

Commission's public statement on a former judge's misrepresentation



STATE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

PUBLIC STATEMENT

No. PS-2000-3

As a result of a recently publicized letter from a former judge misrepresenting the rationale of a decision of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct, the Commission believes that the interests of the judiciary and the public would be best served by issuing this public statement condemning the actions of the former judge.

Omitting pertinent information, in fact, misrepresents the information. Therefore, a true and correct copy of the complete letter that was sent to the former judge informing him of the Commission's action is attached hereto.

By way of background information, it should be noted that the complaint in question was brought to the Commission's attention by a group of judges who were complying with the provisions of the Code of Judicial Conduct by reporting alleged misconduct by a fellow member of the judiciary. The offending judge was later terminated by the El Paso Council of Judges as a result of the misconduct alleged in the Commission complaint.

The Commission commends and encourages judges who have the integrity, strength of character, and commitment to maintaining the high standards of the judiciary to report allegations of misconduct committed by fellow judges. The Commission condemns the actions of a respondent judge who misuses the disciplinary system to promote his or her own personal or political agenda.

The Commission issues this public statement pursuant to the authority granted to it by Article V, Section 1-a(10) of the Texas Constitution.

This public statement is intended to help preserve the integrity of all judges in the State of Texas, to promote public confidence in the judiciary, and to encourage judges to maintain high standards of professional conduct.

Signed this 4th day of April, 2000.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Margaret J. Reaves, Executive Director
State Commission on Judicial Conduct