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FILED
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A. C. J. C.

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

IN THE MATTER OF

MARQUIS D. JONES, JR.

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

DOCKET NO. ACJC 2011-122

ANSWER TO FORMAL COMPLAINT

William P. Cunningham, attorney for Marquis D. Jones, Jr., Judge of the Superior Court, by way of Answer to the Formal Complaint filed January 18, 2012, says:

1. Respondent is a member of the Bar of the State of New Jersey, having been admitted to the practice of law in 1995.
2. Respondent admits the factual representations contained in the second paragraph of the complaint.
3. Regarding paragraph three of the complaint, Respondent admits that he attended a Holiday Party at the invitation of a member of the Ocean County Probation Department. It was his understanding that the occasion was a gathering of members of the Probation Department. Respondent never heard of "Probation Association of New Jersey, PANJ or PANJ Holiday Party" until a letter of inquiry was sent to him by this Committee on July 28, 2011.

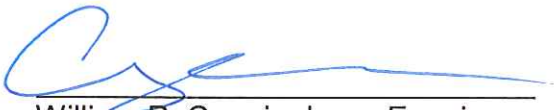
4. Regarding paragraph 4 of the complaint, Respondent incorporates the above response but does not question the factual accuracy of this paragraph.
5. Regarding paragraph 5 of the complaint, Respondent incorporates the above but does not question the factual accuracy thereof. Respondent was under the impression that he was merely attending a gathering of members of the Probation Department. Respondent paid for his own drinks and others for whom he bought drinks.
6. Regarding paragraph 6 of the complaint, Respondent incorporates the above. Respondent knew the probation officer who invited him to the gathering and some of the others who were there and with whom he interacted as an arm of the court in the course of his duties.
7. Regarding paragraph 7 of the complaint, Respondent incorporates the above.
8. Regarding paragraph 8 of the complaint, Respondent's first notice of such alleged conduct came to his attention through the Committee's letter of inquiry in July, 2011, some seven months later. Respondent does not have any recall of inappropriately touching anyone or making inappropriate comments. However, Respondent does not question the perceptions of those who have alleged otherwise. He does not have a present intention to require their personal appearance and testimony in this matter. However, if Respondent was inappropriate, it was perhaps the result of having a little too much to drink, in the Holiday spirit. As

the Committee is aware, the Respondent has taken steps, both before and after this event, to see to it that such conduct will never happen again. Respondent is embarrassed and mortified by the events in question and deeply apologizes to those offended as well as his fellow members of the judiciary, and last but not least, his own family.

9. Regarding paragraph 9 of the complaint, Respondent did not intentionally engage in the conduct alleged but takes full responsibility for the allegations of same and submits himself to any recommendation of the Committee to the Supreme Court, acknowledging that such conduct would be violative of the Code of Judicial Conduct.

WHEREFORE, Respondent respectfully submits himself to the recommendations of the Committee for whatever action it deems appropriate in this matter.

Dated: February 6, 2012



William P. Cunningham, Esquire
Attorney for Respondent