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A. C. J. C.

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

DOCKET NO: ACJC 2008-317

IN THE MATTER OF

FORMAL COMPLAINT

WILSON J. CAMPBELL JUDGE OF THE MUNICIPAL COURT

Candace Moody, Disciplinary Counsel, Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct ("Complainant"), complaining of Municipal Court Judge Wilson J. Campbell ("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 1999.
- 2. At all times relevant to this matter, Respondent served as a part-time judge in the Jersey City Municipal Court, a position he continues to hold.
- 3. On June 26, 2008, A.K., a bailiff in the Jersey City Municipal Court, overdosed on medication. When questioned about her reason for overdosing, Ms. K. indicated that she overdosed because she was depressed about the break-up of an intimate relationship she had been involved in with Respondent.
- 4. On June 30, 2008, the Honorable Maurice J. Gallipoli, A.J.S.C., interviewed Respondent in the presence of Trial Court Administrator Joseph Davis and the Honorable Nesle Rodriguez, C.J.M.C. During the interview, Respondent admitted to engaging in an intimate relationship with Ms. K. that began in April 2008 and ended in June 2008.

- 5. During their intimate relationship, Ms. K. was assigned as the bailiff in the courtroom over which Respondent presided.
- 6. Respondent, although not Ms. K.'s supervisor, exercised supervisory control over her in his capacity as the municipal court judge in the courtroom to which Ms. K. was assigned as the bailiff.
- 7. Throughout the duration of their intimate relationship, Respondent did not notify his superiors of the existence of his relationship with Ms. K.
- 8. Following her overdose on medication on June 26, 2008, and as a direct result of her intimate relationship with Respondent, Ms. K. was reassigned to a different location within the courthouse and no longer works either in the same courtroom or during the same hours as Respondent.
- 9. By engaging in an intimate relationship with a subordinate municipal court employee over whom he exercised supervisory control Respondent violated Canons 1 and 2A of the <u>Code of Judicial Conduct</u> in that he did not maintain high standards of conduct and did not act in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the Judiciary.
- 10. Respondent's conduct, as detailed herein, also constituted conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice that brings the judicial office into disrepute, in violation of <u>Rule</u> 2:15-8(a)(6).

WHEREFORE, Complainant charges that Respondent, Municipal Court Judge Wilson J. Campbell, has violated the following Canons of the <u>Code of Judicial Conduct</u>:

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

Canon 2A, which requires judges to act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary.

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

DATED: February 2, 2009

Candace Moody, Disciplinary Counsel
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex

25 Market Street 3rd Floor, North Wing

P. O. Box 037

Trenton, NJ 08625

(609) 292-2552