



**BEFORE THE STATE COMMISSION  
ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

---

**CJC Nos. 18-0818 AND 18-0876**

---

**PUBLIC WARNING  
AND ORDER OF ADDITIONAL EDUCATION**

**HONORABLE ANDREA MARTIN  
304<sup>TH</sup> JUVENILE DISTRICT COURT  
DALLAS, DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS**

During its meeting on December 5-7, 2018, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct concluded a review of the allegations against the Honorable Andrea Martin, 304<sup>th</sup> Juvenile District Court, Dallas County, Texas. Judge Martin was advised by letter of the Commission's concerns and provided a written response. Judge Martin appeared before the Commission on December 6, 2018, and gave testimony. After considering the evidence before it, the Commission entered the following Findings and Conclusion:

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. At all times relevant hereto, the Honorable Andrea Martin was the Judge for the 304<sup>th</sup> Juvenile District Court in Dallas County, Texas.
2. Judge Martin was reelected to her position in November of 2018.
3. The Honorable Kim Cooks, Judge for the 255<sup>th</sup> District Court in Dallas County, Texas, was also reelected in November of 2018.
4. During their 2018 campaigns for reelection, Judge Martin and Judge Cooks together produced and distributed a campaign mailer that featured their names, titles, and likenesses, and urged constituents to vote for each of them in their respective judicial races (the "Mailer").
5. The Mailer included the following statements:

Judge Martin and Judge Cooks have proven how much can be accomplished and how we all benefit when we work together;

Keep this talented team working for our families and for our children; and

We are truly stronger together.

6. The Mailer stated it was “[p]aid for by Andrea Martin & Kim Cooks for Judge Campaign.”
7. Judges Martin and Cooks together produced two campaign videos and posted them to social media (the “Videos”). Both Judges appear in the Videos, and identify themselves by name and title, and ask voters to support both of them in their respective reelection efforts. In one of the Videos, the Judges state, “We are your Dallas County Judges, your people’s judges. We are the community judges. And we need your help,” and encourage constituents to vote early in both judicial races.
8. Judges Martin and Cooks indicated that they jointly hosted a fundraising event at which separate tables were set up for each campaign, and donations were made to each campaign individually (the “Fundraising Event”).
9. Judges Martin and Cooks stated that their individual campaigns shared equally the costs associated with the Mailer, the Videos, and the Fundraising Event.

### RELEVANT STANDARDS

1. Canon 2B of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct provides in relevant part, “A judge shall not lend the prestige of judicial office to advance the private interests of the judge or others.”
2. Canon 5(2) of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct provides in relevant part that a judge “shall not authorize the public use of his or her name endorsing another candidate for any public office, except that either may indicate support for a political party.”

### CONCLUSION

The Commission concludes from the facts and evidence presented that by engaging in joint campaign efforts with Judge Cooks, including hosting a joint fundraiser, and producing and disseminating campaign materials featuring both Judges that suggested they were running as a team, Judge Martin lent the prestige of her judicial office to advance the private interests of Judge Cooks, in violation of Canon 2B. Moreover, by authorizing the use of her name, title, and likeness on advertisements supporting Judge Cooks’ campaign as well as her own, Judge Martin’s conduct constituted a public endorsement of Judge Cooks expressly prohibited by Canon 5(2). The Commission concludes that Judge Martin’s conduct constituted willful violations of Canons 2B and 5(2) of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct.

\*\*\*\*\*

In view of the conduct described above that violated Canons 2B and 5(2) of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct, it is the Commission’s decision to issue a **PUBLIC WARNING AND ORDER OF ADDITIONAL EDUCATION** to the Honorable Andrea Martin, 304<sup>th</sup> Juvenile District Court, Dallas County, Texas.

Pursuant to this Order, Judge Martin must obtain **two hours** of instruction with a mentor, in addition to his required judicial education for Fiscal Year 2019. In particular, the Commission desires that Judge Martin receive this additional education in the area of campaigning.


Judge Martin shall complete the additional **two hours** of instruction recited above within **sixty days** from the date of written notification of the assignment of a mentor. It is Judge Martin's responsibility to contact the assigned mentor and schedule the additional education.

Upon the completion of the **two hours** of instruction described herein, Judge Martin shall sign and return the Respondent Judge Survey indicating compliance with this Order. Failure to complete, or report the completion of, the required additional education in a timely manner may result in further Commission action.

Pursuant to the authority contained in Article V, §1-a (8) of the Texas Constitution, it is ordered that the actions described above be made the subject of a **PUBLIC WARNING AND ORDER OF ADDITIONAL EDUCATION**.

The Commission has taken this action with the intent of assisting Judge Martin in her continued judicial service, as well as in a continuing effort to protect public confidence in the judicial system and to assist the state's judiciary in its efforts to embody the principles and values set forth in the Texas Constitution and the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct.

Issued this the 20<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2018.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Honorable Catherine N. Wylie, Vice-Chair<sup>1</sup>  
State Commission on Judicial Conduct

---

<sup>1</sup> Justice Douglas S. Lang, Chair of the Commission, recused himself from any participation in this matter.