FILED

JUN 2 2 2012

A. C. J. C.

Chasan Leyner & Lamparello, PC
300 Harmon Meadow Boulevard
Secaucus, New Jersey 07094
(201) 348-6000
Attorneys for Respondent
File No. 14309-4405

IN THE MATTER OF JOSEPH V. ISABELLA JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT	SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT DOCKET NO. ACJC 2011-361 **ANSWER TO FORMAL COMPLAINT**

Joseph V. Isabella ("Respondent"), by and through his attorneys, states by way of Answer to the May, 30, 2012 Formal Complaint filed by the Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct ("Committee") as follows:

1. Respondent admits the allegations of Paragraph 1.

2. Respondent admits the allegations of Paragraph 2.

As to Count I

3. Respondent admits the allegations of Paragraph 3.

4. Respondent admits the allegations of Paragraph 4.

5. Respondent admits the allegations of Paragraph 4 to the extent that he called his close friend and former business partner Frank Pomaco, Esq. to discuss T.M.'s son's situation. Respondent denies that he called Mr. Pomaco "[i]n an effort to secure the desired funding from the Board of Education," but rather called Mr. Pomaco – who was counsel to the Board of Education and who had served in a similar capacity

for several other Boards of Education – to ascertain what procedural mechanisms were available to individuals requesting tuition assistance or reimbursement for a summer camp program for children with special needs.

6. Respondent admits the allegations of Paragraph 6 except to state that only the facsimile cover sheet – which solely bore Mr. Pomaco's name, fax number and the closing "TKS JOE" and "6 pages" in Respondent's handwriting – was on judicial letterhead. (**Exhibit A**)

7. Respondent admits the allegations of Paragraph 7 with the clarification that he called Mr. Zarra on the advice of Mr. Pomaco to ascertain what procedural mechanisms should be followed to receive tuition assistance or reimbursement for T.M.'s son, which Respondent understood T.M. was entitled to.

8. Respondent admits the allegations of Paragraph 8.

9. Respondent admits the allegations of Paragraph 9.

10. Respondent admits the allegations of Paragraph 10.

11. Respondent admits the allegations of Paragraph 11 to the extent that they are clarified in the response to Paragraph 6, supra, except to state that his conduct was not intentionally violative of Canons 1, 2A and 2B of the Code of Judicial Conduct.

WHEREFORE, Respondent submits himself to the discretion of the Committee and respectfully requests that the Committee demonstrate leniency in its recommendations on Count I based upon his prior unblemished record as a Judge of the Superior Court.

As to Count II

12. Respondent repeats his responses to the allegations of the First through Eleventh Counts of the Formal Complaint.

13. Respondent admits the allegations of Paragraph 13.

14. Respondent admits the allegations of Paragraph 14.

15. Respondent admits the allegations of Paragraph 15 except to clarify that in assisting T.M. in answering interrogatories, he acted exclusively as a scrivener and copy editor, and did not assist in any legal capacity.

16. Respondent admits the allegations of Paragraph 16 except to clarify that his assistance was limited to reducing T.M.'s recitation of her expenses to writing, and that he did not act in any legal capacity.

17. Respondent denies the allegations of Paragraph 17.

WHEREFORE, Respondent respectfully requests that the Committee dismiss Count II of the Formal Complaint.

CHASAN LEYNER & LAMPARELLO, PC
Attorneys for Respondent Joseph V. Isabella

RALPH J. LAMPARELLO

Dated: June 21, 2012

EXHIBIT A

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY
ESSEX VICINAGE

CHAMBERS OF
JOSEPH ISABELLA
JUDGE

ESSEX COUNTY COURTS BUILDING
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07102

Frank Romaco
973-759-6968

TKS

JIE

6 pages