

LAW OFFICE OF ROBERT RAMSEY
2000 HAMILTON AVENUE
HAMILTON, NEW JERSEY 08619
(609) 396-7979
ATTORNEY FOR RESPONDENT
ATTORNEY ID. NO. 001991980

FILED

APR 13 2023

A.C.J.C.

IN THE MATTER OF : SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY
R. DOUGLAS HOFFMAN, : ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
JUDGE OF THE : JUDICIAL CONDUCT
MUNICIPAL COURT : DOCKET NO. ACJC 2023-051
: ANSWER

R. Douglas Hoffman, by way of response to the Complaint
says:

1) Admitted.

2) Admitted.

3) Respondent is unaware of L.W.'s beginning employment date
but does not contest the accuracy of the date set forth in
this paragraph.

4) Admitted as to "friends" designation, a designation that
Respondent has on FACEBOOK for 350 other people. On occasion,
Respondent would "like" various posts from L.W. Respondent
also avers that he could have exchanged jokes, comments and
photos with L.W. This practice by Respondent was consistent
with all his other hundreds of FACEBOOK friends. Respondent
has no recollection of any FACEBOOK communication that
included sexual innuendo from L.W. Respondent does not recall
discussing specific weekend plans with L.W. other than noting

on FACEBOOK that he was going to be on Long Beach Island over the weekend. Respondent knew that L.W.'s parents had a property in Beach Haven West.

5) Admitted. This invitation had been extended to hundreds of other people Respondent knew. Respondent maintained an open invitation for virtually everyone he knew to stop by. This included members of his court staff and colleagues, many of whom have stopped by to visit.

6) Respondent has no personal recollection has to this allegation although he has no reason to doubt its accuracy.

7) Respondent has no personal recollection has to this allegation although he has no reason to doubt its accuracy.

8) Respondent has no personal recollection has to this allegation although he has no reason to doubt its accuracy. Respondent does recall that at some point, he provided his address to L.W. apparently so that she and her mother could ride by the residence.

9) Admitted.

10) Respondent does not recall the time of L.W.'s arrival at his residence nor how long she remained, although it could have been for four hours.

11) Admitted. L.W. and Respondent remained on the front porch for approximately 45 minutes.

12) Over the time L.W. was inside the residence, Respondent consumed one can of beer and four shots of whiskey. Respondent served one can of beer to L.W. Respondent poured the initial

shots of whiskey for the two of them, a selection that was made by L.W. from Respondent's liquor cabinet. After she finished each shot, L.W. went from the living room to Respondent's kitchen and poured herself another drink. L.W. also poured shots for Respondent. These shots were consumed by both parties in Respondent's kitchen. After the shots were consumed, Respondent and L.W. returned to Respondent's living room to continue talking. Periodically, L.W. would leave the living room and inform Respondent's son (who was working in the back bedroom) of the current score of the Phillies playoff baseball game. Respondent remained in the living room and is unaware if L.W. consumed any further alcohol during these periods.

13) Denied. This part of the transaction occurred in Respondent's living room. Respondent was still sipping the initial beer he had opened. Respondent recalls that L.W. was also drinking beer. Respondent recalls L.W. had initially been seated on a couch across the room. L.W. got off the couch where she had been seated and sat next to Respondent. L.W. positioned herself within a foot of Respondent on the couch and turned facing toward him.

14) Admitted. This topic was initiated by L.W. The specifics dealt with their sexual practices. Respondent extremely uncomfortable about this subject.

15) Denied. In attempting calm and reassure L.W., who had become emotional as she related her intimate relationship

issues, Respondent patted her knee twice and told her, "You'll find somebody else to date." Respondent recalls that L.W. was wearing blue jeans at that time. Respondent is without personal knowledge as to whether she was feeling uncomfortable.

16) Denied. L.W. remained on the couch for several minutes after the knee touch and then stated she needed to use the bathroom. L.W. got up and left the room. Respondent assumed she had gone to the bathroom. After 5 to 10 minutes, when L.W. did not return, Respondent went back to his front porch. Respondent was unaware where L.W. went and that she had not taken her car keys. Respondent could still see L.W.'s car from his front porch.

17) Respondent has no personal knowledge as to this allegation.

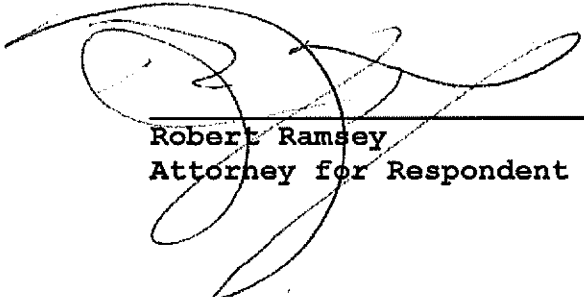
18) Respondent has no personal knowledge as to this allegation.

19) Admitted. Respondent was additionally concerned because L.W.'s car was still parked near the front of his residence.

20) Respondent has no personal knowledge as to this allegation.

21) Denied.

22) Denied.




Robert Ramsey
Attorney for Respondent

Dated: April 12, 2023

VERIFICATION OF ANSWER

I, R. Douglas Hoffman, am the Respondent in the within disciplinary action and hereby certify as follows.

- 1) I have read every paragraph of the foregoing Answer to the Grievance and verify that the statements therein are true and based on my personal knowledge.
- 2) I am aware that if any of the foregoing statements made by me are willfully false, I am subject to punishment.



R. Douglas Hoffman

Date: April 12, 2023