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A. C. J. C.

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

DOCKET NO: ACJC 2009-153

IN THE MATTER OF

STIPULATIONS

ROBERT A. SOLOMON,
JUDGE OF THE MUNICIPAL COURT

The undersigned Disciplinary Counsel ("Presenter") to the Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct and Robert A. Solomon, J.M.C. ("Respondent"), through counsel, hereby enter into these Stipulations:

- 1. Respondent is a member of the Bar of the State of New Jersey, having been admitted to the practice of law in 1982.
- 2. At all times relevant to this matter, Respondent served as a part-time judge in the Municipal Court of the Borough of Norwood, a position he no longer holds.
- 3. On February 10, 2009, Respondent presided over a trial in the matter of State v. Sheila Esposito, Summons No. 0241-C-012089, in the Municipal Court of the Borough of Norwood (the "Esposito Matter").
- 4. Sheila Esposito, who at the time was a teacher in the Borough of Norwood and the defendant in the Esposito Matter, appeared in the Norwood Municipal Court on February 10, 2009, without an attorney, to answer for Summons No. 0241-C-012089, which concerned a speeding ticket that had been issued to her by the Norwood Police Department.

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- 5. Respondent knew Ms. Esposito because she was his daughter's speech teacher when Respondent's daughter was in elementary school. Respondent's daughter is now in middle school.
- 6. Ms. Esposito's position as his child's former elementary school teacher created a conflict of interest for Respondent that required his immediate recusal from the Esposito Matter.
- 7. Respondent's failure to recuse himself from the Esposito Matter despite a clear conflict of interest violated Canon 3C(1)(a) of the Code of Judicial Conduct and Rule 1:12-1(e) and (f) of the New Jersey Court Rules.
- 8. Respondent's failure to recuse himself from the Esposito Matter despite a clear conflict of interest also violated Canons 1 and 2A of the Code of Judicial Conduct.

CANDACE MOODY, ESQ.

Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct

DATED: November 2, 2011

DATED: November _

2011

ROBERT RAMSEY, ESQ.

Attorney for Respondent, Robert A. Solomon