SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
JUDICIAL CONDUCT

DOCKET NO: ACJC 2011-122

IN THE MATTER OF MARQUIS D. JONES, JR. JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT	FORMAL COMPLAINT

FILED
JAN 18 2012
A. C. J. C.

Candace Moody, Disciplinary Counsel, Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct ("Complainant"), complaining of Superior Court Judge Marquis D. Jones, Jr. ("Respondent"), 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. At all times relevant to this matter, Respondent served as a judge in the Superior Court of New Jersey, assigned to the Family Division in the Ocean Vicinage, a position he continues to hold.

3. On December 3, 2010, Respondent attended a holiday party at a local establishment in Toms River, New Jersey hosted by the Ocean County chapter of the Probation Association of New Jersey ("PANJ" or "PANJ Holiday Party").

4. PANJ is a professional association and labor union for probation officers and their supervisors in New Jersey.

5. Both the facility at which the PANJ Holiday Party was held and the food served at that party were paid for by PANJ at no cost to its members. Attendees were expected to pay for their own beverages.

6. The PANJ Holiday Party was attended by PANJ's members, including several probation officers from the Child Support Enforcement Unit who regularly appear before Respondent in the course of his duties as a Superior Court Judge.

7. Respondent was verbally invited to the PANJ Holiday Party by one of the probation officers in the Child Support Enforcement Unit who was a PANJ member and very familiar with Respondent having appeared before him on a weekly basis in the course of her job duties as a probation officer. Respondent did not pay to attend the PANJ Holiday Party, but only paid for his drinks.

8. While at the PANJ Holiday Party, Respondent inappropriately touched multiple female probation officers and an employee of the establishment at which the party was held, without their consent, and made several inappropriate and/or sexually suggestive remarks to these women. Respondent's comments and conduct while at the PANJ Holiday Party were offensive and created discomfort and embarrassment.

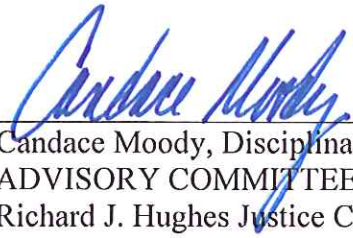
9. By inappropriately touching multiple female probation officers and an employee of the establishment where the party was held, without their consent, and by making several inappropriate and/or sexually suggestive remarks to these women, Respondent demonstrated disrespect for the Judiciary and an inability to conform his conduct to the high standards of conduct expected of judges and exhibited poor judgment. Such conduct undermines public confidence in the integrity of the Judiciary and violates Canons 1 and 2A of the Code of Judicial Conduct.

WHEREFORE, Complainant charges that Respondent, Superior Court Judge Marquis D. Jones, Jr., has violated the following Canons of the Code of Judicial Conduct:

Canon 1, which requires judges to observe high standards of conduct so that the integrity and independence of the judiciary may be preserved; and

Canon 2A, which requires judges to act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary.

DATED: January 18, 2012



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