



BEFORE THE STATE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

CJC Nos. 20-1314 & 21-0799

PUBLIC ADMONITION

**HONORABLE ROBERT TEJEDA
FORMER JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT 1, PLACE 1
SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS**

During its meeting on June 7-8, 2023, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct concluded a review of the allegations against the Honorable Robert Tejeda, Former Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1, Place 1, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. Judge Tejeda was advised by letter of the Commission's concerns and did not provide a written response.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. At all times relevant hereto, the Honorable Robert Tejeda was a Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1, Place 1, in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas.
2. Bexar County employment records show that beginning in May of 2014 and continuing until his retirement from the bench in December of 2022, Judge Tejeda's wife, Lynn Tejeda, worked as the lead clerk of his court.
3. During Judge Tejeda's tenure on the bench, between January of 2015 and September of 2021, Judge Ciro Rodriguez served as the Bexar County Justice of the Peace for Precinct 1, Place 2.
4. In December of 2020, Judge Rodriguez hired as his court manager Sylvia Mendelsohn, whose employment was approved by the Bexar County Auditor.
5. On January 4, 2021, Ms. Mendelsohn's first day of work, Judge Tejeda issued and posted to the courthouse doors a standing administrative order (the "Order") rejecting the validity of Ms. Mendelsohn's hiring and announcing that he, as the administrative judge of Precinct 1, was the only person with the authority to select a manager for Precinct 1, Place 2, and he had chosen another candidate.

6. In the Order, Judge Tejeda barred Ms. Mendelsohn and other “unauthorized” persons from entering the courthouse and directed the Constable to detain any person “refusing to abide by” the Order.
7. Judge Tejeda did not respond to the Commission’s letter of inquiry about these matters, despite receiving multiple extensions of time to respond.

RELEVANT STANDARDS

1. Canon 2B of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct provides that a judge shall not lend the prestige of judicial office to advance the private interests of the judge or others.
2. Canon 3B(4) of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct provides that a judge shall be patient, dignified and courteous to litigants, jurors, witnesses, lawyers and others with whom the judge deals in an official capacity.
3. Section 33.001(b)(5) of Texas Government Code provides that a judge’s failure to cooperate with the Commission constitutes “willful or persistent conduct that is clearly inconsistent with the proper performance of a judge’s duties,” and therefore a violation of Article V, Section 1-a(6)(A) of the Texas Constitution.
4. Article V, Section 1-a(6)A of the Texas Constitution provides 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 or administration of justice.

CONCLUSION

Based on the record before it and the factual findings recited above, the Texas State Commission on Judicial Conduct has determined the Honorable Robert Tejeda, former Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1, Place 1 in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas should be publicly admonished for: (1) employing his wife as his court clerk, which constituted lending the prestige of his judicial office to advance the private interests of himself and his wife, in violation of Canon 2B of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct; (2) issuing and posting on the courthouse doors the Order, which barred Ms. Mendelsohn from entering the courthouse and performing her duties, and in so doing treated Ms. Mendelsohn with a lack of patience, dignity, and courtesy, in violation of Canon 3B(4) of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct; and (3) failing to cooperate with the Commission’s inquiry into these matters, in violation of Section 33.001(b)(5) of Texas Government Code. Judge Tejeda’s failures in these respects constituted willful and persistent conduct that is clearly inconsistent with the proper performance of his duties and cast public discredit upon the judiciary or the administration of justice, in violation of 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, Section 1-a(8) 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 October, 2023.



Gary Steel
Chairman, State Commission on Judicial Conduct