

FILED

DEC 29 2004

A. C. J. C.

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
JUDICIAL CONDUCT

IN THE MATTER OF
CARYL AMANA
JUDGE OF THE MUNICIPAL COURT

DOCKET NO.: ACJC 2004-144

ANSWER

Caryl Amana, Respondent in the above matter, by way of Answer to the complaint of Patrick J. Monahan, Jr., Secretary, Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct ("Complainant"), says:

1. Admitted.
2. Admitted.
3. Admitted.
4. Admitted.
5. Denied as stated. Respondent called the phone number listed in the New Jersey

Lawyer's Diary.

6. Admitted.
7. Admitted.
8. Admitted.
9. Admitted.
10. Admitted.
11. Admitted.
12. Admitted.

13. Answering Respondent lacks information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 13 and leave Complainant to his proofs.

14. Admitted.

15. Admitted.

16. Admitted.

MITIGATION

1. Caryl Amana, Esq. has had formal no complaints against her by any ethics committee as an attorney in over 25 years as an attorney. She had one fee dispute in 1995, which was dismissed in her favor.

2. Ms. Amana has been a judge of the Lawnside Municipal Court since February, 1992.

3. Ms. Amana has also served as a substitute judge in the following municipalities: Gloucester Township, Runnemede Borough, Borough of Somerdale, Borough of Bellmawr and City of Camden. There have been no prior complaints filed against her in her capacity as a Municipal Court Judge.

4. The circumstances of this case are not likely to be repeated by Judge Amana. Mr. Jackson was an integral part of her staff, and, more importantly, almost like a son to her. Additionally, the pressure of the Trenton City Attorney's office, combined with the impending trial in the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey before the Honorable Garrett Brown may have clouded her normally fine judgment in making this call.

5. Respondent requests that the Committee issue no more than a public reprimand similar to the public reprimand reported *in re DiSabato*, 76 NJ 46 (1978), *in re Murray*, 92 NJ

567 (1983), *in re Santini*, 126 NJ 291, *in re Carton*, 140 NJ 330, and *in re Sonstein*, 175 NJ 70 (2003). In addition, the matters of *in re E. Ronald Wright*, Supreme Court Docket No. D-119, September Term of 2003, ACJC Docket 2002-111, and *in re Lawson R. McElroy*, Supreme Court Docket No. D-118, September Term 2003, ACJC 2002-219.

KENNEY & KEARNEY
Attorneys for Respondant Caryl Amana

By: 
JOEL B. KORIN

Dated: December 28, 2004