FILED
DEC 17 2008
A. C. J. C.

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
JUDICIAL CONDUCT

DOCKET NO: ACJC 2008-179

IN THE MATTER OF ROBERT A. JONES, JUDGE OF THE MUNICIPAL COURT	FORMAL COMPLAINT

Candace Moody, Disciplinary Counsel, Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct ("Complainant"), complaining of Municipal Court Judge Robert A. Jones ("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 1984.

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

3. At approximately 12:00 a.m. on February 17, 2008, Respondent was operating his vehicle on Parsippany Boulevard in the Township of Parsippany - Troy Hills, Morris County, when Patrolmen Brian Conover and Thomas Pomroy of the Parsippany – Troy Hills Police Department observed him driving and conducted a traffic stop.

4. Patrolman Conover detected an odor of alcohol on Respondent and observed Respondent's eyes to be bloodshot and watery.

5. After conducting field sobriety tests, all of which Respondent failed, Patrolman Conover determined that Respondent was driving while intoxicated in violation of

N.J.S.A.39:4-50 ("DWI"), placed him under arrest and had him transported to the Parsippany - Troy Hills Police Department, where Respondent consented to and was administered the Alcotest. Respondent provided two breath samples on the evening of his arrest: the results of his first breath sample indicated that Respondent's blood alcohol level was 0.16%; the results of his second breath sample indicated that Respondent's blood alcohol level was 0.17%.

6. On the evening of his arrest, Respondent denied having consumed any alcohol to Patrolman Conover.

7. On November 5, 2008, Respondent appeared before Superior Court Judge Salem Vincent Ahto, who was sitting as a judge of the Parsippany – Troy Hills Municipal Court by order of the Honorable B. Theodore Bozonelis, A.J.S.C.

8. Respondent entered a plea of guilty to the charge of DWI.

9. Judge Ahto found Respondent guilty and imposed the standard penalties: a fine of $375, costs of $39, $100 DWI surcharge, $50 VCCB penalty, $100 Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund, and $75 Safe Neighborhood Services Fund. Judge Ahto also suspended Respondent's driving privileges for a period of seven months and directed that he spend 12 hours at the Intoxicated Driver Resource Center.

10. By driving while intoxicated in violation of N.J.S.A. 39:4-50, Respondent violated Canons 1 and 2A of the Code of Judicial Conduct and demeaned the judicial office in violation of Canon 5A(2) of the Code of Judicial Conduct. Respondent's actions also constituted conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice that brings the judicial office into disrepute in violation of Rule 2:15-8(a)(6).

WHEREFORE, Complainant charges that Respondent, Municipal Court Judge Robert A. Jones, has violated the following Canons of the Code of Judicial Conduct:

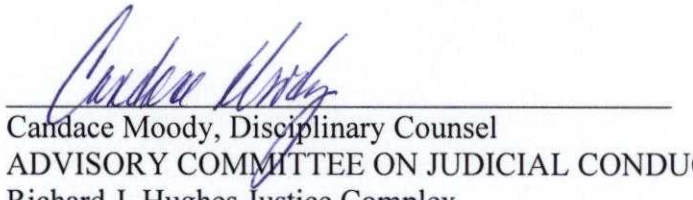
Canon 1, which requires judges to observe high standards of conduct so that the integrity and independence of the judiciary may be preserved;

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;

Canon 5A(2), which requires judges to conduct all of their extra-judicial activities so that they do not demean the judicial office; and

Complainant also charges that Respondent's conduct was in violation of Rule 2:15-8(a)(6) of the New Jersey Rules of Court.

DATED: December 17, 2008



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