



**BEFORE THE  
STATE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

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**CJC No. 02-0342-JP**

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**PUBLIC ADMONITION**

**HONORABLE DIANA RODRIGUEZ  
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT 2, PLACE 1  
ENCINAL, LASALLE COUNTY, TEXAS**

During its meeting in Austin, Texas, on October 10-11, 2002, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct concluded a review of allegations against the Honorable Diana Rodriguez, Justice of the Peace for Precinct 2, Place 1, Encinal, LaSalle County, Texas. Judge Rodriguez was advised by letter of the Commission's concerns and provided a written response. Judge Rodriguez appeared before the Commission on April 10, 2002 and gave testimony. Following her appearance, the Commission recommended to the Supreme Court of Texas that Judge Rodriguez be suspended from office without pay. On May 9, 2002, the Supreme Court of Texas granted the Commission's request and suspended Judge Rodriguez from office without pay pending final resolution of the charges against her. After considering the evidence before it, the Commission entered the following Findings and Conclusions:

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. At all times relevant hereto, Judge Diana Rodriguez was the Justice of the Peace for Precinct 2, Place 1, in Encinal, LaSalle County, Texas.
2. On or about August 16, 2001, the Texas Justice Court Training Center notified Judge Rodriguez that she had failed to obtain her required judicial education as a justice of the peace during fiscal year 2001, which commenced on September 1, 2000 and ended on August 31, 2001. A waiver request form, along with instructions for its completion, was also provided to the judge at this time.

3. According to the February 21, 2002 sworn statement of Roger Rountree, Executive Director for the Texas Justice Court Training Center, Judge Rodriguez failed to obtain her twenty (20) hours of required judicial education as a justice of the peace during fiscal year 2001 and did not apply for, nor was granted a waiver of her judicial education for fiscal year 2001 by the Justice Court Training Center Education Committee.
4. According to records received from the Texas Justice Court Training Center, on March 24-27, 2002, Judge Rodriguez attended a twenty-hour Justice of the Peace Seminar in San Antonio, Texas, which program brought her into compliance with the fiscal year 2002 judicial education requirement.
5. On July 15-17, 2002, Judge Rodriguez attended an eighteen-hour Ethics Conference in San Antonio, Texas.
6. On September 30, 2002, Judge Rodriguez spent more than two hours with a mentor judge discussing various court procedure issues.
7. The Ethics Conference, along with the additional training with the mentor judge, brought Judge Rodriguez into compliance with the fiscal year 2001 judicial education requirement.

**RELEVANT STANDARDS**

1. Canon 2A of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct states, “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 3B(2) of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct states, in pertinent part, “A judge should be faithful to the law and shall maintain professional competence in it.”
3. Rule 3a(2) of the Texas Rules of Judicial Education states that, after the first year of taking office, “[e]ach Justice of the Peace will, as an official duty, complete a 20 hour course of instruction in the performance of the duties of office.”

**CONCLUSION**

The Commission finds that by failing to obtain the mandatory judicial education hours as a justice of the peace, as required by Rule 3a of the Texas Rules of Judicial Education, Judge Rodriguez did not comply with the law in violation of Canon 2A of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct and did not maintain professional competence in the law in violation of Canon 3B(2) of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct.

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In condemnation of the above-described conduct that violated Canons 2A and 3B(2) of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct, it is the Commission's decision to issue a **PUBLIC ADMONITION** to Judge Diana Rodriguez, Justice of the Peace for Precinct 2, Place 1, Encinal, LaSalle County, Texas.

Pursuant to the authority contained in Article V, Section 1-a(8) of the Texas Constitution, it is ordered that the conduct described above be made the subject of a **PUBLIC ADMONITION** by the Commission.

The Commission has taken this action 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 23rd day of October, 2002

**ORIGINAL SIGNED BY**

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Honorable Kathleen Olivares, Chair  
State Commission on Judicial Conduct