Judge Cook's performance as a municipal court judge in its consideration of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

SEGRETO, SEGRETO & SEGRETO

By: _____
JOHN J. SEGRETO

JJS/dm

Exhibit G

BLANCHE K. GOLDSTEIN, ESQUIRE
2Claridge Drive, 12EW
Verona, New Jersey 07044

Advisory Committee Judicial Conduct
Hughes Justice Complex
25 West Market Street
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Attention: Committee Members

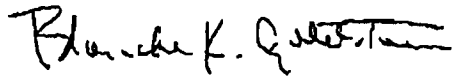
- Up until a few years ago I held the position of Prosecutor for the City of Clifton for twenty-four years. During those years, . I had the good fortune to meet Harold Cook when he took over as acting Judge in Clifton Municipal Court on those dates when the regular judge was on vacation or was unable to preside for other reasons. He was one amongst several Jurors that filled in for the regular judge on those occasions and that enabled me to make comparisons. His knowledge of the many areas of law that came up in Municipal Court was always impressive. His attitude towards the citizens that appeared before him was even handed, firm and never demeaning. The many defense lawyers that appeared at each session were treated with respect. He followed the letter of the law in a fair manner and with good judgement. I came to see that this behavior was typical of Judge Cook in his capacity as a Jurist.

- During my tenure as a municipal prosecutor, I was in constant touch with many people in my profession who knew Judge Cook away from the courtroom. I came to learn that without exception, they had great regard for his integrity in his dealings as a lawyer and I feel certain, still do. Whenever his name came up in the legal community, people expressed great admiration for his ability and competency in business transactions as well as the courtroom.

- Not only did I know Judge Cook as a jurist and attorney, but I came to know him on a personal level through a family member. He is a devoted family man and a loyal friend. I learned that many people could and did turn to him for advice. He is the kind of person that many people look up to and deservedly so.

- It is for all of the reasons above that I felt compelled to write this letter and ask that you give Judge Cook as much consideration as possible in your consideration of the case before you.

- Yours Truly,



- Blanche K. Goldstein, Esq.

Exhibit H

LAW OFFICES
AFFLITTO, RAIMONDI & AFFLITTO
500 VALLEY ROAD
P. O. BOX 3097
WAYNE, NEW JERSEY 07474-3097

(973) 633-8700

Facsimile:
(973) 633-6992

Joseph T. Afflitto
Thomas R. Raimondi
Joseph T. Afflitto, Jr.*

*Member NJ, NY & D.C. Bar

July 8, 2011

Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct
Administrative Office of the Courts
Hughes Justice Complex
25 W. Market Street
P O Box 037
Trenton NJ 086215

Attention: Candace Moody, Esquire

RE: HONORABLE HAROLD P. COOK, III, JMC

Dear Ms. Moody:

It gives me a great deal of pleasure to write and offer my opinion regarding the competency and integrity of Judge Cook.

Over the years, I and members of my firm and many of the associates who were previously employed here, had the occasion to appear in the various Courts presided over by Judge Cook. Judge Cook always conducted himself in a dignified manner and demonstrated a great deal of competence. Even in those cases where our clients did not prevail, we always left the Court satisfied that we were treated fairly.

Over time, I've had discussions about Judge Cook with many other attorneys, police officers, prosecutors and litigants and have no reservation stating that he has a reputation of being one of the most respected Municipal Court Judges in this part of the State.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

AFFLITTO, RAIMONDI & AFFLITTO

By Joseph T. Afflitto
Joseph T. Afflitto, Sr.

JTASR:JR

C: SALVATORE ALFANO, ESQUIRE VIA FAX @ 973/743.1015

Exhibit I

KALMAN HARRIS GEIST, LLC
COUNSELLOR AT LAW
PNC BANK BUILDING
ONE GARRET MOUNTAIN PLAZA
6TH FLOOR
WOODLAND PARK, NEW JERSEY 07424

TELECOPIER (973) 523-1021
8000

TELEPHONE (973) 523-

July 8, 2011

Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct
Administrative Office of the Courts
Hughes Justice Complex
25 West Market Street
P.O. Box 037
Trenton, NJ 08625

Attention: Candace Moody, Esq.

Re: Honorable Harold P. Cook III, J.M.C.

Dear Ms. Moody:

Since my admission to the practice of law in New Jersey in 1966, I have maintained a litigation practice. In addition to trying cases in state and federal courts in New Jersey and neighboring states, I have represented countless defendants in many of our municipal courts.

Over the years I have appeared on a number of occasions in several of the courts presided over by Judge Cook. He always impressed me as a competent, compassionate and fair jurist who took his position as a representative of the judiciary seriously. Both litigants and lawyers respected him for the way he conducted the proceedings in his courts.

Of late, unfortunately, Harold Cook has become a subject of discussion among members of the public and members of the bar as well. Those with whom I spoke who knew Harold Cook as a judge shared my opinion of him.

Respectfully yours,

Kalman Harris Geist

Kalman Harris Geist

CC: Salvatore T. Alfano, Esq. – *Via fax 973-743-1015*

Exhibit J

DE MARCO & DE MARCO

Counsellors at Law
912 Belmont Avenue
North Haledon, New Jersey 07508
(973) 427-8843
Fax (973) 427-2891*
Fax (973) 427-9631**

Patrick C. De Marco*
Michael P. De Marco**
Joseph P. De Marco**

June 30, 2011

The Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct
Hughes Justice Complex
25 West Market Street
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Re: Harold P. Cook, III

Dear Ms. Moody:

I am an attorney at law in the State of New Jersey, and I have been engaged in the practice of law for over forty (40) years. I am writing on behalf of Harold P. Cook, III, whom I have known since he began practicing law.

I have had the opportunity to appear before Mr. Cook on countless occasions in his capacity as a Municipal Court Judge. As a result of these numerous appearances, I can attest to the efficient, courteous and even-handed manner in which he treats all those who appear before him, whether they be attorneys, defendants, complaining witnesses, police officers, etc.

In addition to my appearances before Mr. Cook in his capacity as a Municipal Court Judge, I have represented many clients involved in real estate transactions with clients of Mr. Cook. I can assure the Committee that in each of my dealings with Mr. Cook, the issue of his honesty and/or integrity was never questioned and that he always conducted himself in a very professional manner.

Mr. Cook has been engaged in the practice of law for over thirty (30) years, and to my knowledge, he has an unblemished record notwithstanding the charges presently pending against him. He has always been highly respected in the community where we both reside and practice law, and he continues to have many, many supporters.

I would respectfully request that the Committee look favorably upon Mr. Cook's past record and that he be given every courtesy and consideration, for I truly believe that he is deserving of same.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Very truly yours,

DeMarco & DeMarco

By: _____
Patrick C. DeMarco'

PCD/em