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MAY 19 2008

A. C. J. C.

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
JUDICIAL CONDUCT

DOCKET NO: ACJC 2007-243

IN THE MATTER OF

LAWSON R. McELROY
FORMER JUDGE OF THE MUNICIPAL
COURT

STIPULATIONS

The undersigned Disciplinary Counsel ("Presenter") to the Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct (the "Committee") and Lawson R. McElroy, retired judge of the Trenton Municipal Court ("Respondent"), through counsel, hereby enter into these Stipulations:

1. Respondent, with the benefit of legal counsel, knowingly and voluntarily waives his right to a Formal Hearing before the Committee. Respondent does not seek to prove any facts beyond those which form the subject of this Stipulation. Respondent understands that the Committee will decide this matter, without further notice to Respondent, based upon the documentary evidence presented and this Stipulation.

2. The parties have no objection to the admittance into evidence of their respective exhibits, which consist of the following: Presenter's exhibits P-1 through P-19; Respondent's exhibits R-1.

3. At all times relevant to these matters, Respondent served as a full-time judge of the Municipal Court of Trenton, Mercer County. Respondent was appointed as a full-time municipal court judge in the Trenton Municipal Court on July 24, 2000, and was subsequently reappointed to that position for consecutive three-year terms ending April 1, 2008, at which time

Respondent retired from the municipal court bench. Respondent does not currently sit as a municipal court judge in any other municipality.

AS TO COUNT I

4. On June 13, 2007, Maria Cosme, the Court Administrator for the Trenton Municipal Court, met with Maria Ivette Gonzales, a security officer in the Trenton Municipal Court (the "Meeting"), in Ms. Cosme's office, to discuss an issue relative to the daily presence of Ms. Gonzales' niece in the municipal court while Ms. Gonzales was on duty.

5. Within minutes of the start of the Meeting, and in full view of several other court employees, Respondent knocked on Ms. Cosme's closed office door and stated to Ms. Gonzales, through the closed office door, to remain silent. Respondent further stated, through the closed office door, that Ms. Gonzales needed a lawyer present at the Meeting.

6. Ms. Cosme did not initially open her office door, but rather replied to Respondent, through the closed door, that she was having a meeting with one of her staff members, that the Meeting had just started and that Ms. Gonzales did not need a lawyer present at the Meeting.

7. Respondent continued to knock on Ms. Cosme's door and at one point attempted to enter Ms. Cosme's office, but could not do so because the door was locked. Ms. Cosme directed Ms. Gonzales to open the office door. At that time, Ms. Cosme again advised Respondent that she was meeting with one of her employees.

8. Respondent replied to Ms. Cosme by again directing Ms. Gonzales to remain silent and advising Ms. Cosme that a lawsuit could be filed against her, the Court Director, and the City of Trenton. Ms. Cosme replied to Respondent by stating that it was within her job duties to conduct meetings with her staff. Ms. Cosme then directed Ms. Gonzales to return to her desk.

9. Subsequent to the verbal exchange between Respondent and Ms. Cosme, Respondent met with Judge Louis Sancinito, Chief Judge of the Trenton Municipal Court. When

questioned by Judge Sancinito about his interaction with Ms. Cosme, Respondent stated, "The City is going to be sued, you're going to be sued and Ms. Lewis is going to be sued if you don't resolve this issue about the niece being in the building. It is a public building."

Respondent further stated to Judge Sancinito: "I'll represent her," referring to Maria Ivette Gonzales. Judge Sancinito referred Respondent to Rule 1:15-1(a), which prohibits full-time judges from engaging in the practice of law.

10. Respondent's remarks to Ms. Cosme, as referenced in the foregoing paragraphs, were disrespectful and insulting, in violation of Canon 3A(3) of the Code of Judicial Conduct, and intemperate in violation of Rule 2:15-8(a)(4) of the New Jersey Rules of Court.

11. By his remarks to Ms. Cosme, Respondent also violated Canons 1 and 2A of the Code of Judicial Conduct 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.

AS TO COUNT II

12. Respondent is aware that on September 20, 2001, the City Council of the City of Trenton amended, by Ordinance No. 01-83, Chapter 2-14.2 of the City Code, to clarify certain restrictions on the practice of law by municipal court judges. One of the restrictions included in Ordinance No. 01-83 was the prohibition against the practice of law by full-time municipal court judges. Respondent became aware of this amendment shortly after its issuance in September 2001.

13. While serving as a full-time municipal court judge in the Trenton Municipal Court, Respondent maintained a law office at 539 West State Street, in Trenton, New Jersey.

14. On two separate occasions, Respondent engaged in the practice of real estate law on behalf of two employees of the Trenton Municipal Court. In 2005, Respondent represented Rosa Thomas, a Deputy Court Administrator for the Trenton Municipal Court, in the sale and purchase of real property. Likewise, in 2006, Respondent represented Olga Pacheco in the sale

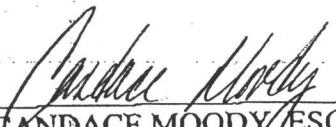
and purchase of real property. At the time Respondent represented Ms. Pacheco, she was an employee of the Trenton Municipal Court.

15. On June 13, 2007, during a meeting with Respondent, Judge Sancinito questioned Respondent about his continued practice of law in violation of Rule 1:15-1(a) of the New Jersey Rules of Court. At that time, Respondent did not deny to Judge Sancinito that he was engaging in the practice of law while sitting as a full-time municipal court judge and did not offer any justification or excuse for doing so.

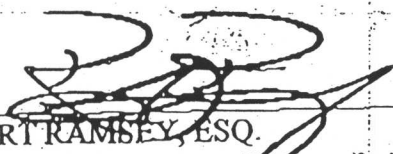
16. By maintaining a law office and engaging in the practice of law while sitting as a full-time municipal court judge, Respondent violated Rule 1:15-1(a) of the New Jersey Rules of Court and Municipal Ordinance No. 01-83, both of which prohibit full-time judges from engaging in the practice of law.

17. By maintaining a law office and engaging in the practice of law while sitting as a full-time municipal court judge, Respondent violated Canon 5G of the Code of Judicial Conduct, which prohibits full-time judges from engaging in the practice of law, with or without compensation.

18. Respondent's conduct also violated Canons 1 and 2A of the Code of Judicial Conduct, constituted misconduct in office in violation of Rule 2:15-8(a)(1), and was prejudicial to the administration of justice that brought the judicial office into disrepute in violation of Rule 2:15-8(a)(6) of the New Jersey Rules of Court.


CANDACE MOODY, ESQ.
Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct

DATED: May 19, 2008


ROBERT RAMSEY, ESQ.
Attorney for Respondent, Lawson R. McElroy

DATED: May 19, 2008