

**FILED**

**DEC 08 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

FORMAL COMPLAINT

Patrick J. Monahan, Jr., Secretary, Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct

("Complainant"), complaining of Municipal Court Judge Caryl Amana ("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 1977.
2. At all times relevant to this matter, Respondent held the position of Judge of the Municipal Court of Lawnside Borough, Camden County, a position that she continues to hold.
3. At all times relevant to this matter, Respondent was also employed by the City of Trenton as the Director of the Law Department, as she was permitted to do by to *Rule 1:15-1(b)*. Respondent no longer holds that position.
4. On March 2, 2004, Respondent's secretary, Anthony Jackson, was arrested on a warrant that was issued for his failure to complete a ten-day term in the Sheriff's Labor Assistance Program ("SLAP"), to which Judge Bonnie Goldman had sentenced him in August 2003 in the Hopewell Township Municipal Court.
5. On March 2, 2004, Respondent placed a call to the private home office of Judge Goldman. In addition to maintaining a private practice, Judge Goldman was and is the Presiding Judge of Municipal Courts in the Burlington Vicinage and a municipal judge in various municipalities in both Mercer and Monmouth Counties.

6. Because her call to Judge Goldman went unanswered, Respondent left a voice mail message. In the message, Respondent gave her name and identified herself as an attorney for the City of Trenton and the Municipal Court Judge in Lawnside.

7. Respondent also said in her message, "We've met."

8. Respondent said that she was calling because she had an emergency concerning a matter in Hopewell Township Municipal Court in that her secretary, Anthony Jackson, had been arrested and taken to the workhouse in Trenton.

9. Respondent said that because of Jackson's arrest she was "desperate" because she was short-staffed at that time and she had just started a trial. She asked if there were "any way we could start the process again."

10. Respondent also stated in the voice mail message that she would ensure Mr. Jackson's attendance at and completion of the SLAP program. Respondent left information about how she could be reached and stated that she would be appearing in federal court before Judge Garrett Brown the following day.

11. On March 3, 2004, Respondent called the Hopewell Township Municipal Court and spoke to Margaret Umbro, Court Administrator. Respondent identified herself as the employer of the defendant, Mr. Jackson, and as the attorney for the City of Trenton.

12. Respondent asked Ms. Umbro why her employee had been arrested. Ms. Umbro told Respondent the status of Mr. Jackson's case and said that the matter would be heard on March 4, 2004. Respondent replied that she would probably appear and bring an attorney to represent the defendant.

13. After receiving the voice mail message of March 2, 2004, from Respondent, and learning of the conversation between Ms. Umbro and Respondent, Judge Goldman recused herself from Mr. Jackson's case on March 4, 2004, in order to avoid any appearance of impropriety.

14. By identifying herself as a judge in her call to Judge Goldman's office and by asking that Judge Goldman take action favorable to Mr. Jackson, Respondent violated Canon 2B of the Code of Judicial Conduct, which prohibits judges from lending the prestige of office to advance the private interests of others.

15. Respondent's conduct on March 2, 2004, also violated Canons 1 and 2A of the Code of Judicial Conduct and 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, by the conduct set forth above, Respondent, Municipal Court Judge Caryl Amana, violated the following Canons of the Code of Judicial Conduct:

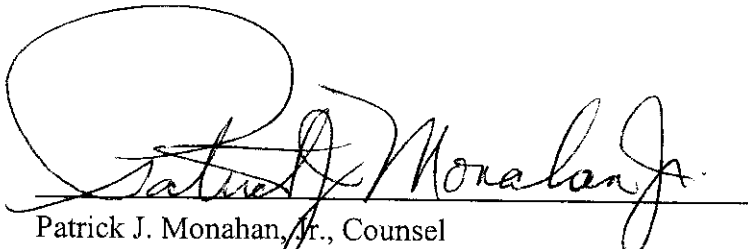
Canon 1, which requires judges to observe high standards of conduct so that the integrity and independence of the judiciary may be preserved;

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; and

Canon 2B, which prohibits judges from lending the prestige of office to advance the private interests of others; and

Complainant also charges that Respondent's conduct constitutes conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice that brings the judicial office into disrepute, in violation of *Rule 2:15-8(a)(6)*.

DATED: 12/8/04



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