

**SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY
D-35 September Term 2022
087759**

In the Matter of	:	
	:	
Bernice Toledo,	:	O R D E R
	:	
A Former Surrogate	:	

This matter having been submitted to the Court by the Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct pursuant to Rule 2:12-15A(b)(3) following the granting by the Committee of an application for discipline by consent in ACJC 2019-189 of **Bernice Toledo**, former Surrogate of Passaic County;

And Disciplinary Presenter and Respondent having entered into a stipulation of discipline by consent in which it was agreed that Respondent violated Canon 1, Rule 1.1 (requiring jurists to observe high standards of conduct to preserve the integrity and independence of the judiciary); Canon 2, Rule 2.1 (requiring jurists to promote public confidence in the independence, integrity and impartiality of the judiciary and avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety), Rule 2.2 (prohibiting jurists from permitting family, social, political, financial or other relationships or interests to influence their judicial conduct or judgment), and Rule 2.3 (A) (prohibiting jurists from lending the prestige of judicial office to advance the personal or

economic interests of the judge or others); Canon 3, Rule 3.17 (B) (6) (requiring jurists to be impartial and refrain from manifesting by words or conduct, bias or prejudice in the performance of their judicial duties), of the Code of Judicial Conduct; and Rule 1:12-1 (g) of the New Jersey Rules of Court (requiring judges to disqualify themselves in proceedings in which there exists any reason that might preclude a fair and unbiased hearing and judgment, or that might reasonably lead counsel or the parties to believe so);

And the parties having agreed that Respondent's judicial misconduct in violation of Canon 1, Rule 1.1; Canon 2, Rule 2.1, Rule 2.2, and Rule 2.3 (A); and Canon 3, Rule 3.17 (B)(6) of the Code of Judicial Conduct; and Rule 1:12-1(g) of the New Jersey Rules of Court warrants a public disciplinary sanction within the range of a public reprimand to a public censure and a permanent bar to holding or securing future judicial office;

And the Committee having recommended to the Court that the appropriate sanction for Respondent's misconduct is a public censure, with a permanent bar to holding or securing future judicial office;

And the Court having determined to accept the tendered discipline by consent, including the recommendation of a public censure and a permanent bar to the holding or securing future of judicial office, as the appropriate disciplinary sanction;

And good cause appearing;

It is ORDERED that **Bernice Toledo**, a former Surrogate, is hereby publicly censured; and it is further

ORDERED that **Bernice Toledo** is hereby permanently barred from holding or securing future judicial office; and it is further

ORDERED that the stipulation of discipline by consent, Respondent's affidavit of consent, and supporting documentation in the certified record submitted to the Court are hereby incorporated by reference into this Order, in accordance with Rule 2:15-15A (b) (4).

WITNESS, the Honorable Anne M. Patterson, Presiding Justice, at Trenton, this 21st day of March, 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Heather J. Baker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "H" and "B".

CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT