FILED
MAY 20 2011
A. C. J. C.

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
JUDICIAL CONDUCT

DOCKET NO: ACJC 2010-200

IN THE MATTER OF RICHARD OBUCH, JUDGE OF THE MUNICIPAL COURT	FORMAL COMPLAINT

Candace Moody, Disciplinary Counsel, Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct ("Complainant"), complaining of Municipal Court Judge Richard Obuch ("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 1992.

2. At all times relevant to this matter, Respondent served as a part-time judge in the Municipal Court of the City of Elizabeth, a position he continues to hold.

3. Between February 2008 and March 2010, Respondent, in his capacity as an attorney, represented Oscar Ocasio, the then Director of Policy and Planning for the City of Elizabeth, in three matters: (1) Homebuilders Group, LLC v. Ocasio, American Arbitration Association Case No. 18-473-00-26708; (2) Oscar Ocasio Valle, et al. v. Antonio Rivera Colon, et al., United States District Court, District of New Jersey, Civil Action No. 08-4697; and (3) Oscar Ocasio v. Antonio Rivera, et al., Docket No. PAS-L-3361-08.

4. All three matters in which Respondent represented Oscar Ocasio concerned private matters unrelated to Mr. Ocasio's position as the Director of Policy and Planning for the City of Elizabeth.

5. By acting as counsel for Mr. Ocasio in three private legal matters while Mr. Ocasio served as the Director of Policy and Planning for the City of Elizabeth, Respondent has violated Rule 1:15-1(b) of the New Jersey Rules of Court.

6. By engaging in such conduct in violation of Rule 1:15-1(b), Respondent has failed to observe the high standards of conduct expected of judges and has engaged in improper conduct in violation of Canons 1 and 2A of the Code of Judicial Conduct.

WHEREFORE, Complainant charges that Respondent, Municipal Court Judge Richard Obuch, 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 respect and comply with the law and to act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary.

Complainant also charges that Respondent's conduct was in violation of Rule 1:15-1(b) of the New Jersey Court Rules.

DATED: May 20 2011

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