



**BEFORE THE
STATE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

CJC No. 05-0967-MU

PUBLIC ADMONITION

**HONORABLE MANUEL RAMOS
FORMER MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE
PEARSALL, FRIO COUNTY, TEXAS**

During its meeting in Austin, Texas, on February 15-17, 2006, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct concluded a review of allegations against the Honorable Manuel Ramos, former Municipal Court Judge for the City of Pearsall in Frio County, Texas. Judge Ramos was advised by letter of the Commission's concerns and provided his written response. Judge Ramos appeared with counsel before the Commission on February 17, 2006, 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 Manuel Ramos was the Municipal Court Judge for the City of Pearsall in Frio County, Texas.
2. On or about July 5, 2005, E.R. went to Judge Ramos' office to be sworn in as a police officer for the City of Pearsall.
3. Following the investiture, Judge Ramos shook E.R.'s hand and congratulated her on her new position.

4. Thereafter, in the presence of the Chief of Police and the Court Clerk, Judge Ramos requested that E.R. “spank him” and then arrest him.
5. On July 12, 2005, the Pearsall City Council met in a special executive session to discuss the formal complaint filed against Judge Ramos by E.R. As a result of that meeting, Judge Ramos was placed on probation for thirty (30) days, but not relieved of his judicial duties.
6. Judge Ramos’ term of office expired in May 2005. During the special session of the Pearsall City Council, it was decided that Judge Ramos would not be reappointed to another term; however, he continued to serve until a replacement was appointed.

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(4) of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct states, in pertinent part: “A judge shall be patient, dignified and courteous to...others with whom the judge deals in an official capacity... .”

CONCLUSION

The Commission concludes from the facts and evidence presented that Judge Ramos’ inappropriate and offensive statement to E.R. after the investiture demonstrated more than a mere lapse of judgment. As a public official charged with upholding the honor and integrity of the judiciary, Judge Ramos knew or should have known that his behavior lacked dignity and would be perceived as offensive, disrespectful, and discourteous not just to E.R., but to her supervisor and the court employee who witnessed the incident. Based on the circumstances surrounding this matter, the Commission concludes that the judge’s actions constituted a willful violation of Canons 2A and 3B(4) of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct.

In condemnation of the conduct described above that violated Canons 2A and 3B(4) of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct, it is the Commission’s decision to issue a **PUBLIC ADMONITION** to the Honorable Manuel Ramos, former Municipal Court Judge for the City of Pearsall in Frio 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 is made the subject of a **PUBLIC ADMONITION** by the State Commission on Judicial Conduct.

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 ___6th___ day of March, 2006.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Honorable Monica A. Gonzalez, Chair
State Commission on Judicial Conduct

