

BEFORE THE STATE COMMISSION

ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

CJC No. 19-1043

PUBLIC WARNING

HONORABLE GENA SLAUGHTER 191st Civil District Court Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

During its meeting on October 22 & 26-29, 2021, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct concluded a review of the allegations against the Honorable Gena Slaughter, 191st District Court, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas. Judge Slaughter was advised by letter of the Commission's concerns and provided a written response.

After considering the evidence before it, the Commission enters the following findings and conclusions:

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. At all times relevant hereto, the Honorable Gena Slaughter, was judge of the 191st Civil District Court, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas.
- 2. The Texas Ethics Commission (the "TEC") has a list of candidates/officeholders who are delinquent filers.
- 3. As of July 27, 2021, Judge Slaughter was listed as a delinquent filer of her campaign finance reports, and owed \$8,200 in fines to TEC.
- 4. From January 2006 through July 2021, Judge Slaughter filed twelve campaign finance reports late.
- 5. According to TEC, as of June 30, 2021, Judge Slaughter had been charged a total amount of \$11,200 in penalty fines for the twelve late campaign finance reports; of that amount, Judge Slaughter had paid \$6,105.07, but still owed \$5,094.93 in fines.
- 6. On September 17, 2021, Judge Slaughter paid the remaining amount due of \$5,094.93 to TEC.

RELEVANT STANDARDS

- 1. Canon 2A of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct provides that a judge shall comply with the law and should act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary.
- 2. Canon 4I(2) of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct states: "A judge shall file financial and other reports as required by law."
- 3. Article V, Section 1-a(6)A of the Texas Constitution provides, in relevant part, that a judge shall not engage in "willful or persistent conduct" that "is clearly inconsistent with the proper performance of his duties or casts public discredit upon the judiciary..."
- 4. Section 254.063 of the Texas Election Code provides, in relevant part, that a candidate shall file two campaign finance reports each year: 1) the first report filed not later than July 15; and 2) the second report filed not later than January 15.
- 5. Section 254.064 of the Texas Election Code provides, in relevant part, that a candidate who has an opponent whose name is on the ballot shall file two, additional reports: 1) the first report filed not later than the 30th day before the election; and 2) the second report filed not later than the 8th day before election day.
- 6. Section 254.093 of the Texas Election Code provides, in relevant part, that an officeholder shall file two reports each year: 1) the first report filed not later than July 15; and 2) the second report filed not later than January 15.

CONCLUSION

Based on the record before it and the factual findings recited above, the Texas State Commission on Judicial Conduct has determined that the Honorable Gena Slaughter, 191st Civil District Court, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas, should be publicly warned for failing on several occasions to timely file her campaign finance reports with the Texas Ethics Commission and failing to file public reports required by law. Judge Slaughter's failures in these respects constituted willful failure to comply with the law, willful failure to file public records required by law, and persistent conduct that cast public discredit upon the judiciary, in violation of Canons 2A and 4I(2) of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct, and Article V, Section 1-a(6)A of the Texas Constitution.

The Commission has taken this action pursuant to the authority conferred it in Article V, §1-a of the Texas Constitution in a continuing effort to protect the public and promote public confidence in the judicial system.

Issued this the 4 day of February, 2022.

David Schenck Chairman, State Commission on Judicial Conduct