

**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
COURT OF JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE**

COURT OF JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE
OF PENNSYLVANIA

NOV - 9 2023

RECEIVED

IN RE:

Judge Sonya M. McKnight	:	
Magisterial District Judge	:	
Magisterial District 12-2-04	:	2 JD 2023
12 th Judicial District	:	
Dauphin County	:	

BOARD'S RESPONSE PURSUANT TO ORDER OF OCTOBER 16, 2023

AND NOW, this 8th day of November, comes the Judicial Conduct Board of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (Board) and provides evidence in support of the Board's Petition to Suspend filed on September 6, 2023, against the Honorable Judge Sonya M. McKnight, Magisterial District Judge for Magisterial District 12-2-04, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, alleging that Judge McKnight has violated the Rules Governing Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

I. EVIDENCE

Theft of Time:

1. Sometime in November of 2021, Judge McKnight informed four (4) members of her staff that they could have two (2) vacation days in November and two (2) vacation days in December without utilizing their earned leave.
2. The staff was advised to schedule the days off with then Office Manager, Kimberly Ross-Seals.
3. Judge McKnight stated during her June 22, 2023, Deposition that she gave her employees an additional four (4) days of vacation leave, **(See Attachment A, June 22, 2023 deposition transcript, pages 15 through 26).**

Cooperation with Disciplinary Authorities:

4. On October 13, 2022, Board counsel sent Judge McKnight a Notice of Full Investigation and inquired as to whether she had given her employees extra vacation leave in November 2021, **(See Attachment B, October 13, 2022, Notice of Full Investigation)**.
5. Judge McKnight submitted two (2) responses to the Notice of Full Investigation on November 7, 2022, and January 24, 2023 in which she denied that she granted her employees vacation leave in 2021. **(See Attachment C, Responses to Notice of Full Investigation)**.
6. Contrary to her (2) responses to the Notice of Full Investigation, during her June 22, 2023 deposition, Judge McKnight admitted that she gave her employees an additional four (4) days of vacation leave.

Kimberly Ross-Seals Civil Complaint:

7. On March 23, 2022, J'Naia Stinson, one of Judge McKnight's court clerks, was opening the court office's daily mail and received a civil complaint from Kimberly Ross-Seals against Judge McKnight along with a check for the filing fee.
8. Ms. Ross-Seals claimed in her complaint that Judge McKnight owed her \$2073.49 for an unpaid loan.
9. Judge McKnight advised her then Office Manager, Georgette Potts, to act like the complaint was never received.
10. The civil complaint was never docketed, the check was never cashed, and Ms. Potts placed the complaint and check in her desk.

11. If called to testify, Ms. Stinson would state that she opened the civil complaint on March 23, 2022, and provided the same to then Office Manager, Georgette Potts.
12. If called to testify, Ms. Potts would state that Judge McKnight advised her to act like the complaint was never received. Further, Ms. Potts would testify that at the direction of Judge McKnight she did not file the complaint.

Karen Johnson Favor:

13. On the evening of July 25, 2021, Judge McKnight called Ms. Johnson and requested she contact the Harrisburg Police Department Records Department and obtain a copy of a police report related to her criminal case.
14. If called to testify, Ms. Johnson would state that she received a phone call from Judge McKnight on the evening of July 25, 2021, requesting she obtain a copy of a police report pertaining to Judge McKnight's criminal case. Ms. Johnson would also testify that she felt pressured to comply with Judge McKnight's request based on her position as a Magisterial District Court Judge.

Attorney Brian Perry:

15. Attorney Brian Perry represented Judge McKnight from 2019 until December 2020.
16. On June 23, 2022, Dauphin County Court Administrator, Deborah Freeman, sent Judge McKnight an email advising her that per President Judge John Cherry's directive, she should not preside over matters involving attorney Brian Perry **(See Attachment D, June 23, 2022 email)**.
17. Attorney Perry appeared before Judge McKnight on July 18, 2022, in the matter of *Commonwealth v. William Ingram, III*.

18. Attorney Perry represented the defendant, Mr. Ingram, on a charge of driving under suspension, DUI-related.
19. The parties negotiated the charge be reduced to driving without a license.
20. Judge McKnight accepted the agreement, heard the defendant's guilty plea and imposed a fine.
21. Judge McKnight admitted to presiding over the matter during her June 22, 2023 deposition. **(See Attachment A, pages 80 through 90).**

Officer Cummings:

22. On July 23, 2021, Judge McKnight filed a Citizen's Complaint with the City of Harrisburg against Harrisburg City Police Officer Anthony Cummings and three (3) other officers who were involved in her arrest and criminal charges.
23. Judge McKnight alleged in her Citizen's Complaint that Officer Cummings and the three (3) other Harrisburg City Police Department Officers, conspired together to destroy her character and credibility in the community.
24. On April 1, 2022, Officer Cummings filed a criminal complaint in the matter of *Commonwealth v. Dominic Aaron Reynolds*, wherein Mr. Reynolds was charged with possession of firearm prohibited and possession of drug paraphernalia.
25. Judge McKnight presided over Mr. Reynolds' preliminary hearing on April 25, 2022, and found the Commonwealth failed to establish a *prima facie* case for the possession of firearm charge.
26. Officer Anthony Cummings testified during Mr. Reynolds' April 25, 2022, preliminary hearing.

27. The Commonwealth refiled the charge on April 30, 2022, and Judge McKnight presided over the preliminary arraignment on May 4, 2022 and set bail in the amount of \$50,000 secured.
28. During the June 6, 2022, preliminary hearing, Judge McKnight stopped the proceeding and requested the case be transferred to another Magisterial District Judge based on her prior involvement in the matter.
29. On July 13, 2022, Officer Cummings filed a criminal complaint in the matter of *Commonwealth v. Cindy Louise Turner*, wherein, Ms. Turner was charged with the felony offense of robbery.
30. Judge McKnight presided over Ms. Turner's arraignment on July 13, 2022, and released her on her own recognizance.
31. Judge McKnight testified to presiding over the matters above during her June 22, 2023 Deposition **(See Attachment A, pages 90 through 102)**.
32. Judge McKnight failed to inform the parties in the Reynolds case and Turner case that she had a pending citizen's complaint against the arresting officer. **(See Attachment A, pages 93 through 102)**.

X-It Red:

33. Judge McKnight maintained a Facebook page entitled 'Sonya Marie,' **(See Attachment E, Facebook Name Sonya Marie with title of MDJ)**.
34. This Facebook page identified Sonya Marie as a judge and contained pictures of Judge McKnight in her judicial robe **(See Attachment F, Facebook Picture)**.

35. On May 5, 2023, Judge McKnight posted on her Facebook page a picture of a product called 'X-it Red,' **(See Attachment G, May 5, 2023 Facebook post picture).**
36. Underneath the product, Judge McKnight posted, 'You do not want to miss out on this great business opportunity!!! All I can say is...it works, it's worth it, So let's get it. Reach out to me through messenger, phone or text,' **(See Attachment H, Facebook post endorsing X-it Red).**
37. Judge McKnight admitted to selling the product on behalf of her boyfriend and friend during her June 22, 2023, deposition, **(See Attachment A, pages 114 through 118).**

Failure to Give Precedence to Duties of Judicial Office:

38. The Dauphin County Magisterial District Judge night court calendar for 2023, was provided to the magisterial district judges on June 18, 2022, **(See Attachment I, Night Court Calendar 2023).**
39. According to the night court calendar, Judge McKnight was scheduled to work night court starting the morning of January 14, 2023 until Thursday, January 20, 2023.
40. Judge McKnight failed to appear for her assigned duty on Saturday, January 14, 2023, and the staff had to contact then District Court Administrator, Troy Petery.
41. District Court Administrator Petery was unable to contact Judge McKnight on her cell phone. Magisterial District Judges Barbara Pianka and Rebecca Jo Margerum provided coverage during Judge McKnight's absence on Saturday, January 14th, Sunday, January 15th and Monday, January 16th.

42. Due to Judge McKnight's unexcused/unexplained absence, President Judge Cherry issued an Administrative Order directing that Judge McKnight cover Judge Margerum's February on-call duty and Judge Pianka's June on-call duty **(See Attachment J, President Judge John Cherry's Administrative Order)**.

II. ARGUMENT

Article V, § 18(d)(2) of the Pennsylvania Constitution and Rule 701 of the Court of Judicial Discipline Rules of Procedure, provides the Court with the authority to suspend Judge McKnight prior to trial based on the allegations set forth in the Board Complaint. When deciding whether to grant a Petition to Suspend, the Court utilizes a totality of the circumstances test. The factors included in this test are as follows: (1) nature of the alleged misconduct; (2) the relation of the alleged misconduct to the judge's duties; (3) the alleged misconduct's impact or possible impact on the administration of justice; and (4) the harm or possible harm to the public's confidence in the judiciary and (5) any other circumstances relevant to the misconduct.

Nature of the Alleged Misconduct

Judge McKnight has violated seven (7) different Rules Governing Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges. The violations range from the most egregious violations of the law to failing to disqualify from matters wherein her partiality could reasonably be questioned. The wide array of misconduct reveals Judge McKnight's lack of understanding or concern for her responsibilities as a Magisterial District Judge. The Court should be most concerned with Judge McKnight's suppression of a civil complaint filed against her which led to the filers denial of access to the court system for redress.

Relation of the Alleged Misconduct to Judge's Duties

Each of Judge McKnight's incidents of misconduct occurred during either the course of her position as a Magisterial District Judge or were the result of her abuse of her position as a Magisterial District Judge.

Impact on Administration of Justice

All the incidents of misconduct except her sale of 'X-it Red' products negatively affected the administration of justice in Judge McKnight's judicial district. Specifically, Judge McKnight's dereliction of her duty to appear for her scheduled on-call weekend and provide court administration with a valid phone number resulted in court being delayed until coverage could be procured. Further, Judge McKnight's failure to recuse from matters where her impartiality could be reasonably questioned and blatant disregard of President Judge John Cherry's directive not to preside over matters with attorney Brian Perry disrupted the administration of justice.

Harm to Public Confidence in the Judiciary

Every incident of Judge McKnight's misconduct erodes the public's confidence in the judiciary. Most notably, Judge McKnight's suppression of Ms. Ross-Seals' civil complaint denied her constituent a fundamental right to redress. Further, Judge McKnight's actions were motivated by personal gain. Judge McKnight's behavior reflects someone who believes she is not bound by the law or the RGSCMDJ.

Other Circumstances

Judge McKnight was placed on probation by the Court on January 31, 2023 for a period of one-year. A specific condition of Judge McKnight's probation was that "Magisterial District Judge McKnight not commit any more ethical violation of any

nature.” Despite being under Court imposed supervision, Judge McKnight continues to engage in misconduct.

Based on the totality of the circumstances related to the factors outlined above, the Board respectfully requests that the Court suspend Judge McKnight without pay pending disposition of the Board Complaint.

III. APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL

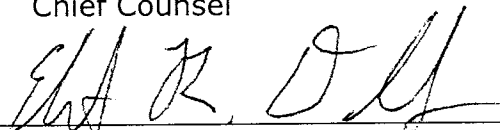
On September 19, 2023, the Board filed a Response to Request for Continuance wherein a request was made pursuant to Rule 601(A) to appoint counsel for Judge McKnight and pursuant to Rule 601(B) to direct she submit to physical/mental evaluation. This request was made in response to Judge McKnight’s request for an indefinite continuance. If the Court is inclined to grant Judge McKnight’s open-ended request for continuance based on claims of infirmity, the Board would request she submit to a medical evaluation and if *pro se* be appointed counsel as permitted under the Rules.

Respectfully submitted,

MELISSA L. NORTON
Chief Counsel

DATE: November 8, 2023

By:



ELIZABETH R. DONNELLY
Deputy Counsel
Pa. Supreme Court ID No. 308085

Judicial Conduct Board
Pennsylvania Judicial Center
601 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 3500
Harrisburg, PA 17106
(717) 234-7911

VERIFICATION

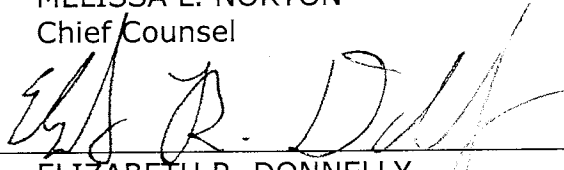
I, Elizabeth R. Donnelly, Deputy Counsel to the Judicial Conduct Board, verify that the statements made in the foregoing document are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the statements herein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann. § 4904, relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

Respectfully submitted,

MELISSA L. NORTON
Chief Counsel

DATE: November 8, 2023

By:



ELIZABETH R. DONNELLY
Deputy Counsel
Pa. Supreme Court ID No. 308085

Judicial Conduct Board
Pennsylvania Judicial Center
601 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 3500
Harrisburg, PA 17106
(717) 234-7911

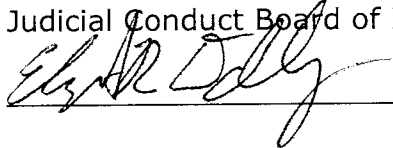
**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
COURT OF JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE**

IN RE:

Judge Sonya M. McKnight :
Magisterial District Judge :
Magisterial District 12-2-04 : 2 JD 2023; 1 JD 2021
12th Judicial District :
Lancaster County :

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

I certify that this filing complies with the provisions of the *Case Records Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania* that require filing confidential information and documents differently than non-confidential information and documents.

Submitted by: Judicial Conduct Board of Pennsylvania
Signature: 
Name: Elizabeth R. Donnelly
Deputy Counsel
Attorney No.: 308085

**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
COURT OF JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE**

IN RE:

Judge Sonya M. McKnight :
Magisterial District Judge :
Magisterial District 12-2-04 : 2 JD 2023; 1 JD 2021
12th Judicial District :
Lancaster County :

PROOF OF SERVICE

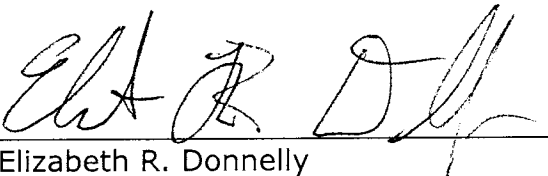
In compliance with Rule 122 of the Court of Judicial Discipline Rules of Procedure, on the date below a copy of the Board's Response Pursuant To Order Of October 16, 2023 was sent by UPS Overnight Mail as addressed below:

Honorable Sonya M. McKnight
2744 Lexington Street
Harrisburg, 17110

Respectfully submitted,

DATE: November 8, 2023

BY:



Elizabeth R. Donnelly
Deputy Counsel
Pa. Supreme Court ID No. 308085
Judicial Conduct Board
Pennsylvania Judicial Center
601 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 3500
P.O. Box 62525
Harrisburg, PA 17106
(717) 234-7911

EXHIBIT A

EXHIBIT A

JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

Hon. Sonya McKnight

June 22, 2023

HKW, LLC
764 Corporate Circle
Suite 200
New Cumberland, PA 17070
717-214-1182
reporter@hkwillc.com

H·K·W
Henderson Kashner Wetmore, LLC
COURT REPORTERS

 COPY

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

IN RE:

THE HONORABLE
SONYA M. McKNIGHT

Board Nos. 2021-742
and 2022-373
Subpoena No. 2023-006

Deposition of: THE HON. SONYA M. McKNIGHT

Taken by : Judicial Conduct Board

Date : June 22, 2023, 10:14 a.m.

Place : Pennsylvania Judicial Center
601 Commonwealth Avenue
Suite 3500
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Before : Ann M. Wetmore
Reporter - Notary Public

1 APPEARANCES:

2 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA,
3 JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

4 By: ELIZABETH R. DONNELLY, ESQ.

5 Appearing on behalf of the Judicial Conduct Board

6

7 KLEHR HARRISON HARVEY BRANZBURG LLP

8 By: MARK B. SHEPPARD, ESQ.

9 Appearing on behalf of Hon. Sonja McKnight

10

11 ALSO PRESENT:

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13 LEO ZUVICH

14 JOELLE CONSHUE

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INDEX TO WITNESS

HON. SONYA M. McKNIGHT

Examination

By Ms. Donnelly

6

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7	Samuel C. Stretton, Esquire	
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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	Board's Exhibit Number Board's Exhibit 11 - Supplemental NOFI letter dated May 18, 2023 Board's Exhibit 12 - Letter dated June 16, 2023, to Elizabeth Donnelly, Deputy Counsel, from Mark B. Sheppard	Page 113 113
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1 (Board Exhibits 1 through 12 previously marked
 2 for identification.)
 3
 4 SONYA McKNIGHT,
 5 called as a witness, having been duly sworn,
 6 testified as follows:
 7 EXAMINATION
 8
 9 BY MS. DONNELLY:
 10 Q. For the record, the date is June 22nd, 2023,
 11 and the time is approximately 10:15. Our location is
 12 the Judicial Conduct Board, Pennsylvania Judicial
 13 Center, 601 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 3500, in
 14 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.
 15 This is the deposition of Magisterial District
 16 Judge Sonya McKnight of Dauphin County regarding
 17 Judicial Conduct Board Complaints 2021-742, 2022-373 and
 18 2023-042.
 19 In attendance at this deposition are myself,
 20 Elizabeth Donnelly, Deputy Counsel; Joelle Conshue,
 21 Board Legal Assistant; and Leo Zuvich, Board
 22 Investigator; the deponent and her counsel, Mark
 23 Sheppard.
 24 Judge, it is my duty to inform you that this
 25 deposition is being conducted as part of a confidential

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1 investigation being conducted by the Board regarding
 2 possible violations of the Rules Governing Standards of
 3 Conduct of Magisterial District Judges in the
 4 Pennsylvania Constitution.
 5 This proceeding is a deposition, which means
 6 that I will be asking you a series of questions which
 7 you must answer to the best of your ability. The court
 8 reporter has administered to you an oath, so your
 9 responses are made under oath and recorded in a
 10 stenographic record by the court reporter.
 11 When I ask you a question, please take your
 12 time to listen to the question, understand it, and
 13 answer it directly. If I am unclear, please let know
 14 and I will do my best to rephrase the question. Your
 15 responses must be verbal and not by nodding your head.
 16 A. Okay.
 17 Q. If you need to take a break for any reason,
 18 please let me know and we can do so. If you request a
 19 break after a question is asked, the question must be
 20 answered before the break is given. Generally we could
 21 break on the hour, so approximately 11:15. I anticipate
 22 this deposition should take approximately two hours.
 23 The purpose of this investigative deposition
 24 is for the Board's counsel to obtain information and for
 25 you to speak directly to the Board through its counsel.

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1 There are no wrong answers. We expect the truth and
 2 nothing but the truth. A judge's candor at a deposition
 3 are factors weighed very heavily by the Board in its
 4 decision making process.
 5 The court reporter will prepare a written
 6 transcript of this proceeding for review by the Judicial
 7 Conduct Board. The Board will consider the transcript
 8 testimony in tandem with other information from our
 9 investigation while deliberating on how to resolve this
 10 matter.
 11 Should the Board decide to file formal charges
 12 before the Court of Judicial Discipline and you are called
 13 as a trial witness, this transcript may be used for any
 14 appropriate evidentiary basis, including testing the
 15 veracity and consistency of your answers.
 16 We are an independent state agency mandated by
 17 the Pennsylvania Constitution to investigate allegations
 18 about judicial conduct. The Board itself is composed of
 19 12 individuals: Three judges, three attorneys, and six
 20 private citizens. Half of the members are appointed by
 21 the governor, the remaining half by the Supreme Court of
 22 Pennsylvania. No more than half can be affiliated with
 23 one political party.
 24 As counsel to the Board, I report to them on
 25 matters being investigated, and they make all decisions

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1 on what will happen with the Complaint. This deposition
 2 will aid the Board in making a decision on this matter.
 3 At this time, the Board has made no determination as to
 4 whether or not there's been a violation.
 5 Before we begin, I would appreciate if counsel
 6 would agree to enter the usual stipulation to reserve
 7 all objections except to the form of the question.
 8 MR. SHEPPARD: Yeah, I agree to the usual
 9 stipulations.
 10 MS. DONNELLY: Thank you. Okay, so we'll get
 11 started.
 12 BY MS. DONNELLY:
 13 Q. Judge, please state your full name for the
 14 record and please spell your last name?
 15 A. Sonya, S-o-n-y-a, Marie, M-a-r-i-e, McKnight,
 16 M-c-K-n-i-g-h-t.
 17 Q. And what is your date of birth?
 18 A. 12/11/66.
 19 Q. And are you presently under any medication or
 20 condition that would interfere with your ability to
 21 understand the nature of this proceeding, to hear and
 22 comprehend the questions asked and to answer them?
 23 A. No.
 24 Q. And if you would please provide a brief
 25 summary of your background before becoming a judge?

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1 A. I have three sons, mother, worked for
 2 Congressman Tim Holden. I was a contractor for the
 3 school district, along with the Boys and Girls Club on
 4 Berry Hill Street. I was married for 27 years. I've
 5 been active in the community for most of my life.
 6 Q. And you said, just because it was a little bit
 7 quiet, you said that you worked for the -- you were a
 8 contractor for the school district?
 9 A. Yes.
 10 Q. Was that Dauphin County or --
 11 A. Harrisburg, yeah, School District.
 12 Q. How long did you do that for?
 13 A. I did that for probably about two and a half
 14 years as a parent engagement specialist, which helps
 15 the --
 16 THE REPORTER: It was a what? I couldn't hear
 17 you?
 18 A. A parent engagement specialist
 19 BY MS. DONNELLY:
 20 Q. Okay.
 21 A. Yeah, a mediator between the parent, student
 22 and a teacher.
 23 Q. And what was the last job you had before you
 24 became a judge?
 25 A. I worked for the school district.

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1 Q. Okay. So that was the last job before?
 2 A. Yes.
 3 (Board's Exhibit 1, previously marked for
 4 identification, introduced.)
 5 BY MS. DONNELLY:
 6 Q. Okay. Now I'm going to be handing you what
 7 has previously been marked as Board Exhibit Number 1.
 8 This is the -- it's dated October 13, 2022. This is the
 9 Notice of Full Investigation that was sent to you by now
 10 Chief Counsel Norton.
 11 If you would, please review that and advise
 12 that is a true and accurate copy of this Notice of Full
 13 Investigation?
 14 MR. SHEPPARD: Yeah, we'll stipulate.
 15 (Board's Exhibit 2 and Board's Exhibit 2A,
 16 previously marked for identification, introduced.)
 17 BY MS. DONNELLY:
 18 Q. And I'm also going to hand you what's
 19 previously marked as Board Exhibit 2 and 2A. And these
 20 are -- the first, 2, is going to be the Notice of Full
 21 Investigation response dated January 24th of 2023. That
 22 was prepared by your attorney at the time, Sam Stretton.
 23 And the second one, 2A, is a copy of the
 24 handwritten Notice of Full Investigation response that
 25 we received on November 7th of 2022. And just for the

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1 record, that one does not have a verification. The
 2 other one does.
 3 If you would review and make sure that's a
 4 true and correct -- I'm sorry, true and accurate copy of
 5 the two Notices of Full Investigation responses.
 6 Are these true and accurate copies?
 7 A. Yes.
 8 Q. Okay. Now, directing your attention to
 9 question number 2 on the Notice of Full Investigation,
 10 did you at any time meet with your staff and advise them
 11 that they could have two days off in November and an
 12 additional two days off in December without having to
 13 use any of their accrued leave? Did that ever occur?
 14 A. No.
 15 Q. Did at any point, whether it was in 2021 or
 16 any -- have you ever offered your staff additional days
 17 off in addition to whatever they accrue through the
 18 state and through the county?
 19 A. No.
 20 Q. Okay.
 21 A. Can I elaborate?
 22 MR. SHEPPARD: If you need to. I'm not sure I
 23 understood the question.
 24 A. Yes. Can you repeat the question?
 25 BY MS. DONNELLY:

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1 Q. Sure. So did at any time -- I'm assuming your
 2 staff accrues leave through AOPC?
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. Okay. Did at any point did you tell any of
 5 your staff that they -- and we'll specify, 2021, did you
 6 at any time during 2021 advise members of your staff,
 7 whether it's all the staff or some of the staff, that
 8 they could have additional two days in November and an
 9 additional two days in December above what they had
 10 earned during their employment?
 11 A. No.
 12 Q. Okay. Was there any other point, maybe not in
 13 2021, have you ever done that?
 14 MR. SHEPPARD: I'm just going to object to the
 15 form. You can answer if you can.
 16 A. So the answer is still no.
 17 BY MS. DONNELLY:
 18 Q. Okay.
 19 A. But I -- can I elaborate?
 20 MR. SHEPPARD: Well, if you want to talk to
 21 me, we should talk privately.
 22 A. Okay.
 23 MR. SHEPPARD: Okay?
 24 And you don't have -- if you -- if you give a
 25 full answer, you give your full answer.

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1 A. Okay.

2 MR. SHEPPARD: Okay, you don't need to ask me.

3 A. Okay. So ask -- ask your question again just

4 to make sure.

5 BY MS. DONNELLY:

6 Q. Okay. Have you at any point while you've been

7 a judge allowed or directed your staff that they could

8 have additional time off that they hadn't accrued

9 through the normal process of their employment?

10 And this doesn't mean like did you allow them

11 to take it early and they would have to then -- you

12 know, I don't mean like maybe getting an advance on days

13 off, I don't mean that.

14 A. Okay.

15 Q. But just giving them additional days that they

16 wouldn't have to account for?

17 A. No, I've never given them additional days that

18 they didn't have to account for.

19 Q. Okay.

20 MS. CONSHUE: If I can just interrupt. We do

21 ask for the exhibits back at the end.

22 MR. SHEPPARD: Oh, sure.

23 MS. CONSHUE: So I just want to refrain if we

24 can from making any personal notes --

25 MR. SHEPPARD: Oh, no. Thank you.

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1 MS. CONSHUE: -- it's attorney-client

2 privilege.

3 MR. SHEPPARD: Thank you for warning me about

4 that.

5 MS. DONNELLY: That's kind of been a common

6 issue.

7 BY MS. DONNELLY:

8 Q. Okay. And so you never directed your staff --

9 this may be asked and answered, but you never told them

10 to coordinate extra days above what they had already

11 accrued with the then office manager, Kimberly Ross

12 Seals?

13 A. What I did do is allow them to take two days

14 off because of how hard they were working and all the

15 time that they were not taking sick -- their breaks and

16 things like that, you know, taking their breaks or

17 15-minute breaks or their lunches, and they were working

18 very hard.

19 Q. Just to follow up with that. So you're saying

20 that you did allow, is this your entire staff or just

21 certain members?

22 A. It was whoever was there at the time.

23 Q. Do you remember who the members were?

24 A. No.

25 Q. No, okay. Was it did it include Kimberly Ross

Page 16

1 Seals, or would it have been anyone that wasn't the

2 office manager that was working there at the time?

3 A. It was just the staff that was working, yes.

4 Q. Okay. And was this in 2021? This would have

5 been the end of 2021?

6 A. Yes, I believe it was 2021.

7 Q. Okay, and --

8 MR. SHEPPARD: You're going to have keep your

9 voice up so she can hear you.

10 A. Oh, I apologize.

11 MR. SHEPPARD: That's okay.

12 BY MS. DONNELLY:

13 Q. So sometime the end of 2021, maybe November,

14 December-ish --

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. -- something in that time frame, you had made

17 the decision that they had been working extra -- extra

18 time above what they normally do?

19 A. Yes. They were coming in on Saturdays and

20 Sundays and coming in early and working after.

21 Q. So they were working extra what you would

22 consider overtime, but they weren't being -- were they

23 being paid for the overtime that they were working?

24 A. No, they weren't being paid.

25 Q. Do they normally -- do they have a clock-in

Page 17

1 system?

2 A. No, there's no clock-in system. You just have

3 to be there by 8 and leave at 4:30.

4 Q. Okay. So it's sort of a understood these are

5 your working hours and then they get paid that many

6 hours?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Okay. So there's no mechanism to give

9 overtime that you're aware of?

10 A. Not that I'm aware of.

11 Q. Why were they coming in on Saturdays and

12 Sundays?

13 A. Because it was so much work that needed to

14 done.

15 Q. Did they come to that decision on their own or

16 did you ask them to?

17 A. No, it was a decision that they came to on

18 their own.

19 Q. Were you also working with them on those

20 Saturdays and Sundays?

21 A. No.

22 Q. When did you become aware that they were

23 inundated with work and needed to come in on the

24 weekends?

25 A. I knew that there was a lot of work, but I

Page 18

1 never approved for them to come in on Saturdays and
 2 Sundays. It was just something that they did.
 3 **Q. When did you find out that they were coming in**
 4 **then?**
 5 A. I can't recall or remember when it first
 6 started.
 7 **Q. Who told you that they were coming in, do you**
 8 **recall?**
 9 A. Oh, yes. I happen to see Georgette's car at
 10 work on the Saturday.
 11 **Q. So do you recall when that was?**
 12 A. No, I can't recall when it was.
 13 **Q. And was this because you just happened to be**
 14 **in the neighborhood or were you actually --**
 15 A. Yes, I just happened to be in the area.
 16 **Q. And did you inquire why her car was there?**
 17 **Was that the next step that occurred after you saw it?**
 18 A. Yes.
 19 **Q. And what was her response, do you recall?**
 20 A. She just responded that there was work that
 21 needed to be done so that's why she was in.
 22 **Q. Did she advise you at that time that there**
 23 **were other individuals coming in too?**
 24 A. No, she did not.
 25 **Q. Did you inquire from any of the other staff**

Page 19

1 **whether they were coming in too?**
 2 A. No.
 3 **Q. So you just left it at that?**
 4 A. Yeah.
 5 **Q. So do you know how many Saturdays and Sundays**
 6 **staff was coming in?**
 7 A. No, I couldn't tell you.
 8 **Q. So you don't know if it was a set -- they had**
 9 **a set schedule for themselves?**
 10 A. Right, no, I don't know that.
 11 **Q. And when did it occur to you to give them**
 12 **extra time off based on their extra work?**
 13 A. Around in November, yeah.
 14 **Q. And how did you determine how many days?**
 15 A. Because we talked all the time. So I knew
 16 that they were working and I would be in the office with
 17 them.
 18 **Q. So this was sort of an informal --**
 19 A. Throughout the week, not on the weekends. I
 20 want to clarify that.
 21 **Q. Okay. So during the week it was kind of**
 22 **informal conversations that you would have with your**
 23 **staff. Is that what you're saying?**
 24 A. No, that's not what I said.
 25 **Q. Oh, okay.**

Page 20

1 A. I said I would be there when they would be
 2 working a lot of hours and time and not taking their
 3 lunches and their breaks.
 4 **Q. And what was their typical lunch break time,**
 5 **how much lunch break do they usually get?**
 6 A. You get an hour and you get two 15-minute
 7 breaks.
 8 **Q. And you could see that they weren't taking**
 9 **their lunches and that they weren't taking their breaks?**
 10 A. Yes. And I would also always tell them that
 11 they needed to take their lunches and their breaks, but,
 12 yeah.
 13 **Q. What was their response when you tell them**
 14 **that?**
 15 A. Well, sometimes they would say, Judge, you
 16 know, we just have a lot of work and, you know, we won't
 17 take it today, so. I would not force them to.
 18 **Q. So you have staff that's coming in on the**
 19 **weekends to deal with a backlog or to deal with --**
 20 A. Yes.
 21 **Q. -- the amount of work, and staff that's not**
 22 **taking their lunches and they're not taking breaks. And**
 23 **so in order to reward them for their hard work, you**
 24 **determined two days would be sufficient in November and**
 25 **in December or would the --**

Page 21

1 A. Yes.
 2 **Q. Okay. So four days per person to be broken up**
 3 **to November and December?**
 4 A. Yes.
 5 **Q. And how did you arrive at four days total?**
 6 A. It was just it was a mutual thing for us, you
 7 know, from all of the time that they were working and so
 8 I told them that they could take two days.
 9 **Q. Did you talk to anyone at AOPC or the District**
 10 **Court Administrator before coming up with this plan**
 11 **or --**
 12 A. No, I didn't talk to anyone.
 13 **Q. Do you know if this is permitted under the**
 14 **AOPC rules to allow extra -- extra time that's not**
 15 **accounted for?**
 16 A. No, I didn't tell them --
 17 MR. SHEPPARD: I'm just going to object to the
 18 form of the question. You can answer.
 19 A. I can answer?
 20 MR. SHEPPARD: Yeah, when I object to the
 21 form, you can still answer the question.
 22 A. Okay.
 23 MR. SHEPPARD: Okay. But I'm just objecting
 24 for legal reasons that have nothing to do with your
 25 answer.

Page 22

1 A. Okay. Do you want to state your question?

2 BY MS. DONNELLY:

3 Q. Would you like me to restate?

4 A. Yes, please.

5 Q. Okay. Were you aware at the time that you

6 came to this arrangement of the two days in November and

7 two days in December, were you aware at that time or

8 since whether that's something that's permitted under

9 AOPC policy?

10 A. Well, me giving them the two days, I mean, I

11 didn't say how to take the two days. I just gave them

12 the two days or how to enter the two days, I just gave

13 them the two days, if that makes sense.

14 Q. Not really. I'm -- and maybe I'm just making

15 assumptions that I'm incorrect about. They accrue time

16 off, they earn it as they work I'm assuming?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Okay. And that's determined by the AOPC, they

19 get so many days per year. I don't know if you know how

20 many days that they normally get per year?

21 A. I don't know how many days they get per year,

22 no.

23 Q. Okay. So --

24 A. I just know they accumulated every pay.

25 Q. Okay. And so then they use that time and they

Page 23

1 account for that time on their time sheets I'm assuming

2 that they submit to AOPC and they let them know I've

3 taken this many days so I have this many left?

4 A. I don't do any of that. That's the office

5 manager's --

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. -- position. So I wouldn't know.

8 Q. Okay. But as far as you know, you're not

9 involved in how they accrue that time?

10 A. Absolutely.

11 Q. Right. So when you gave them those two days

12 per month, it wasn't through their normal course of

13 accrual that they would normally accrue vacation time?

14 MR. SHEPPARD: Objection to the form.

15 A. Say it one more time. I apologize.

16 BY MS. DONNELLY:

17 Q. So each pay period the office staff accrues

18 I'm assuming sick leave as well as the vacation time and

19 it shows up on their pay slip or on their pay statements

20 because it's accrued through working because they earn

21 it as they work. Correct?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. That's your understanding anyway?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Okay. So you're not involved in that because

Page 24

1 that's the office manager and that's personnel --

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. -- and human resources?

4 A. So when you say you're going to give them

5 days, it's not accounted for through the normal accrual

6 process?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. Okay. So when you granted these days, did you

9 seek guidance from AOPC or through personnel how to

10 grant these days so that it could be -- they could be

11 accounted for?

12 A. No, I didn't seek anything from AOPC or anyone

13 else.

14 Q. So this was an informal granting of four

15 additional days. Is that an accurate --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Okay. And how were -- and your office

18 manager, Kimberly Ross Seals --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- at the time, she was in charge of

21 monitoring how those days were taken?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Okay. So they were to schedule those days

24 directly with her?

25 A. Yes.

Page 25

1 Q. Okay. So these were not accounted for as far

2 as you know, or maybe they were accounted for on AOPC?

3 A. Again, I'm not sure because I don't handle

4 that portion of it.

5 Q. Did you talk to --

6 A. It's the office manager's position.

7 Q. Did you instruct your office manager to put it

8 through the normal process that she would normally do,

9 you know, you're the office manager, you handle this,

10 but I want them to have two days in November and two

11 days in December?

12 A. Again, that's the office manager's position.

13 So I didn't do anything. I just gave them the days.

14 Q. Okay. So you instructed the office manager to

15 document which days they took?

16 A. I would hope that she was going to document

17 it. I didn't say document the days that they're going

18 to take.

19 Q. Okay. Did you -- what was the conversation,

20 if you recall, with the office manager about these days?

21 Do you recall if there was a conversation directly with

22 her or was it --

23 A. No, I don't recall that.

24 Q. Okay. So it was just with the staff, I'm

25 giving you these two days in November and two days in

Page 26

1 December, coordinate it with the office manager?
 2 MR. SHEPPARD: Objection to the form.
 3 A. The office manager was there at the time.
 4 BY MS. DONNELLY:
 5 Q. Okay. So she was part of part of the
 6 discussion?
 7 A. Yes.
 8 Q. Okay. So that was where it ended as far as
 9 you were concerned as they could have these two days in
 10 November, two days in December, and they were to
 11 coordinate it with the office manager?
 12 A. Yes
 13 Q. Okay.
 14 A. That's the office manager's position.
 15 Q. And you never followed up on those days or how
 16 they were taken or --
 17 A. No.
 18 Q. Okay. Do you know if anybody did take those
 19 days? If you don't, it's okay.
 20 A. Yeah, I don't want to say yes or no because
 21 I'm not sure if they did or not.
 22 Q. Okay. And that was all of the office staff
 23 aside from the office manager?
 24 A. Yes.
 25 Q. Now, Kimberly Ross Seals, she resigned her

Page 27

1 position as office manager in December of 2021. Is that
 2 correct? Does that sound right to you?
 3 A. It sounds about right.
 4 Q. And then who became the office manager when
 5 she resigned?
 6 A. Georgette Morrison -- Georgette
 7 Potts-Morrison. Georgette Potts-Morrison.
 8 Q. Morrison, okay. She has a hyphenated name?
 9 A. Yes.
 10 Q. Okay. And so she had -- had she previously
 11 worked in the office before she became office manager?
 12 A. Yes.
 13 Q. So she ascended to the position of --?
 14 A. (Witness nodded head)
 15 THE REPORTER: Is that a yes?
 16 A. Yes.
 17 MR. SHEPPARD: Yeah, you have to answer
 18 verbally so she can get it down.
 19 A. Yes.
 20 MR. SHEPPARD: She can't like write down head
 21 nods. Okay?
 22 A. I apologize.
 23 (Board's Exhibit 3, previously marked for
 24 identification, introduced.)
 25 BY MS. DONNELLY:

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1 Q. I'm going to hand you what has previously been
 2 marked as Board's Exhibit Number 3. This is the civil
 3 complaint that was filled out by Kimberly Ross Seals and
 4 you're listed as the Defendant. And attached to it is
 5 also the mailing envelope addressed to your Magisterial
 6 District Court Office.
 7 If you would, please just review and advise
 8 that that is a true and accurate copy of the civil
 9 complaint and the envelope that it was mailed in. I
 10 believe that's the filing fee is also attached, a copy
 11 of the check that in the amount of \$160.
 12 MR. SHEPPARD: Are you ready?
 13 A. I'm ready, yes.
 14 MR. SHEPPARD: Okay.
 15 BY MS. DONNELLY:
 16 Q. Is that a true and accurate copy of the --
 17 from your understanding?
 18 MR. SHEPPARD: Have you seen this document?
 19 A. No.
 20 BY MS. DONNELLY:
 21 Q. If you don't know whether it is, if you've
 22 never seen the document before and you can't say, then
 23 that's okay too.
 24 A. Yes, I have never seen this document before.
 25 Q. Okay.

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1 MS. DONNELLY: Any objection to the --
 2 MR. SHEPPARD: No.
 3 BY MS. DONNELLY:
 4 Q. Okay. Now, directing your attention to the
 5 envelope page, which would be the fourth -- the fourth
 6 page of this exhibit, it has a date stamp on it of March
 7 the 23rd of 2022 on the left-hand side, and it indicates
 8 Court 12-2-04. And is this the stamp for your office,
 9 is that the district, 12-2-04?
 10 A. Yes, my court is 12-2-04, yes.
 11 MR. SHEPPARD: That wasn't the question. You
 12 got to listen to the question.
 13 A. Okay.
 14 BY MS. DONNELLY:
 15 Q. I know that was a little nuance.
 16 Is this -- if you don't know, say you don't
 17 know. Is this the court stamp that your office uses
 18 that's stamped on that envelope? Have you seen mail
 19 come into your office that has the RECEIVED with
 20 whatever date it's stamped or set to with the court
 21 number on it?
 22 A. Yes, yes.
 23 Q. And so is this a -- this would be what your
 24 court when you receive anything comes in the mail, this
 25 would be the stamp that the staff would use to stamp in

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1 documents?
 2 MR. SHEPPARD: I'm going to object to the form
 3 and just state that the record speaks for itself and the
 4 witness's testimony was she's never seen this before.
 5 MS. DONNELLY: Okay.
 6 BY MS. DONNELLY:
 7 Q. So it does have the stamp that says this is
 8 received March 23rd, 2022, and it has the court listed
 9 12-2-04, and the envelope is addressed to MDJ 12-2-04,
 10 which the location is 1805 North Cameron Street,
 11 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17103, and that is the address
 12 for your court. Correct?
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. Now, this envelope would indicate that the
 15 document was received on March 23rd, 2022, in your court
 16 office. Do you recall who -- at that time back in March
 17 of 2022 who was tasked with opening mail and time
 18 stamping it -- or date stamping it, not time, but date,
 19 do you recall?
 20 A. It would have been at that time I believe I
 21 had Janaya and Georgette working at the office.
 22 Q. So it could -- and do you know Janaya's last
 23 name?
 24 A. Stinson.
 25 Q. Stinson?

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1 A. Yeah.
 2 Q. So it could have either been Janaya Stinson or
 3 Georgette Potts?
 4 A. Yes.
 5 Q. Okay. So she sometimes -- would Ms. Potts
 6 sometimes handle incoming mail as part of her duties as
 7 office manager, would that be sometimes something she
 8 would do? Or was there --
 9 A. It's normally the worker that's out in the --
 10 the staffer that's in the foyer in the staffing
 11 area would be the person that would open up the mail
 12 normally --
 13 Q. Okay, so --
 14 A. -- not the office manager. But since it was
 15 just two people there, it could be -- it could have been
 16 either one of them.
 17 Q. Okay. So it could have been Ms. Stinson or
 18 Ms. Potts?
 19 A. Yes.
 20 Q. Now, when this particular envelope was
 21 received, do you recall Ms. Stinson bringing it directly
 22 to Ms. Potts while you were present in Ms. Potts' office
 23 at the time?
 24 MR. SHEPPARD: Objection to form.
 25 A. No.

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1 BY MS. DONNELLY:
 2 Q. So you don't recall being present when this
 3 was received in your office?
 4 A. Definitely not.
 5 Q. Okay. And at that time on March 23rd -- when
 6 I say at that time, March 23rd, 2022 -- were you aware
 7 that a civil complaint was going to be filed against you
 8 by Ms. Ross Seals?
 9 A. I received something at my home from Ms. Ross
 10 Seals.
 11 Q. What did you receive at your home?
 12 A. I received a complaint from her directly to my
 13 home.
 14 Q. And when -- did it look like the civil
 15 complaint that's contained in this exhibit or did it
 16 look different than that?
 17 A. It looked just like that.
 18 Q. When did you receive that at home?
 19 A. I couldn't tell you the exact day.
 20 Q. The civil complaint that you received at your
 21 home, did it have the magisterial district information
 22 filled out on that form? This one does not.
 23 MR. SHEPPARD: You mean the box in the upper
 24 left?
 25 MS. DONNELLY: That's correct, indicating the

Page 33

1 office that it's to be filed in.
 2 BY MS. DONNELLY:
 3 Q. Do you recall if your copy had --
 4 A. I don't recall exactly how it was on here, but
 5 I do know that she sent something to my home.
 6 Q. Do you remember when you received it?
 7 A. I don't remember the exact date that I
 8 received it, but it was addressed from her directly to
 9 me to my home.
 10 Q. Can you give maybe a time frame?
 11 A. I want to say it was sometime in March.
 12 Because when I received it, I had to make sure that I
 13 gave it directly to the detectives.
 14 Q. Okay. So when you received the civil
 15 complaint -- and do you recall what she was alleging in
 16 the complaint?
 17 A. She said that she was suing me.
 18 Q. So it was similar language --
 19 A. Yes.
 20 Q. -- that's in this?
 21 A. Yes.
 22 Q. And is the amount the same for the 2,073?
 23 A. I can't recall, but I know that the form was
 24 just like this.
 25 Q. Okay. So you received it in March and you

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1 **said you gave it to a detective?**
 2 A. I actually took it to my office and in
 3 Ms. Potts-Morrison's office I called the detective, her
 4 and I both. I gave her the paperwork. She made a copy
 5 of it. I called Detective O'Connor to let him know that
 6 I received a civil complaint from Ms. Seals and asked
 7 him when he would be able to come and pick it up.
 8 **Q. And just for clarification, you called**
 9 **Detective O'Connor?**
 10 A. Yes.
 11 **Q. And what department is he with?**
 12 A. I want to say he's with the Harrisburg Police.
 13 **Q. And what made you call Detective O'Connor?**
 14 A. At the time Ms. Seals Ross was being
 15 investigated for allegedly forging her uncle's signature
 16 to his estate. And since I would be the witness for
 17 that, he had me direct anything from her or her family
 18 directly to him --
 19 **Q. Okay.**
 20 A. -- and this was something that I had to do.
 21 **Q. So you were notifying him of this --**
 22 A. Yes.
 23 **Q. -- contact that she had had with you?**
 24 A. Yes.
 25 **Q. Okay. And so the copy that you -- you**

Page 35

1 **actually brought the complaint that you received at home**
 2 **into the office?**
 3 A. Yes.
 4 **Q. Okay. And you provided it to**
 5 **Ms. Potts-Morrison?**
 6 A. Yes.
 7 **Q. And had her make a copy of it?**
 8 A. I had her make a copy of it. I also told her
 9 that, you know, we went over everything and I told her
 10 that Kim was suing me, and if anything came into the
 11 office, that she would enter it in the system and court
 12 order it right out.
 13 **Q. I'm sorry, if anything came into the office**
 14 **she should do what?**
 15 A. She would -- she should enter it in the system
 16 and court order it right out of the office right away.
 17 **Q. So she should enter it into the system and**
 18 **notify court administration --**
 19 A. Yes.
 20 **Q. -- to reassign the case?**
 21 A. Yes, and it had to be court ordered right out
 22 right away. Nothing could stay in if my name is
 23 attached to it.
 24 **Q. And that was sometime in March?**
 25 A. I want to say it was early part of March.

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1 **Q. Who else was in the room when you called**
 2 **Detective O'Connor?**
 3 A. No one. Me and Ms. Potts.
 4 **Q. Okay. So you were the only two other people?**
 5 A. Yeah.
 6 **Q. And the door to her office was closed?**
 7 A. Shut, yes.
 8 **Q. Okay. So there wouldn't have been anyone else**
 9 **to hear the conversation --**
 10 A. Right.
 11 **Q. -- or hear the content?**
 12 **And was Detective O'Connor, was he on speaker**
 13 **phone or --**
 14 A. Yes, he was on speaker, speaker phone. I
 15 called a couple of times and couldn't get him. And then
 16 I finally got him and he said that he was very busy, but
 17 that he would swing around and get it when he had time.
 18 So I told him that if I wasn't there, I would leave it
 19 with Ms. Potts and he could just pick it up from her.
 20 **Q. So he -- do you recall when he came by to pick**
 21 **it up?**
 22 A. I don't know. I couldn't tell you when he
 23 came and picked it up. I was actually out of the
 24 office.
 25 **Q. Did he -- to your knowledge, did he pick up**

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1 **the original or did he pick up the copy?**
 2 A. He would have picked up the original because I
 3 had her make a copy and file it.
 4 **Q. You said make a copy and file it. What do you**
 5 **mean by that?**
 6 A. Make a copy and just put it in the file for
 7 myself if I ever needed it.
 8 **Q. So just a file in her desk?**
 9 A. Yes.
 10 **Q. But that wasn't the copy that had been clocked**
 11 **in by your office?**
 12 A. That I (inaudible)--
 13 THE REPORTER: Could you repeat your answer?
 14 And just wait until she's finished with her questions
 15 because you are talking on top of each other.
 16 A. Sorry.
 17 THE REPORTER: That's okay.
 18 MR. SHEPPARD: You got to like take your time.
 19 A. Okay.
 20 MR. SHEPPARD: Okay?
 21 THE REPORTER: And what was your answer?
 22 MR. SHEPPARD: I'm going to object to the form
 23 of the question before she answers.
 24 A. Okay. Do you want to state it again before I
 25 answer?

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1 BY MS. DONNELLY:
 2 Q. Sure.
 3 A. Okay.
 4 Q. The copy that was placed in the file in
 5 Ms. Georgette Potts-Morrison's desk, to your knowledge,
 6 that wasn't the same copy that's Board's Exhibit Number
 7 3 that was clocked in by your office?
 8 A. It's absolutely not the same one.
 9 Q. And the copy that you received that you
 10 brought in and made a copy of, was that ever clocked
 11 into your office?
 12 A. No, it wouldn't have been clocked into my
 13 office because it was just a form that she sent to me
 14 letting me know that she was suing me.
 15 Q. Okay. And do you still have the copy of that?
 16 A. No.
 17 Q. Okay. Do you know what happened to it?
 18 A. No.
 19 Q. When a -- not necessarily specific to this
 20 complaint that we referenced as Board's Exhibit Number
 21 3, but when complaints come into your office, do you
 22 know the procedure of how they are normally handled?
 23 Like how are they entered into the system and docketed
 24 and do you know what the process is that the staff does?
 25 A. That's the staff's department. But I do know

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1 if anything comes in with my name on it, it has to get
 2 out of there right away.
 3 Q. To the best of your knowledge, did the civil
 4 complaint referenced in Board's Exhibit Number 3, was it
 5 ever entered into the system?
 6 A. I don't know.
 7 Q. And did you ever tell any of your staff if
 8 they did receive it not to file it?
 9 A. Absolutely not.
 10 Q. And did you ever tell your staff how to
 11 respond to District Court Administrator Troy Petery's
 12 e-mail regarding the civil complaint, did you ever tell
 13 them how to respond to any correspondence from him
 14 regarding this civil complaint?
 15 A. No.
 16 Q. So to the best of your knowledge, was this
 17 ever entered into the system, this civil complaint?
 18 A. To the best of my knowledge, I don't know.
 19 Q. You don't know?
 20 A. No, I don't know.
 21 MR. SHEPPARD: Just to clarify, and I don't
 22 want to step on anybody's toes here, that particular
 23 complaint as opposed to a subsequent complaint? Because
 24 I understand there were subsequent iterations of this
 25 complaint filed with another magistrate and you're

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1 saying the system?
 2 MS. DONNELLY: Right, I'm asking if any --
 3 MR. SHEPPARD: Okay.
 4 MS. DONNELLY: If this particular one that was
 5 received on March 23rd.
 6 MR. SHEPPARD: Right, I just want it to be
 7 clear.
 8 MS. DONNELLY: Right, that's correct.
 9 BY MS. DONNELLY:
 10 Q. Specific to this March 23rd received complaint
 11 of 2022, was it -- to your knowledge, was it ever
 12 entered into the system?
 13 A. This complaint specifically?
 14 Q. Correct.
 15 A. From this day?
 16 Q. Correct.
 17 A. No, not that I know of.
 18 Q. Why do you think it was never entered into the
 19 system?
 20 A. I don't know if it was ever entered into the
 21 system or not. But I could tell you that there was a
 22 big blowup with Kim and Georgette. And she said if it
 23 did come to the office, she was not going to enter it
 24 and it was a big thing with Kim and Georgette concerning
 25 the forgery of her uncle, Georgette's name was on the

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1 forgery paperwork.
 2 And she did say if something did come in for
 3 that fat bitch, that she was not going to do anything
 4 for her. And so we had a big discussion of me letting
 5 them know that if it comes in, she has to enter it and
 6 that that's my name out there on the sign.
 7 Q. When did that -- you referenced that you
 8 called it a blowup between Ms. Ross Seals and
 9 Ms. Potts-Morrison. When did that transpire?
 10 A. I'm not exactly sure of when it took place. I
 11 do know that it was after the forgery and Georgette's
 12 name being filed on the paperwork.
 13 Q. Do you know when that was?
 14 A. It was close to the time when Detective
 15 O'Connor had came into the office for -- to speak with
 16 me about the items that were found in the office,
 17 manager's office.
 18 And I want to say maybe a week later or so he
 19 came in and talked to Ms. Potts and asked her if she was
 20 aware of her name being on the paperwork and he showed
 21 her the paperwork. And then they had a big discussion.
 22 I stepped out of the room so I don't know what all was
 23 said in there.
 24 Q. So sometime after Ms. Ross Seals was no longer
 25 the office manager. So she resigned in December of

Page 42

1 2021, and so this would have been the beginning of 2022

2 that Detective O'Connor came to your office to speak

3 with now office manager?

4 A. I could -- I'm not sure of the exact dates nor

5 the times.

6 Q. Was it before you received the complaint at

7 your house?

8 A. Oh, yes, it was definitely before that.

9 Q. So sometime between end of December to March

10 of 20 -- so the end of 2021 to beginning of 2022 there

11 was a -- Detective O'Connor came to your --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- came to the district office and to speak

14 directly to Ms. Potts-Morrison?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And it was after that discussion with the

17 detective that she had an issue with Ms. Ross Seals?

18 A. It got worse because she was upset that she --

19 Kim had did what she did to me, Ms. Ross Seals had did

20 what she did to me.

21 Q. What do you mean?

22 A. About the forging of the will and everything

23 in my office.

24 Q. Okay. So just to step back for some

25 clarification, Ms. Ross Seals is accused of forging her

Page 43

1 uncle's name?

2 A. Yes, her uncle's signature to a will and an

3 estate.

4 Q. And this occurred while she was working for

5 you?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Okay. And how did -- how were you involved in

8 that?

9 A. I actually found all of the paperwork in the

10 office. I was suspended at the time when everything was

11 taking place.

12 Q. So you found paperwork that indicated she was

13 forging her uncle's signature?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And you found that paperwork in your office?

16 A. It's actually in the office manager's office

17 and we talked about it. Kim and I talked about it.

18 Q. When you say you talked about it, this was

19 after she had already resigned?

20 A. No, we talked about it prior to her resigning.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. I talked to her, I called downtown and talked

23 to Jen, Troy and Deb Freeman.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. And then they called her in to talk to her

Page 44

1 about it.

2 Q. About this forgery?

3 A. The forgery, yes.

4 Q. And that was while she was still employed with

5 your office?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And shortly thereafter, she was no longer

8 employed with your office?

9 A. She actually resigned the same day that she

10 went down there and talked to them.

11 Q. So you make a discovery of a crime that you

12 believe Ms. Ross Seals has committed. You inform the

13 authorities of this. She then resigns when she's

14 interviewed about it?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Okay. So that's all within a short time

17 frame?

18 A. It's all within a short period, yes.

19 Q. Okay. So based on that situation, Georgette

20 Potts-Morrison had an issue with Ms. Ross Seals?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Okay. On your behalf?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Okay. So you had informed Ms. Potts-Morrison

25 of the situation, or she had learned of it, and she

Page 45

1 expressed to you concerns. What was said?

2 A. Well, Georgette pretty much knew from what she

3 said, she knew just about everything that was going on.

4 So she -- she really knew like everything that was going

5 on. Her -- we all grew up together.

6 MR. SHEPPARD: Can I just instruct you not to

7 speculate?

8 A. Yes.

9 MR. SHEPPARD: And focus on what you know.

10 A. Okay.

11 MR. SHEPPARD: Okay?

12 A. Okay.

13 MR. SHEPPARD: Nobody wants you to speculate.

14 BY MS. DONNELLY:

15 Q. So did you ever have a conversation with

16 Ms. Potts-Morrison about the forgery situation with

17 Ms. Ross Seals?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Do you remember when that conversation

20 occurred?

21 A. I cannot remember exactly when it was. It was

22 around the time when everything happened and Detective

23 O'Connor and them came in.

24 Q. So sometime the end of the year of 2021?

25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. Okay.

2 A. And I had to also inform them to let them know

3 if anybody called in, you know, the newspaper and

4 whoever, you know, wanted information that they couldn't

5 give it. We had to instruct them to, you know, Deb

6 Freeman and them.

7 Q. Okay. So what -- you had said something about

8 Ms. Potts-Morrison commenting that if anything had ever

9 come in that she wasn't going to be entering it. Could

10 you --

11 A. Right.

12 Q. When did that conversation occur?

13 A. That conversation occurred when I gave her the

14 paperwork that I received at my house.

15 Q. Okay. So sometime beginning of March --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. -- to your recollection when you brought it to

18 the office and during the time that you were calling

19 Detective O'Connor to inform him of this?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. She -- what did Ms. Potts-Morrison say?

22 A. She said that she was really upset and she

23 said that she would not be entering anything if it came

24 in.

25 Q. And what is your reaction to that?

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1 A. Oh, I told her she had to enter it. I said,

2 Georgette, you have to enter it into the system. If it

3 comes in, enter it into the system, you have to get it

4 out of the office right away.

5 Q. And what was her response to that?

6 A. Her response was she's not going to enter

7 anything for that fat bitch. And she -- it was

8 different things. She was upset.

9 Q. Were you concerned when she responded that

10 way?

11 A. I was very concerned and we had a conversation

12 about it. I told her if it came in, she had to enter

13 it, do her job, and that's it.

14 Q. Did she ever acquiesce to that demand? Did

15 she ever say, yes, Judge, I'll enter it as soon as I

16 receive it or did --

17 A. No, she --

18 Q. -- she continue to be defiant?

19 A. She continued to be defiant about it.

20 Q. Did you talk to anybody else in the office as

21 a sort of a check on this to make sure that she actually

22 did follow through or --

23 A. No.

24 Q. Now Ms. Potts-Morrison, she resigned as office

25 manager on July 7th of 2022. Does that sound right?

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1 A. July 7th?

2 Q. If you don't know the exact dates --

3 A. I want to say it was closer to like the end of

4 June.

5 Q. End of June?

6 A. When she walked out, yeah, I think it was the

7 end of June.

8 Q. You say she walked out?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. So she didn't give you notice or --

11 A. No.

12 Q. So how did you know that she was resigning her

13 position?

14 MR. SHEPPARD: Other than her walking out you

15 mean?

16 BY MS. DONNELLY:

17 Q. Did she have any conversations with you

18 before --

19 A. No.

20 Q. So she came into work that day and just left?

21 A. No, she came into work and I was talking to

22 Janaya about the new person that was going to be

23 starting. And Georgette was in her office on her phone

24 talking to her husband and she said that she couldn't

25 hear me. I told her it's okay, that I would come into

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1 her and talk to her afterwards.

2 And so she came out of her office and I was

3 telling her where I wanted the new person to sit and she

4 just abruptly left. She went in her office, got her

5 things and said she was out of here.

6 And I said, "Well, what's wrong, Georgette?"

7 You know, everything is going to be okay. I know it's a

8 lot of work." And I'm pleading with her, you know, and

9 just telling her I know it's a lot of work and, you

10 know, everything is going to work out.

11 And she said, "No, it's not, it's never going

12 to be the same," and she walked out the door.

13 Q. Why do you think that she walked out?

14 A. I don't --

15 MR. SHEPPARD: I'm going to object to that

16 question and ask the witness not to try to read somebody

17 else's mind.

18 Can you -- you can rephrase it also?

19 BY MS. DONNELLY:

20 Q. Okay. Based on your comments to her about

21 that you can work through the amount of work that was

22 accumulating in the office, did you feel like that was

23 the reason that she was leaving was the amount of the

24 workload?

25 A. I -- I don't know.

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1 Q. What do you think she meant by "it was never
 2 going to be the same"?

3 A. I would be speculating if I told you what I --
 4 what I thought. Really at the time I didn't know what
 5 was going on.

6 Q. So you were blindsided by this?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And who was the new employee that was starting
 9 that day?

10 A. It wasn't -- she wasn't starting that day. We
 11 were actually just waiting on information from, you
 12 know, downtown. But I knew that there would be new
 13 employees starting, so I was just trying to get them all
 14 prepared for it.

15 Q. So there wasn't specifically a new person that
 16 you were showing around or anything that day?

17 A. No, I wasn't showing anyone around that day.

18 Q. Okay. So based on the way that she left, did
 19 you -- did she leave on good terms?

20 Were you -- did you continue to have a
 21 relationship outside of work with Ms. Potts-Morrison?

22 A. I tried. I tried to understand what was going
 23 on with her. So I did call her. I texted her. I
 24 actually went to her house.

25 Q. And based on the way that you answered the

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1 question, it seems that those efforts were not -- they
 2 were not productive?

3 A. No, at all. I talked to her husband for a
 4 little while. And he told me that she was at her
 5 mother's house. And I didn't want to go to her mom's
 6 because I didn't want -- I didn't know what was really
 7 going on.

8 But I did end up going over to Ms. Lee's
 9 house, which is her mother. And she said that she
 10 hadn't talked to Georgette, but when she did she would
 11 let her know that I came by.

12 Q. So have you -- aside from the efforts that you
 13 have made to make contact, have you had any contact with
 14 her since she left --

15 A. No.

16 Q. -- your office in the end of June, beginning
 17 of July?

18 A. Oh, she asked for a sick day or -- no, a
 19 personal day or something. She e-mailed and asked for a
 20 personal day. And that's what -- so she asked for a
 21 personal day. She got her personal day in. But for us
 22 to be talking back and forth, no, we had no
 23 communication at all.

24 Q. What do you -- this is after she had already
 25 left employment she was asking --

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1 A. Yes.

2 Q. -- for a personal day?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. I can't give you anymore information on that
 6 other than that.

7 Q. Okay. Do you remember when that was?

8 A. It was a couple of days after she had walked
 9 off.

10 Q. Okay. So it was within the same week?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. When she resigned, how were her personal
 13 effects gathered?

14 A. Um --

15 Q. Did -- let me give you some, maybe some
 16 context. Did Troy Petery, the District Court
 17 Administrator, and Jen Simpson from human resources, did
 18 they come to the office to pick up her belongings do you
 19 recall?

20 A. I don't recall who came in to pick up her
 21 belongings.

22 Q. Do you recall people coming to the office to
 23 pick up her belongings?

24 A. I wasn't at the office when they came, so, no,
 25 I couldn't tell you that.

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1 Q. So they didn't coordinate it with you because
 2 you weren't there?

3 A. I was -- I was not there when they came, but
 4 Troy did -- I want to say it was -- you know what, I
 5 can't remember. But somebody did say that they would be
 6 coming and picking up her things or she would be coming
 7 to pick it up -- no, that they would be picking up her
 8 things, but I wasn't there when they came.

9 Q. Did you provide her personal items to either
 10 the district court administrator or the human resources
 11 representative, did you provide them with any
 12 belongings?

13 A. They went in and did, you know, I
 14 (inaudible)--

15 THE REPORTER: I couldn't hear you, what?

16 A. They went in, Troy or -- I'm not sure who went
 17 in and took all the items out. I'm not sure who went in
 18 and picked them up.

19 BY MS. DONNELLY:

20 Q. Did you pick up any of the belongings to
 21 provide to them out of her office?

22 A. No, not that I recall. Did I give them any of
 23 her items?

24 Q. Yes, did you go through and pick up any of her
 25 stuff to provide to them?

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1 A. Okay, ask your question again.

2 Are you asking me did I gather her things up

3 or are you asking did I give Troy and them her items?

4 **Q. I guess it's a two-part question.**

5 A. Okay.

6 **Q. Did you gather her items that were left**

7 **behind?**

8 A. I did gather up some of her items and put them

9 in a box for her.

10 **Q. Do you recall if any of the items were a civil**

11 **complaint filed against you by Ms. Ross Seals, was that**

12 **one of the items that you collected?**

13 A. Absolutely not.

14 **Q. Do you recall what items that you gathered?**

15 A. It was just her little personal things that

16 were on the desk.

17 **Q. So more like knickknacks?**

18 A. Yes.

19 **Q. Were there any -- was there any paperwork**

20 **involved that you put into --**

21 A. No.

22 **Q. -- the items?**

23 A. There was nothing to do with work or anything

24 like that.

25 **Q. It was all just her personal effects?**

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1 A. Yes, I picked up her little knickknacks and

2 things that she had.

3 **Q. And then you provided those to --**

4 A. No, I didn't.

5 **Q. You did not, okay.**

6 **At any point after March of 2022, did you ever**

7 **tell anyone that Ms. Potts-Morrison took the civil**

8 **complaint home with her in order to protect you?**

9 A. Absolutely not.

10 **Q. I'm going to direct your attention now to the**

11 **second, the other issues raised in the NOFI.**

12 MR. SHEPPARD: Before you get to the next, are

13 you going to a next topic?

14 MS. DONNELLY: I'm sorry?

15 MR. SHEPPARD: Are you going to a next topic?

16 MS. DONNELLY: I am. Would you like to take a

17 quick break?

18 MR. SHEPPARD: Could we take a quick break if

19 you want?

20 MS. DONNELLY: Yeah.

21 (Recess taken.)

22 BY MS. DONNELLY:

23 **Q. Before I move on to the next portion, I just**

24 **have one follow-up regarding Georgette's last day.**

25 **Was there an intern there on Ms. Potts's last**

Page 56

1 **day that you were showing around or that someone in your**

2 **office was showing around?**

3 A. I cannot recall.

4 **Q. Did you ever have an intern in your office**

5 **like a high school student or a college student?**

6 A. Yes.

7 **Q. Okay. Who was the intern?**

8 A. I can't remember her name. I can't remember

9 the young lady's name.

10 **Q. Was she a high school student or a college**

11 **student?**

12 A. She's high school. I just want to say she's

13 high school, yes.

14 **Q. Do you recall what grade she was in or --**

15 A. No.

16 **Q. And was this through an internship program**

17 **through the AOPC or through the county? How would this**

18 **internship come about?**

19 A. It was just an intern that came in and was

20 just working and helping with the filing of the work.

21 **Q. So she was just helping with the filing?**

22 A. Yes.

23 **Q. How did -- do you recall what time period this**

24 **was?**

25 A. No.

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1 **Q. Was it while Georgette was still employed in**

2 **your office or was it after she had left?**

3 A. I believe she was still there.

4 **Q. How long was she interning at your office?**

5 A. A couple of weeks maybe.

6 **Q. Couple of weeks?**

7 A. Yeah, probably I want to say a week and a half

8 or so.

9 **Q. So it was a short period?**

10 A. Yes, it was a short period. She wasn't there

11 long.

12 **Q. And was that the intention it be a short --**

13 A. Yes.

14 **Q. -- short internship?**

15 **How did the internship come about?**

16 A. I was asked if she could come in and mentor

17 and learn.

18 **Q. Who asked you?**

19 A. Her mother.

20 **Q. Do you recall the brother's name?**

21 A. I said her mother.

22 **Q. Oh, I'm sorry, pardon me.**

23 A. Her name is Gia, and, no, I don't have her

24 last name.

25 **Q. I'm sorry?**

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1 A. I'm not sure what her last name is.
 2 **Q. First name is Gia?**
 3 A. Gia.
 4 **Q. So she had contacted you directly?**
 5 A. Yes.
 6 **Q. And asked if you could be, serve as a mentor**
 7 **to her daughter?**
 8 A. Yes.
 9 **Q. So this was sort of an informal mentorship?**
 10 A. Yes.
 11 **Q. And this was -- was it over the summer break**
 12 **or was it during the school year?**
 13 A. It was over I want to say the summer break.
 14 **Q. So did she have set hours?**
 15 A. It was just she would do like maybe one, maybe
 16 two, one or two hours a couple of days a week.
 17 **Q. Included in that mentorship did you talk to**
 18 **her about some of your duties as a judge, was that part**
 19 **of it?**
 20 A. Yes.
 21 **Q. To give her an idea of what --**
 22 A. Yes.
 23 **Q. So she could maybe watch some of the summary**
 24 **trials that were going on or anything that would have**
 25 **been open to the public?**

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1 A. Yes.
 2 **Q. But she wasn't privy to any confidential**
 3 **information, she wasn't privy to any documents in the**
 4 **office. Would that be accurate?**
 5 A. Correct.
 6 **Q. So she would have just been dealing with --**
 7 **what documents would she have been dealing with?**
 8 A. She wouldn't be dealing with any documents.
 9 She would just be doing filing. So she wouldn't do a
 10 lot of things. I would give her my filing and different
 11 things to do.
 12 **Q. So kind of rudimentary work?**
 13 A. Yes.
 14 **Q. Okay. Did you contact the District Court**
 15 **Administrator or anyone to let them know you'd be having**
 16 **an intern in your office?**
 17 A. Troy was aware that I was going to have
 18 someone come in.
 19 **Q. How was he made aware?**
 20 A. I called him on the phone.
 21 **Q. And that was ahead of time?**
 22 A. That was, yes, it was ahead of time.
 23 **Q. Did you call him for approval or just to let**
 24 **him know?**
 25 A. I called just to let him know.

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1 **Q. What was his reaction?**
 2 A. He was okay with it.
 3 **Q. He didn't raise any concerns of having an**
 4 **intern. Right?**
 5 A. No.
 6 **Q. Have you had any other interns aside from the**
 7 **high school student?**
 8 A. No, not that I can recall. I don't believe
 9 so.
 10 **Q. Now going back in time back on December 16th,**
 11 **2020, the Office of Attorney General of Pennsylvania**
 12 **they charged you with three misdemeanors. Do you recall**
 13 **that?**
 14 A. Yes.
 15 **Q. And that was regarding allegations that you've**
 16 **since been found not guilty and exonerated of?**
 17 A. Yes.
 18 **Q. And that was pursuant to the conduct during**
 19 **your son's traffic stop. Is that correct?**
 20 A. Yes.
 21 **Q. And Attorney Brian Perry, he represented you**
 22 **at the preliminary arraignment and was present when you**
 23 **were interviewed by the Office of Attorney General. Is**
 24 **that correct?**
 25 A. Correct.

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1 **Q. And based on the conduct that you were**
 2 **originally charged with, there was also charges with the**
 3 **Court of Judicial Discipline. Correct?**
 4 A. Yes.
 5 **Q. And in addition to being charged for your**
 6 **conduct during that traffic stop, you were also charged**
 7 **with violations of the Rules Governing Standards of**
 8 **Conduct of Magisterial District Judges for failing to**
 9 **report to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of**
 10 **Pennsylvania and the Judicial Conduct Board that you**
 11 **were subject of a criminal investigation when you were**
 12 **interviewed by the Office of Attorney General on**
 13 **November 12th, 2020, relative to that traffic stop back**
 14 **in February of 2020. Is that correct?**
 15 MR. SHEPPARD: That's an awful lot. Can you
 16 break it down?
 17 MS. DONNELLY: Sure. So --
 18 MR. SHEPPARD: Let me just say I don't think
 19 any of this is in dispute.
 20 MS. DONNELLY: Correct. It's just to sort of
 21 lay the --
 22 MR. SHEPPARD: No, I understand that you're
 23 just trying to set the table.
 24 MS. DONNELLY: Correct.
 25 BY MS. DONNELLY:

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1 Q. So I'll take it in chunks. So based on your
 2 alleged conduct at your son's traffic stop back in
 3 February of 2020, you were charged with violations of
 4 the Rules Governing the Standards of Magisterial –
 5 Rules Governing Standards of Conduct of Magisterial
 6 District Judges for failure to report to the Chief
 7 Justice of the Supreme Court and to the Judicial Conduct
 8 Board that you were the subject of a criminal
 9 investigation. That was part of the allegations. Is
 10 that correct?
 11 A. Can you say the date that I was supposed to
 12 report it again?
 13 Q. The – you were interviewed by the Office of
 14 Attorney General on November 12th, 2020. Is that
 15 correct?
 16 A. Yes.
 17 Q. Okay. And part of the charges that you –
 18 that were brought against you in the Court of Judicial
 19 Discipline was for your failure to advise the Supreme
 20 Court of Pennsylvania and the Judicial Conduct Board
 21 that you had been the subject of a criminal
 22 investigation?
 23 A. Yes.
 24 Q. Okay. Is that easier to – it was a mouthful,
 25 okay.

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1 In addition, you were also charged for not
 2 advising the Chief Justice and the Judicial Conduct
 3 Board that you were the subject of a criminal
 4 investigation for an incident that occurred in May of
 5 2019. Is that correct?
 6 A. That's correct.
 7 Q. Okay. And instead of a trial, your attorney,
 8 Brian McGonagle, and at the time now Chief Counsel but
 9 Deputy Counsel Melissa Norton, you all end entered into
 10 joint stipulations. Is that correct?
 11 A. I believe so, yes.
 12 Q. So there wasn't – the trial that occurred
 13 with the Court of Judicial Discipline there were
 14 stipulations that were –
 15 A. Yes.
 16 Q. – that were entered into?
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. And you were aware of the stipulations? Were
 19 you aware at the time of the stipulations?
 20 A. Yes.
 21 (Board's Exhibit 4, previously marked for
 22 identification, introduced.)
 23 BY MS. DONNELLY:
 24 Q. Okay. So I'm going to be handing you what has
 25 previously been marked as Board's Exhibit Number 4. And

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1 this is the joint stipulations that were filed on
 2 February 10th of 2022, and these were filed with the
 3 Court of Judicial Discipline. So these are actually on
 4 their website as well.
 5 If you would, please review and advise if that
 6 is a true and accurate copy of the joint stipulations
 7 that were signed by you, your attorney, Brian McGonagle,
 8 and at the time Deputy Counsel Melissa Norton, just
 9 advise that those are true and correct copies.
 10 MR. SHEPPARD: Yeah, we'll stipulate.
 11 BY MS. DONNELLY:
 12 Q. Okay. Now, part of these joint stipulations
 13 included actions that Attorney Brian Perry took on your
 14 behalf to comply with the rule requiring disclosure to
 15 the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania and the Judicial
 16 Conduct Board. Is that correct?
 17 A. Say that again.
 18 Q. Okay.
 19 A. I was still looking down and reading --
 20 Q. Sorry.
 21 A. -- so I apologize.
 22 Q. And, again, these aren't easily digestible
 23 questions.
 24 Now part of these joint stipulations in lieu
 25 of going to the full trial and putting that testimony on

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1 the record, it included actions that Attorney Brian
 2 Perry took on your behalf in order to comply with the
 3 rules requiring disclosure to the Supreme Court of
 4 Pennsylvania and to the Judicial Conduct Board?
 5 A. Correct.
 6 Q. They served as evidence regarding that
 7 allegation. Is that correct?
 8 A. Correct, yes.
 9 Q. So based on that stipulation and this –
 10 there's a chance that he could have been called to
 11 testify by your attorney or the Judicial Conduct Board
 12 while that case was still pending. If you –
 13 MR. SHEPPARD: I'll object to the form to the
 14 extent it calls for a legal conclusion.
 15 BY MS. DONNELLY:
 16 Q. So if you can't answer, that's fine, just say
 17 I – what I would advise you to say I don't know, but he
 18 was technically a witness based on his being – his
 19 actions that formed part of these stipulations made him
 20 a witness to the judicial con – the Court of Judicial
 21 Discipline case. Is that –
 22 MR. SHEPPARD: Again, I'm just going to object
 23 to the form.
 24 BY MS. DONNELLY:
 25 Q. Okay. Would you disagree – but you do

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1 stipulate that he was – the actions that he took were
 2 part of the joint stipulations that were filed with the
 3 Court of Judicial Discipline. That's correct?
 4 A. Yes.
 5 Q. Okay. I'll leave it there then.
 6 MR. SHEPPARD: Yeah.
 7 BY MS. DONNELLY:
 8 Q. So he – and in the – and your Court of
 9 Judicial Discipline case, that did not end until
 10 December 13th of 2022. Is that correct?
 11 A. Yes.
 12 Q. Okay. And so --
 13 A. I believe that's the right date.
 14 Q. So the Court of Judicial Discipline case was
 15 pending up until December 13th, 2022, that was the date
 16 of your sanctions hearing?
 17 A. Yes.
 18 (Board's Exhibit5, previously marked for
 19 identification, introduced.)
 20 BY MS. DONNELLY:
 21 Q. So I'm going to also be handing you what was
 22 previously marked as Board's Exhibit Number 5, and
 23 that's the criminal docket sheet for
 24 MJ-12204-CR-133-2022, and this is the Commonwealth
 25 versus Tavon Shaw.

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1 If you would, please review and advise that
 2 that is a fair and accurate copy of the docket sheet for
 3 that matter.
 4 MR. SHEPPARD: Off the record one second.
 5 (Discussion held off the record).
 6 MR. SHEPPARD: So the question is is this the
 7 docket sheet?
 8 A. It looks like it's the docket sheet.
 9 BY MS. DONNELLY:
 10 Q. And this is the docket sheet that was printed
 11 off of the UJS system for Pennsylvania, so.
 12 MR. SHEPPARD: Yeah, no, I -- we accept that.
 13 MS. DONNELLY: Okay.
 14 BY MS. DONNELLY:
 15 Q. Now Tavon Shaw, he was charged, according to
 16 the docket sheet, on May 18th, 2022, with one felony
 17 charge of possession with intent to sell and deliver, a
 18 misdemeanor charge of possession of drug paraphernalia,
 19 and a driving under suspension. Is that – based on
 20 your reading of the docket, is that correct?
 21 A. Yes.
 22 Q. Okay. And the preliminary arraignment
 23 occurred on June 7th, '22, and the attorney listed was
 24 Brian Perry. He appeared as Mr. Shaw's attorney. Is
 25 that correct?

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1 A. Yes, his name is on here.
 2 Q. Okay. Do you recall him appearing for the
 3 preliminary arraignment on behalf of Mr. Shaw on June
 4 7th, 2022?
 5 A. Not that I recall. I only recall it after
 6 looking at the paperwork.
 7 Q. So it's refreshed your memory that he was
 8 present during the arraignment?
 9 A. I kind of vaguely remember, but not really
 10 that I recall. I just was going by what was on the
 11 paperwork.
 12 Q. So if you didn't have the paperwork in front
 13 of you to refresh your memory, did Mr. Shaw have an
 14 attorney present with him at his arraignment on June
 15 7th, 2022?
 16 If you don't remember, that's okay too.
 17 A. Yeah, that I really can't remember.
 18 Q. Okay. So you don't remember if he was there
 19 pro se or if he had an attorney at his arraignment?
 20 A. Right.
 21 Q. Do you remember who else was present for the
 22 arraignment aside from Mr. Shaw?
 23 A. No.
 24 Q. Okay. And in this matter you set bail,
 25 because this was the arraignment, in the amount of

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1 release on his own recognizance. Is that correct?
 2 A. Yes, that's what it shows on here, um-hum.
 3 Q. Now, to the best of your recollection, do you
 4 recall if you informed the affiant, the police officer,
 5 or anyone else that day that you had previously been
 6 represented by Brian Perry?
 7 MR. SHEPPARD: I'm just going to object to the
 8 form only because the witness's testimony is she doesn't
 9 recall the hearing.
 10 BY MS. DONNELLY:
 11 Q. Okay. So do you – you don't recall him being
 12 present that day for the arraignment at all?
 13 A. No.
 14 Q. Okay. Do you recall the arraignment at all?
 15 Does anything stand out?
 16 A. No. Well, no, not really.
 17 Q. And this case it ended up being transferred to
 18 another Magisterial District Judge on July 27th of 2022.
 19 A. Okay.
 20 Q. Is that correct?
 21 MR. SHEPPARD: Are you asking if that's what
 22 the paper says?
 23 A. Yeah, because I thought --
 24 BY MS. DONNELLY:
 25 Q. Well, do you have independent knowledge that

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1 the case was transferred from your – from your district
 2 office or you would just be basing it on what's on the
 3 paper?
 4 A. It would be basing it off of what's on the
 5 paper.
 6 Q. Okay. So you don't know why it was
 7 transferred? You don't recall?
 8 A. No.
 9 Q. Now back on June 23rd of 2022, you received an
 10 e-mail from President Judge John Cherry's assistant,
 11 Deborah Freeman. Is that correct?
 12 A. Yes, I did receive an e-mail from Deb.
 13 Q. And one of the issues that was addressed in
 14 this e-mail was whether you should reside over matters
 15 where Attorney Brian Perry was the attorney. Is that
 16 correct?
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. And, specifically, it stated that President
 19 Judge Cherry advised that you should recuse from any
 20 matters upon learning that Attorney Brian Perry is
 21 involved in the case. Is that correct?
 22 MR. SHEPPARD: Let me ask counsel, if you have
 23 the e-mail maybe that would help?
 24 A. Yes.
 25 MS. DONNELLY: Just give me a moment.

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1 MR. SHEPPARD: Thanks. Hey, I'm sure it says
 2 what you said, I just find it might help the witness to
 3 recall.
 4 MS. DONNELLY: You might just have to give me
 5 a moment. I might have to step out and get it.
 6 If we could take just a brief recess?
 7 MR. SHEPPARD: Can you answer? Are you okay
 8 with going forward?
 9 A. Yes, I think so.
 10 MR. SHEPPARD: Okay.
 11 BY MS. DONNELLY:
 12 Q. Okay.
 13 A. I mean, she could definitely get the e-mail
 14 just so you can read the verbiage, yes.
 15 MS. DONNELLY: Oh, okay. If we can take just
 16 a brief --
 17 MR. SHEPPARD: All right, thank you, counsel.
 18 (Recess taken.)
 19 MS. DONNELLY: So I'm not going to enter this
 20 as an exhibit, but just merely for to help --
 21 MR. SHEPPARD: That's fine.
 22 MS. DONNELLY: -- with the witness's
 23 recollection of the e-mail that's dated June 23rd of
 24 2022.
 25 If I may, I'm just gonna --

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1 MR. SHEPPARD: Sure.
 2 Well, we'll only look at what you want us to
 3 look at. I'm not going to go paging through it.
 4 MS. DONNELLY: If I could have just a moment?
 5 MR. SHEPPARD: Sure.
 6 (Discussion held off the record.)
 7 BY MS. DONNELLY:
 8 Q. So just for the record, I'm handing Judge
 9 McKnight it's a -- I can't verify this is the entire
 10 e-mail, but it's an e-mail that was sent from Deborah
 11 Freeman to Judge McKnight, and Georgette Potts, Troy
 12 Petery, Judge John Cherry, and somebody by the name of
 13 Holly Willard were cc'd on the e-mail.
 14 And this was an e-mail that was sent to Judge
 15 McKnight on June 23rd, 2022, at approximately 1:55 in
 16 the afternoon. And this relates to -- the only issue
 17 that we're addressing right now pertaining to this
 18 e-mail is bullet point number 3 where it says:
 19 Regarding cases with Brian Perry, President
 20 Judge Cherry advises that you should recuse upon
 21 learning that he is involved in the case.
 22 If you -- Judge McKnight had asked to review
 23 the e-mail just for to help her recollection.
 24 MR. SHEPPARD: Does it look familiar?
 25 A. Yes.

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1 MR. SHEPPARD: Does that refresh your
 2 recollection?
 3 A. Yes.
 4 MR. SHEPPARD: Okay.
 5 A. There was more to the e-mail, but --
 6 MR. SHEPPARD: Let her ask questions.
 7 BY MS. DONNELLY:
 8 Q. So the e-mail -- and we'll only be talking
 9 about the last bullet point -- states that President
 10 Judge John cherry advises that you should recuse any
 11 matters when you learn that Attorney Brian Perry is
 12 involved.
 13 Is that an accurate reading of the e-mail?
 14 A. Yes.
 15 Q. Okay. And based on that e-mail, did you take
 16 any steps to ensure that if he appeared on behalf of the
 17 Defendant, that you would make sure that you weren't
 18 presiding over those matters?
 19 A. Yes.
 20 Q. And what -- what protocols did you adopt?
 21 A. Can you rephrase -- can you say that again?
 22 Q. Sure. I had asked you what protocols did you
 23 adopt to ensure that you weren't presiding over cases
 24 where Brian Perry was involved.
 25 A. Oh, no, I didn't -- I didn't sit down and

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1 write something down or adopt something. Just what he
 2 said on here.
 3 **Q. So just note to yourself if you see his name**
 4 **on anything or if you see him appear in your court, you**
 5 **would recuse from those matters. Is that – you didn't**
 6 **adopt any specific ways of handling cases that came in?**
 7 A. No.
 8 **Q. Okay. Now directing your attention to your**
 9 **Notice of Full Investigation Response that was prepared**
 10 **by Attorney Stretton, and specifically Paragraph 36,**
 11 **just give me a moment to pull it out.**
 12 A. Before you go on to that, can I say something
 13 else about the case where it was with Shaw?
 14 **Q. Sure.**
 15 A. Okay. After looking over, I do believe that
 16 this was the one where Perry was on the screen with
 17 Shaw. I believe this is the case.
 18 **Q. You're saying he was like via Zoom?**
 19 A. For an arraignment, for an arraignment.
 20 **Q. Brian Perry was on Zoom with him?**
 21 A. I want to say that he was on Zoom with this
 22 one.
 23 **Q. And do you know where he was located? Was he**
 24 **with –**
 25 A. I believe it was at the booking center.

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1 **Q. Okay. At the Dauphin County –**
 2 A. Yes.
 3 **Q. – Prison?**
 4 **And you're basing that on your own**
 5 **recollection –**
 6 A. Yes.
 7 **Q. – that he was present? Okay.**
 8 **And this was at the arraignment?**
 9 A. Yes. It was just an arraignment.
 10 MR. SHEPPARD: Preliminary arraignment.
 11 A. Preliminary arraignment.
 12 BY MS. DONNELLY:
 13 **Q. Right, the preliminary arraignment where you**
 14 **set bail?**
 15 A. Where I set bail.
 16 MR. SHEPPARD: Yes.
 17 BY MS. DONNELLY:
 18 **Q. Was there a representative from the**
 19 **Commonwealth there at this arraignment? Was there a**
 20 **district attorney?**
 21 A. No.
 22 **Q. Was the affiant –**
 23 A. Not to my recollection, no, definitely not.
 24 **Q. Okay. Was there the affiant, the police**
 25 **officer that had filed the complaint, was he present?**

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1 A. No.
 2 **Q. So it was just –**
 3 A. Not to my recollection, I don't believe he
 4 was, no.
 5 **Q. Did you – when you saw that Attorney Perry**
 6 **was representing Mr. Shaw at the preliminary**
 7 **arraignment, did you pause to determine whether you**
 8 **should continue to preside over the matter based on your**
 9 **prior –**
 10 A. No, I didn't. It's an arraignment.
 11 **Q. When you say it's an arraignment, what do you**
 12 **mean by that?**
 13 A. It's I'm just reading off the charges to the
 14 Defendant and setting bail.
 15 **Q. But you're making a decision regarding bail,**
 16 **so you are making a decision in the case?**
 17 A. Right. It was just for the bail, yes.
 18 **Q. So when you say it was just preliminary**
 19 **arraignment, if it had been the preliminary hearing,**
 20 **would you have paused? Is that, are you differentiating**
 21 **when you say that?**
 22 A. Do you see the date of the arraignment?
 23 **Q. The date of the preliminary arraignment was**
 24 **June 7th of 2022.**
 25 A. Yes.

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1 **Q. So –**
 2 A. And I've never been instructed not to hear
 3 anything from -- I was not instructed not to hear
 4 anything from Perry at all. In fact, I was instructed I
 5 could hear from Perry until this came about.
 6 **Q. Okay. And that relates to the question in the**
 7 **Notice of Full Investigation, the statement in your**
 8 **response that was prepared by your attorney at the time,**
 9 **Attorney Stretton, Paragraph 36, which is where we**
 10 **were –**
 11 A. I think that's where you were going.
 12 **Q. Yes, I think that's where we were – so that**
 13 **kind of segues into that.**
 14 **In Paragraph Number 36 at the bottom of Page 6**
 15 **and it's Paragraph 36, the response says that:**
 16 **Admitted that Judge Cherry's assistant sent an**
 17 **e-mail then to Judge McKnight and the full e-mail speaks**
 18 **for itself. These statements were in the e-mail but the**
 19 **whole e-mail should be read. The portion quoted in the**
 20 **e-mail about Brian Perry does not capture the extent of**
 21 **the e-mail. John Cherry had told her she could hear**
 22 **cases with him as noted above.**
 23 **What did – when did Judge Cherry tell you**
 24 **that you could hear cases with Brian Perry?**
 25 A. It was a meeting that we had at his office.

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1 Q. In President Judge Cherry's office?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Do you remember when that meeting occurred?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Do you remember what year the meeting

6 occurred?

7 A. It was when I first returned back to work.

8 Q. And when was that?

9 A. I went back to work August 23rd, '21.

10 Q. So it was sometime -- do you remember if it

11 was during 2021 that you had this meeting with John?

12 A. Definitely, yes.

13 Q. And who else was present during the meeting?

14 A. It was just he and I.

15 Q. And do you remember specifically what he said?

16 A. I asked him if I would -- if he would send out

17 a court order for me not to be able to hear, you know,

18 cases from -- no, no, I didn't. This is when I asked

19 him if I could -- if I was still allowed to hear cases

20 from Brian Perry.

21 Q. And his response was?

22 A. His response was yes, and that I could hear

23 cases from everybody except were Kingsboro and Ferrari.

24 Q. So soon after you returned August 23rd, 2021,

25 you had a meeting with President Judge Cherry --

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1 A. Yes.

2 Q. -- in his chambers?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And did he call the meeting or did you call

5 the meeting?

6 A. I did.

7 Q. And was this through e-mail or did you call

8 him?

9 A. I actually called.

10 Q. So there's no e-mail that documents the

11 setting of this appointment?

12 A. Not that I recall.

13 Q. And you were there to talk about which cases

14 you could still preside over?

15 A. No, I just asked if I could still hear those

16 cases, and I talked to him about my back pay and that

17 was it.

18 Q. And then the issue came up regarding

19 Kingsboro, Officer Kingsboro and Officer Ferrari?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And what was his response regarding those

22 cases?

23 A. That just everything would be court ordered

24 out for those two and that was it.

25 Q. Okay. And the reason for them having to be

Page 80

1 conflicted out?

2 A. Because she was -- she testified against me

3 and so did Ferrari, he said that he didn't think it was

4 appropriate for those two to ever come before me again.

5 Q. And that was Judge Cherry's decision?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. You did not bring up their names during that

8 meeting. It was Judge Cherry that brought their names

9 up?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Did you bring up Officer Cummings' name?

12 A. No, I didn't.

13 Q. But Officer Cummings also testified against

14 you at your criminal trial. Is that correct?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Do you know why you didn't bring up Officer

17 Cummings during that meeting?

18 A. Because Kingsboro was the lead in everything,

19 so that's why I -- so that's why he court ordered those

20 two out.

21 Q. So after your meeting in 2021, you were under

22 the impression that you could hear cases with Brian

23 Perry?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And it's not until you received the e-mail on

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1 June 23rd of 2022 from Deborah Freeman that -- that's

2 the first indication that you ever received that you

3 couldn't hear cases --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- from Perry? Okay.

6 (Board's Exhibit 6, previously marked for

7 identification, introduced.)

8 BY MS. DONNELLY:

9 Q. I'm also going to hand you what was previously

10 marked as Board's Exhibit Number 6. This is the

11 criminal docket sheet MJ-12204-CR-127-2022, and this is

12 Commonwealth versus William Ingram III.

13 If you would, please just review and advise if

14 that is a fair and accurate copy of the docket sheet for

15 this matter?

16 MR. SHEPPARD: Again, we'll stipulate.

17 BY MS. DONNELLY:

18 Q. This is just a printout again of the UJS

19 docket for this case

20 Now, Mr. Ingram was charged on May 11th, 2022,

21 with driving under a suspended license. And the basis

22 for the license suspension was a prior conviction for

23 driving under the influence. Is that correct based on

24 the section number that he was charged with?

25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. Okay.

2 A. That's what I'm reading on the paper, yes.

3 Q. And this charge was graded as an M3 because

4 this is his third or subsequent offense as indicated on

5 the docket sheet. Is that correct?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And the mandatory penalty if he was found

8 guilty of this charge as mandated under the code is six

9 months of incarceration. Is that correct? Is that your

10 understanding of -- and that won't be found on the

11 docket. That's just --

12 MR. SHEPPARD: Judge, do you know what the

13 penalty is for a third degree misdemeanor for a

14 subsequent DUI offense?

15 BY MS. DONNELLY:

16 Q. If you don't know --

17 A. I know it's a fine, but I'm not sure of the

18 amount of time to do to get in jail.

19 BY MS. DONNELLY:

20 Q. Okay. Would you agree that there is some

21 mandatory incarceration?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Whether you know the exact amount of time,

24 there is a mandatory incarceration that's involved if

25 convicted of that offense?

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1 A. Okay.

2 Q. No, no, don't say okay, just if it's correct.

3 Don't just agree with me. If you're not sure, say

4 you're --

5 A. I'm not sure.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. I'm really not sure.

8 Q. Okay. So you're not sure if there's an

9 incarceration that's involved that's mandatory?

10 A. No, I would probably go off my card or go to

11 the book for it.

12 Q. Okay, that's fine. I'd just rather you answer

13 what you know --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- rather than just agree with what I'm

16 saying.

17 So the preliminary hearing for this charge

18 occurred on July 18th, 2022. Is that correct?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And Mr. Ingram was represented by Attorney

21 Brian Perry. Is that correct?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And Attorney Brian Perry appeared on July

24 18th, 2022, for this case?

25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. Before you?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Okay. Now, you did not recuse from this

4 matter per the directive sent via e-mail from President

5 Judge John Cherry, the directive that was e-mailed to

6 you on June 23rd, 2022. Is that correct?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. And why didn't you?

9 A. Because the case was already worked out

10 between the DA, the trooper, and Attorney Perry before

11 it even came to me. They had already worked out a deal.

12 Q. So you didn't believe that you needed to

13 recuse because there had already been an agreement

14 between the parties?

15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. And why is that? Why would that have changed

17 your need to recuse?

18 A. Because the DA, the attorney, the trooper had

19 already worked out the deal before it even came to me.

20 So when it came to me, the DA presented it with

21 Mr. Perry there and I agreed to the deal.

22 Q. So you didn't pause and remember that the

23 e-mail from June 23rd where you're not to hear any cases

24 regarding Attorney Perry?

25 A. No, because I really didn't hear a case. It

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1 was a plea that they had already worked out, a deal that

2 they had already worked out.

3 Q. But the plea that was brought to you, you

4 still had to make a decision whether you were going to

5 grant --

6 A. Yes, you're right.

7 Q. -- grant the agreement?

8 So you did take a step in the case. So you

9 did preside over the matter. Would you agree with that?

10 A. I agreed to the plea deal that they made, yes.

11 Q. Okay. So in hindsight do you think you should

12 have recused from the matter based on the directive from

13 President Judge John Cherry?

14 A. No.

15 Q. And why is that?

16 A. Because he didn't specifically say that I am

17 not allowed to do anything for Perry. I mean, clearly

18 the deal was already made. There wasn't anything --

19 there wasn't a direct with me and Perry or him coming to

20 me and asking me for anything. It was already taken

21 care of. The trooper was already gone. There was no

22 Defendant there. It was just the DA and Mr. Perry.

23 Q. So in your mind, you're not presiding over a

24 matter unless you are determining guilt or innocence

25 or --

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1 A. That's not what I said. I said I just made
 2 the -- when they came to me with the plea, I accepted
 3 it.
 4 Q. In hindsight now thinking about it, do you
 5 think that that was conforming to the directive of
 6 President Judge Cherry?
 7 MR. SHEPPARD: Well, it's been asked and
 8 answered.
 9 BY MS. DONNELLY:
 10 Q. Okay. Did you advise -- strike that.
 11 So when you accepted the agreement amongst the
 12 parties on behalf of Mr. Ingram's case, the agreement
 13 was to change it to a driving without a license charge.
 14 Is that correct?
 15 A. I can't remember exactly what it was. I can
 16 just go off of the paper.
 17 Q. So based on Page 2 of the docket sheet, under
 18 disposition/sentencing details, it indicates that the
 19 charge was changed, the original charge. And then under
 20 that it has the number 2 and it has driving without a
 21 license typed in and it has that it was moved to
 22 traffic.
 23 So it was originally charged under a criminal
 24 docket, and because it was amended down to a summary
 25 traffic offense it was moved to traffic. Is that -- is

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1 that what that would indicate?
 2 A. Yes.
 3 Q. Okay.
 4 (Board's Exhibit 7, previously marked for
 5 identification, introduced.)
 6 BY MS. DONNELLY:
 7 Q. So I'm going to hand you Exhibit Number 7
 8 which actually has that.
 9 MR. SHEPPARD: And this is the disposition
 10 sheet then?
 11 MS. DONNELLY: That's correct.
 12 MR. SHEPPARD: Okay.
 13 MS. DONNELLY: This is the traffic docket that
 14 was generated when it was moved --
 15 MR. SHEPPARD: Right.
 16 MS. DONNELLY: -- from criminal to traffic.
 17 MR. SHEPPARD: Thank you.
 18 BY MS. DONNELLY:
 19 Q. So it was given a new number which is now
 20 MJ-12204-TR-1151-2022. It's still Commonwealth versus
 21 William Ingram III, and it just indicates that this is
 22 now a driving without a license charge, and this is
 23 related to the original charge, it's the amended charge.
 24 Is that correct?
 25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. And it indicates the disposition date was July
 2 18th of 2022 and that a guilty plea was entered. Is
 3 that -- is that correct?
 4 A. Yes.
 5 Q. Okay. And this, again, this is a fair and
 6 accurate copy of the docket sheet from the UJS? You
 7 would agree with that?
 8 A. Yes.
 9 Q. I should have asked that first.
 10 Now, in exchange for him pleading guilty to
 11 this driving without a license summary offense, he was
 12 sentenced to pay a fine. Is that correct?
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. And which is a departure from the criminal
 15 offense that he was originally charged from -- charged
 16 with. Is that correct, that he received a benefit?
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. And although you accepted the negotiated plea
 19 agreement, you could have rejected it, you didn't have
 20 to accept it. Would you agree with that?
 21 As a judge you didn't have to accept the
 22 agreement?
 23 A. You're right, I didn't have to accept the
 24 agreement.
 25 Q. Okay. And you determine the sentence to

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1 impose as well. Isn't that correct?
 2 A. Yes.
 3 Q. So you took steps in this case. Would you
 4 agree with that?
 5 A. Yes.
 6 Q. Okay. And now sitting here today, do you
 7 still feel that it was appropriate for an attorney who
 8 previously represented you in a case with a --
 9 previously represented you to appear before you as
 10 representing a Defendant in a matter, do you still feel
 11 like that was appropriate?
 12 A. As long as I'm being fair and honest and true
 13 and doing my job, yes. And he wasn't my attorney at the
 14 time.
 15 Q. Okay. Did you inform the district attorney
 16 that was there of your prior relationship with Attorney
 17 Perry?
 18 A. Yes, he knew. The DA knew that --
 19 MR. SHEPPARD: I'm going to stop you and I'm
 20 going to ask you to answer the question.
 21 A. Okay.
 22 MR. SHEPPARD: Okay. Can we have the question
 23 read back, please?
 24 (Whereupon, Question from Page 89, Lines 15
 25 through 17, read back by the reporter as follows:

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1 QUESTION. Did you inform the district
 2 attorney that was there of your prior relationship with
 3 Attorney Perry?)
 4 A. I can't recall if I did.
 5 BY MS. DONNELLY:
 6 Q. Now, based on the e-mail directive from June
 7 23rd of 2022 advising you not to preside over any cases
 8 with Attorney Perry, will you recuse from any further
 9 cases regarding Attorney Perry when you become aware of
 10 his involvement?
 11 MR. SHEPPARD: I'm going to just object to the
 12 form to the extent that it mischaracterizes the e-mail
 13 which said that she should. Other than that, you can
 14 answer the question.
 15 A. Yes, I will.
 16 BY MS. DONNELLY:
 17 Q. And will that include cases where the parties
 18 have reached an agreement and they're asking you to
 19 accept it?
 20 A. Yes.
 21 Q. Now I'm going to direct your attention to July
 22 23rd of 2021, you had filed a citizen's complaint to the
 23 City of Harrisburg against four Harrisburg police
 24 officers. Is that correct?
 25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. And what protocols, if any, did you adopt to
 2 ensure that none of the officers that you had filed the
 3 citizen's complaint against would appear before you?
 4 A. I didn't adopt anything.
 5 Q. Did you keep a list of those officers' names
 6 handy in order to ensure that you wouldn't preside over
 7 cases involving those officers?
 8 A. No.
 9 Q. In hindsight, do you think it would have been
 10 prudent to keep a list of the names of the officers that
 11 you had filed a citizen's complaint against?
 12 A. In hindsight, maybe I should have.
 13 Q. And why is that?
 14 A. Just in case if they did come before me that I
 15 can recuse myself.
 16 Q. And that would be in order to prevent any sort
 17 of appearance –
 18 A. Correct.
 19 Q. – of bias and so that your decisions
 20 regarding any of their cases wouldn't come under any
 21 scrutiny potentially?
 22 A. Correct.
 23 Q. Now, the four officers that you filed the
 24 citizen's complaint against, these were also officers
 25 that were involved in the Attorney General's Office

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1 investigation regarding your conduct in February of
 2 2020. Is that correct?
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. And two of the officers were Officer Anthony
 5 Cummings and Officer Farida Kingsboro. Is that correct?
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. And I think we spoke about Officer Kingsboro
 8 earlier that was one of the officers that you had met
 9 with Judge Cherry regarding. Is that correct?
 10 A. Yes.
 11 Q. But you hadn't spoken about Officer Cummings
 12 during that meeting with Judge Cherry?
 13 A. No.
 14 Q. And, in fact, Officer Cummings, he testified
 15 against you at your criminal trial on July 25th of 2021.
 16 Is that correct?
 17 A. Yes.
 18 (Board's Exhibit 8, previously marked for
 19 identification, introduced.)
 20 BY MS. DONNELLY:
 21 Q. Now I'm handing you what has previously been
 22 marked as Board's Exhibit Number 8. And this is the
 23 docket sheet for Docket Number MJ-12204-CR-75-25022, and
 24 this is Commonwealth versus Dominick Reynolds.
 25 If you would, please review and advise if that

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1 is a fair and accurate copy of the docket sheet?
 2 Now Dominick Reynolds, he was charged with a
 3 felony offense of firearm prohibited and possession of
 4 drug paraphernalia, and the officer that charged him was
 5 Officer Anthony Cummings. Is that correct?
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. And Officer Cummings, this is the same Officer
 8 Cummings that you filed the civil complaint against
 9 with – I'm sorry, not the civil complaint, the
 10 citizen's complaint?
 11 A. Yes.
 12 Q. And he is an officer with the Harrisburg
 13 Police Department?
 14 A. Yes.
 15 Q. Now it would appear that Magisterial District
 16 Judge Paul Zozos conducted the Defendant's preliminary
 17 arraignment on April 21st, 2022, and he set bail in
 18 the – he set bail in the amount of \$100,000 secured.
 19 Is that correct, just based on the reading of the docket
 20 sheet?
 21 A. Yes.
 22 Q. Now you presided over the preliminary hearing
 23 on April the 25th of 2022. Is that correct?
 24 A. Yes.
 25 Q. And Officer Cummings testified during that

Page 94

1 preliminary hearing. Is that correct?
 2 A. Yes.
 3 Q. So this was approximately nine months after
 4 Officer Cummings had testified against you in the
 5 criminal trial. Is that correct?
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. Did you inform the parties that you had
 8 previously filed a citizen's complaint against Officer
 9 Cummings?
 10 A. No.
 11 Q. And did you inform the parties that he had
 12 previously testified against you –
 13 A. No.
 14 Q. – in a proceeding?
 15 And why not?
 16 A. Because I didn't recognize him at all.
 17 Q. You didn't recognize their face?
 18 A. I didn't recognize his face at all.
 19 Q. Did you recognize the name?
 20 A. No.
 21 Q. Now after hearing the testimony during the
 22 preliminary hearing, you dismissed the felony firearm
 23 offense. Is that correct?
 24 A. Yes.
 25 Q. And in addition, you held over the misdemeanor

Page 95

1 possession drug paraphernalia charge and you modified
 2 the bail to unsecured. Is that correct?
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. Now, you said that you didn't recognize him
 5 from the criminal trial?
 6 A. No, I didn't.
 7 Q. If you had recognized him from the criminal
 8 trial, would you have recused from presiding over the
 9 matter?
 10 MR. SHEPPARD: In hindsight?
 11 A. Yeah, in hindsight, yes, absolutely. I was --
 12 BY MS. DONNELLY:
 13 Q. Now -- I'm sorry.
 14 A. No, that's okay.
 15 Q. And if you had kept a list of the officers'
 16 names from your criminal trial, in hindsight would you
 17 have recognized the name and recused from the matter?
 18 A. Absolutely.
 19 Q. And sitting here today, do you see how any
 20 actions you take in a case involving an officer you
 21 filed a complaint against could be viewed as biased, do
 22 you understand that?
 23 A. Yes, I do.
 24 Q. So your decision to dismiss the firearms could
 25 be viewed in light of Officer Cummings' prior testimony

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1 against you as a result of your bias against the officer
 2 and not based on the facts as presented. Do you
 3 understand?
 4 A. I understand that, yes.
 5 Q. Okay. So that's why it's important, it would
 6 have been important for you to keep a list of the names
 7 of the officers; and, also, if you're not good with
 8 faces, having that list there would have prevented that.
 9 Do you agree with that?
 10 A. I agree with you.
 11 Q. Now Officer Cummings, he ended up refileing the
 12 dismissed charges. The dismissed firearms charge, it
 13 was just the one charge, he refiled that on April 30th,
 14 2022. Is that correct?
 15 A. I believe so.
 16 Q. Okay.
 17 A. I can't -- okay, what date did you say he
 18 refiled it?
 19 Q. Well, all the --
 20 A. Okay, it's probably on the paperwork, but.
 21 (Board's Exhibit 9, previously marked for
 22 identification, introduced.)
 23 BY MS. DONNELLY:
 24 Q. I'll go ahead and hand you what's previously
 25 been marked as Board's Exhibit Number 9, which is the

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1 refiled charge regarding the --
 2 MR. SHEPPARD: And just for the record for all
 3 of these to the extent we can short-circuit things, we
 4 have no reason to dispute the ruling of the exhibits
 5 here --
 6 MS. DONNELLY: Okay.
 7 MR. SHEPPARD: -- from chief counsel in terms
 8 of the dates, et cetera.
 9 MS. DONNELLY: Okay.
 10 BY MS. DONNELLY:
 11 Q. And the only charge on this docket is the
 12 firearms charge. Is that correct?
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. And you conducted the Defendant's preliminary
 15 arraignment for this refiled charge on May 4th, 2022.
 16 Is that correct?
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. Okay, and that was May 4th. And do you recall
 19 who was present during this preliminary arraignment?
 20 A. I can't recall of everybody that was present
 21 at the time.
 22 Q. Okay. And at that time you set the bail in
 23 the amount of \$50,000 secured. Is that correct?
 24 A. Yes, that's what it looks like I did.
 25 Q. And the preliminary hearing was scheduled for

Page 98

1 June 6th, 2022, before you?
 2 A. Yes.
 3 Q. Okay. And during this preliminary hearing,
 4 did Officer Cummings begin to testify?
 5 A. Yes.
 6 Q. And the hearing was interrupted. Is that
 7 correct?
 8 A. Yes.
 9 Q. And what happened?
 10 A. After hearing some of the testimony, I
 11 realized that I had heard the case previously. And so I
 12 asked for a recess so that I could make a call to my
 13 mentor, Judge Judy.
 14 Q. Okay. And that's Judge David Judy?
 15 A. Yes.
 16 Q. And what did Judge Judy tell you to do?
 17 A. Judge Judy said that if it was him, he would
 18 go ahead and recuse himself. So he suggested that I did
 19 that, so that's what I did.
 20 Q. So you stopped the proceedings and had the
 21 case conflicted out?
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. And July 13th, 2022, Officer Anthony Cummings
 24 of the Harrisburg Police Department, he filed a criminal
 25 complaint against Cindy Louise Turner. Is that correct?

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1 (Board's Exhibit 10 previously marked for
 2 identification, introduced.)
 3 BY MS. DONNELLY:
 4 Q. I'm going to ahead and just hand you what's
 5 previously been marked as Board's Exhibit Number 10,
 6 which happens to be the docket for Commonwealth of
 7 Pennsylvania versus Cindy Louise Turner, Docket Number
 8 MJ-12104-CR-316-2022.
 9 And as your counsel previously indicated, I
 10 don't need to have you advise it's fair and accurate,
 11 this is just a UJS docket sheet. Okay.
 12 Okay. And the charges filed against
 13 Ms. Turner were for a felony robbery. Is that correct?
 14 A. Yes.
 15 Q. And you presided over the preliminary
 16 arraignment. Is that correct?
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. And do you recall who was present for
 19 Ms. Turner's arraignment?
 20 A. Not that I recall.
 21 Q. Not that can you recall?
 22 A. I don't know if it was just her. I'm not
 23 sure.
 24 Q. Now, did you recall at the time that you
 25 noticed who the affiant was in the case, who the police

Page 100

1 officer was?
 2 A. No.
 3 Q. So, did you recognize Officer Cummings as one
 4 of the witnesses who testified against you in the
 5 criminal trial, did you recognize the name at that time?
 6 A. No.
 7 Q. And in this matter you set the bail in the
 8 amount of ROR, release on own recognizance. So is that
 9 correct?
 10 A. Yes.
 11 Q. And to the best of your recollection, did you
 12 inform the parties during the preliminary arraignment
 13 that you had previously filed a citizen's complaint
 14 against Officer Cummings?
 15 A. No, because I didn't even recognize his name
 16 or anything.
 17 Q. Okay. And so you didn't inform the parties
 18 that Officer Cummings had testified against you in your
 19 criminal trial either. Is that correct?
 20 A. No. And is this just an arraignment?
 21 MS. DONNELLY: The --
 22 MR. SHEPPARD: Yes, it's a preliminary
 23 arraignment.
 24 BY MS. DONNELLY:
 25 Q. Yes, the preliminary arraignment was, yes.

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1 A. So if there's a preliminary arraignment, I'm
 2 not going to tell the Defendant that the officer that
 3 arrested you filed a complaint against me. It's just
 4 for me to read off the charges.
 5 Q. Well, during the preliminary arraignment
 6 you're also making a decision of what bail to set too --
 7 A. Right.
 8 Q. -- is that correct?
 9 Without informing the Defendant of the
 10 potential conflict, did you inform any representative
 11 from the DA's office --
 12 A. No.
 13 Q. -- outside the presence of the --
 14 A. No.
 15 Q. Or did you inform the -- I don't believe,
 16 there's no attorney listed for Ms. Turner from the
 17 arraignment.
 18 MR. SHEPPARD: Yeah, I don't see one either.
 19 MS. DONNELLY: So there would have been no one
 20 else to inform, okay.
 21 BY MS. DONNELLY:
 22 Q. Again, in hindsight, do you think it would
 23 have been better protocol to have recused from any
 24 matter where Officer Cummings was involved?
 25 A. Hindsight, yes, but for arraignments, no,

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1 because I have to -- I have to do the arraignments.
 2 If-- if you were my sister and you came before me, I
 3 would have to do your arraignment no matter what.
 4 **Q. Okay. So there's no protocol to recuse from**
 5 **arraignments?**
 6 **A.** I guess it would be my discretion. No, I
 7 don't think so. I don't think so.
 8 **MR. SHEPPARD:** Hang on one second.
 9 (Discussion held off the record).
 10 **BY MS. DONNELLY:**
 11 **Q. Okay, I'm going to turn your attention to June**
 12 **19th of 2022, and this is when you were in -- working in**
 13 **the Dauphin County night court as judge. Do you recall**
 14 **that?**
 15 **A.** Yes, I do.
 16 **Q. And do you recall Officer Collin Ware bringing**
 17 **an arrest warrant to you to sign? Do you remember that?**
 18 **A.** I do.
 19 **Q. Okay. And do you recall the affiant on the**
 20 **arrest warrant was Officer Farida Kingsboro, do you**
 21 **recall that?**
 22 **A.** Yes.
 23 **Q. Okay. And Officer Kingsboro is one of the**
 24 **officers that you filed the citizen's complaint against**
 25 **and also participated in a criminal trial and testified**

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1 against you. Is that correct?
 2 **A.** Yes.
 3 **Q. Okay. And do you recall on June 19th of 2022**
 4 **telling Officer Kingsboro that you had not -- I'm sorry,**
 5 **it would have been to Officer Collin Ware who brought**
 6 **the arrest warrant that was signed off by Kingsboro. Do**
 7 **you recall stating that you were not signing the arrest**
 8 **warrant because, quote, I'm never doing anything for**
 9 **that liar, unquote?**
 10 **A.** Absolutely not.
 11 **Q. Do you remember refusing to sign the warrant?**
 12 **A.** Yes.
 13 **Q. And why did you refuse to sign the warrant**
 14 **from Officer Ware?**
 15 **A.** Because I was instructed not to hear any of
 16 her cases or do anything for Kingsboro.
 17 **Q. So you felt you were following the directive**
 18 **that was previously given to you by Judge Cherry?**
 19 **A.** Yes.
 20 **Q. Did you ever refer to Officer Kingsboro on**
 21 **June 19th, 2022, as one of the officers as, quote,**
 22 **falsely accused me and lied on me? Did you ever make**
 23 **that statement?**
 24 **MR. SHEPPARD:** On that date?
 25 **MS. DONNELLY:** Correct.

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1 **A.** On the day of?
 2 **MR. SHEPPARD:** The warrant.
 3 **BY MS. DONNELLY:**
 4 **Q. The warrant was brought to you by Officer**
 5 **Ware?**
 6 **A.** No.
 7 **Q. Okay. Just one moment.**
 8 **MR. SHEPPARD:** Take a minute, take your time.
 9 **BY MS. DONNELLY:**
 10 **Q. Now I'm going to reference back to the June**
 11 **23rd, 2022, e-mail from Deborah Freeman that we**
 12 **referenced earlier.**
 13 **And under bullet point number 1 in the e-mail,**
 14 **this is Deborah Freeman e-mailing on behalf of Judge**
 15 **Cherry, they reference specifically the decision for**
 16 **Officer Ware to bring the arrest warrant from Officer**
 17 **Kingsboro to you, and the e-mail, quote, says:**
 18 **President Judge Cherry said it appears that**
 19 **Officer Kingsboro did the correct thing by sending**
 20 **Officer Ware to night court in her place.**
 21 **Do you recall receiving that as part of the**
 22 **e-mail from June 23rd, do you recall that portion of it?**
 23 **A.** Yes.
 24 **Q. Okay. And so in the future would you sign**
 25 **arrest warrants that were brought to you by other**

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1 **officers as long as they weren't from Officer Ware --**
 2 **I'm sorry, Officer Kingsboro?**
 3 **A.** Well, now that -- yes, I would, I would sign
 4 them.
 5 **Q. So would you say that before you received this**
 6 **e-mail on June 23rd that the directive was to you, how**
 7 **you understood it, was that you weren't to have any**
 8 **dealings with anything that came from Judge King -- or**
 9 **from Officer Kingsboro?**
 10 **A.** Correct.
 11 **Q. Okay. So this e-mail clarified that for you?**
 12 **A.** Yes.
 13 **Q. All right. And so in the future you'll**
 14 **consider arrest warrants as long as they're not brought**
 15 **to you by Officer Kingsboro?**
 16 **A.** Yes.
 17 **Q. Okay.**
 18 **MR. SHEPPARD:** Well, can we go off the record
 19 a second?
 20 (Discussion held off the record.)
 21 (Recess taken.)
 22 **BY MS. DONNELLY:**
 23 **Q. So when you saw Officer Kingsboro's name on**
 24 **the warrant that was brought by Officer Ware, you**
 25 **recognized it?**

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1 A. Yes.

2 **Q. Okay. Why do you think you recognized Officer**

3 **Kingsboro's name related to your criminal trial and you**

4 **didn't recognize Officer Cummings' name?**

5 A. She was the officer that was always at the

6 forefront and the officer that initiated all of what

7 took place. So her name will always stand out to me.

8 **Q. It was more prominent in the case?**

9 A. Yes.

10 **Q. And do you know a Karen Johnson?**

11 A. Yes.

12 **Q. And how long have you known her?**

13 A. For maybe ten years or more.

14 **Q. And how would you describe your relationship?**

15 A. It's cordial. It's always been friendly.

16 **Q. Would you say it's a professional**

17 **relationship?**

18 A. Yes, it's always been professional.

19 **Q. You're not friends with her on a personal**

20 **level?**

21 A. I would call her maybe not a friend but an

22 associate.

23 **Q. An associate. Like a work colleague friend?**

24 A. Yes.

25 **Q. And do you -- did you call her on July 25th,**

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1 **2021, the day before your criminal trial started and ask**

2 **her to contact someone at the Harrisburg Police**

3 **Department to obtain a copy of a report related your**

4 **criminal case?**

5 A. I don't know when I called her, but I

6 definitely never asked for any information from the

7 case.

8 **Q. So you said you've called her but not related**

9 **to your criminal case?**

10 A. I said I know I've called her, but I'm not

11 sure what day it was and I definitely never asked for

12 anything for my case.

13 **Q. Okay. Well, why would you have called her?**

14 A. Because we talk.

15 **Q. Okay.**

16 A. You know, she's called me on several occasions

17 as well, so.

18 **Q. So then just for personal conversation?**

19 A. I couldn't tell you why I called. Yeah, I

20 would be speculating trying to figure and think about

21 something. Yeah, I definitely don't know why we were

22 talking on that day.

23 **Q. Did you talk to her the day before your**

24 **criminal trial started?**

25 A. Not that I recall.

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1 **Q. Did you ever call her regarding your criminal**

2 **trial at all?**

3 A. No.

4 **Q. All right. And then directing your attention**

5 **to the weekend of January 13th of 2023, do you recall if**

6 **you were the on-call night court judge that weekend?**

7 A. Say that, what day again?

8 **Q. It would have been the weekend of January the**

9 **13th of 2023.**

10 MR. SHEPPARD: I'm just going to object to the

11 form.

12 BY MS. DONNELLY:

13 **Q. Were you scheduled to be the night court judge**

14 **on January 13th, 2023?**

15 A. I believe so. I believe so. I can't remember

16 the dates.

17 **Q. How often are you the night court judge?**

18 A. Every four, maybe three to four, five months.

19 **Q. Every three to five months?**

20 A. Yeah, something like that.

21 **Q. And how long are your stints as the night**

22 **court judge?**

23 A. Do you want to know what days, we go from what

24 day to what day?

25 **Q. Right, how many days in a row?**

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1 A. It would be from Friday to Friday, but we

2 really only -- unless the senior judges aren't in, so

3 then I would do Saturday and Sunday, and then the senior

4 judges take over for the rest of the time.

5 **Q. If there's a senior judge?**

6 A. Yes, it is. We have Judge Postelle and Judge

7 Zozos and I believe Judge Lenker.

8 **Q. They're rotating in as senior judges?**

9 A. Yes.

10 **Q. Okay. So how do you receive notice of your**

11 **schedule of when you're the -- when your time as night**

12 **court judge is?**

13 A. We receive a calendar.

14 **Q. Okay. And how far in advance do you receive**

15 **the calendar so that you can prepare?**

16 A. I would say six to eight months maybe.

17 **Q. So do you get two calendars a year?**

18 A. No, we just get the one unless there's a

19 change.

20 **Q. Okay. Now, do you recall if you called in on**

21 **January the 14th of 2023 or appeared for the Saturday**

22 **morning on-call duties that weekend?**

23 A. No, I didn't.

24 **Q. And why is that?**

25 A. Because I was instructed by Troy Petery that I

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1 didn't have to go in that weekend because I had just did
 2 I want to say like a couple weeks prior. I can't
 3 remember the days that I -- the date that I had went in
 4 prior to this.
 5 **Q. So had you covered for someone else?**
 6 A. Judge Cherry had altered the calendar and put
 7 me in different slots.
 8 **Q. So the idea was that you had covered a**
 9 **different slot and then you weren't going to be working**
 10 **this weekend?**
 11 A. Right.
 12 **Q. That weekend of the 14th?**
 13 A. Right.
 14 **Q. And how did -- how did Troy Petery tell you**
 15 **that you wouldn't have to appear that weekend?**
 16 A. It was through a phone conversation.
 17 **Q. Do you remember when he called you?**
 18 A. I actually called him.
 19 **Q. Do you remember when you called him?**
 20 A. No, I don't know the exact date.
 21 **Q. Okay. So it was your understanding that you**
 22 **didn't have to work that weekend, is that your**
 23 **understanding?**
 24 A. Yes.
 25 **Q. Did any -- are you aware of anyone trying to**

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1 **get a hold of you to cover that weekend?**
 2 A. No, I didn't find that out until after the
 3 fact.
 4 **Q. Okay. And how did you find that out?**
 5 A. Judge Cherry sent a letter to me.
 6 **Q. Okay. And what did the letter say?**
 7 A. It was stating that I didn't show up for a
 8 night court and -- I can't remember everything that was
 9 in there.
 10 **Q. Was it like an administrative order?**
 11 A. Yes, I want to say yes.
 12 **Q. And was part of the administrative order**
 13 **assigning you to cover another Magisterial District**
 14 **Judge's night court duty?**
 15 A. It was about me covering that whatever weekend
 16 it was that you just stated I guess. I don't know what
 17 dates it was.
 18 **Q. Did you attempt to contact Judge Cherry when**
 19 **you got the administrative order to clarify that you**
 20 **were instructed not to come that weekend?**
 21 A. Yes.
 22 **Q. And how did you contact him?**
 23 A. I contacted him, I called, and then I also
 24 called and talked to Troy about it as well. And I can't
 25 recall if I sent the e-mail.

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1 **Q. So you called both President Judge Cherry and**
 2 **Troy Petery once you received the administrative --**
 3 **A. I can't remember if I sent Judge Cherry an**
 4 **e-mail or not, yeah, but I definitely talked to Troy**
 5 **about it.**
 6 **Q. And did he remember the conversation you had**
 7 **previously?**
 8 A. He apologized for -- I forget how he said it,
 9 but he apologized that it was a miscommunication.
 10 **Q. So he acknowledged that it was an error on his**
 11 **part?**
 12 A. He acknowledged that it was a
 13 miscommunication, yes.
 14 **Q. Okay. Did he advise you at that time that he**
 15 **didn't have a phone number that he could reach you?**
 16 A. He actually put -- I think he sent it in an
 17 e-mail. I think he sent that in an e-mail.
 18 **Q. What did he send in an e-mail?**
 19 A. I want to say he was saying that he didn't --
 20 he couldn't reach me. It was something to that effect,
 21 he didn't have a number or something. No, that's
 22 incorrect. That was a previous e-mail, I'm sorry.
 23 **Q. Okay.**
 24 A. Yeah, that was -- it was Judge Cherry saying
 25 that he couldn't get in contact with me or something,

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1 something to that effect.
 2 **Q. With regards to that weekend or with regards**
 3 **to something else?**
 4 A. With regards to that weekend.
 5 **Q. Okay. Have you since provided a number that**
 6 **you can be reached?**
 7 A. Yes.
 8 (Board's Exhibit 11, previously marked for
 9 identification, introduced.)
 10 BY MS. DONNELLY:
 11 **Q. Now, directing your attention to the**
 12 **Supplemental Notice of Full Investigation, it's**
 13 **previously been marked as Board's Exhibit Number 11.**
 14 **And if you would, please review that document**
 15 **and advise it's a true and accurate copy of the**
 16 **Supplemental Notice of Full Investigation dated May 18th**
 17 **of 2023?**
 18 MR. SHEPPARD: We'll stipulate.
 19 MS. DONNELLY: Okay.
 20 (Board's Exhibit 12, previously marked for
 21 identification, introduced.)
 22 BY MS. DONNELLY:
 23 **Q. Okay. And I'm also going to hand you what has**
 24 **previously been marked as Board's Exhibit Number 12,**
 25 **which would be the response to this Supplemental Notice**

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1 of Full Investigation as prepared by your attorney and
 2 verified by you.
 3 Will you also advise that that's a true and
 4 accurate copy of that document as well?
 5 MR. SHEPPARD: It is.
 6 A. Yes.
 7 BY MS. DONNELLY:
 8 Q. Now, the main issue that's raised in this
 9 Notice of Full Investigation pertains to a Facebook page
 10 you maintained entitled Sonya Marie.
 11 According to your Supplemental NOFI Response,
 12 this Facebook page has since been removed. Is that
 13 correct?
 14 A. Yes.
 15 Q. Do you remember what date you removed it?
 16 A. No.
 17 Q. Okay. But it was removed after May 18th of
 18 2023?
 19 A. Yes.
 20 MR. SHEPPARD: We can provide that to counsel.
 21 MS. DONNELLY: Okay.
 22 BY MS. DONNELLY:
 23 Q. And prior to removing this page, the page
 24 indicated that you're a judge. Is that correct?
 25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. And there are pictures of that page of you in
 2 a robe?
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. Now, in your supplemental NOFI Response you
 5 stated this page was meant to be only for friends of
 6 yours. Is that correct?
 7 A. Yes.
 8 Q. So you intended it to be a private Facebook
 9 page?
 10 A. Yes.
 11 Q. However – and on this page you had – as
 12 indicated in the Notice of Full Investigation, you had
 13 posted a product called X-it Red. Is that correct?
 14 A. Yes.
 15 Q. And you endorsed the product on the Facebook
 16 page. Is that correct?
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. And how you endorsed it was you said, "All I
 19 can say is it works, it's worth it so let's get it.
 20 Reach out to me through messenger, phone or text."
 21 Is that correct?
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. And there's also a picture, or there was a
 24 picture of the product on your Facebook page?
 25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. And in your supplemental response you
 2 indicated that this was a business venture of your
 3 boyfriend?
 4 A. Yes.
 5 Q. So what is X-it Red? Is it a –
 6 A. It's candles and sprays that eliminate odors.
 7 Q. There's no ingestible or –
 8 A. No.
 9 Q. – creams or anything like that?
 10 A. No.
 11 Q. So just candles and sprays?
 12 A. Yes.
 13 Q. And what is your boyfriend's name?
 14 A. Mike McCoy.
 15 Q. Mike McCoy?
 16 A. Yes.
 17 Q. Is it M-c-c-C-o-y?
 18 A. Yes.
 19 Q. I think I put an extra C. M-c-C-o-y?
 20 A. Yes.
 21 Q. And this was a business venture, this X-it Red
 22 was a business venture that he was exploring with a
 23 friend of his. Is that correct?
 24 A. Yes – well, yes.
 25 Q. Okay.

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1 MR. SHEPPARD: He was also a friend of yours?
 2 A. Yes, a friend of mine.
 3 MR. SHEPPARD: Yeah, just to be clear.
 4 BY MS. DONNELLY:
 5 Q. Okay. So do you understand that even though
 6 your Facebook page indicated – or, I'm sorry, even
 7 though you indicated in your Supplemental NOFI Response
 8 your Facebook page was only meant for your friends, do
 9 you understand that endorsing a product that indicates
 10 that you're – on a page that indicates you're a judge
 11 could be running afoul of the rules, do you understand
 12 that?
 13 A. Yes, I can see that, yes.
 14 Q. Okay. Is that – did that factor in the
 15 decision to take the Facebook page down?
 16 A. Yes, I think everything factored in it, yes.
 17 Q. So, can we agree that the purpose of you
 18 posting that on the Facebook page that was in existence
 19 prior to May 18th, 2023, the purpose of you posting that
 20 was to sell the product. Is that can we agree on that,
 21 would you agree to that?
 22 A. Yes, it was actually my boyfriend's business,
 23 but I was helping him, yes.
 24 Q. Okay. And you do you understand that under
 25 the rules – under the Rules Governing Standards of

1 **Conduct of Magisterial District Judges, even if it's on**
2 **behalf of someone else, you're not to abuse the prestige**
3 **of your office. Do you understand that?**
4 A. I do understand that.
5 **Q. Okay. So in hindsight would you have perhaps**
6 **not posted this product in the way that you did in order**
7 **to endorse it?**
8 A. In hindsight, yes. But it was a personal
9 page, you know, and I didn't know that it was not
10 private. But, yes, I definitely understand that.
11 **Q. I have no further questions.**
12 **Is there anything that you would like the**
13 **Board to know regarding any of these matters or any**
14 **other situations that you think we should be aware of?**
15 A. No.
16 MR. SHEPPARD: Not at this time.
17 MS. DONNELLY: Okay, that concludes the
18 deposition.
19 (Whereupon, the deposition concluded at 12:43
20 p.m.)
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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA:

COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND :

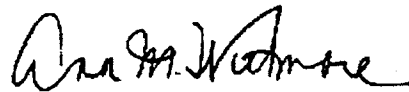
I, Ann M. Wetmore, Reporter and Notary Public in and for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and County of Cumberland, do hereby certify that the foregoing deposition was taken before me at the time and place hereinbefore set forth, and that it is the testimony of:

HON. SONYA MCKNIGHT

I further certify that said witness was by me duly sworn to testify the whole and complete truth in said cause; that the testimony then given was reported by me stenographically, and subsequently transcribed under my direction and supervision; and that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct transcript of my original shorthand notes.

I further certify that I am not counsel for or related to any of the parties to the foregoing cause, or employed by them or their attorneys, and am not interested in the subject matter or outcome thereof.

Dated at Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, this 27th day of June, 2023.



Ann M. Wetmore
Reporter - Notary Public
Commission Expires: Feb. 23, 2027

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**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD**

PENNSYLVANIA JUDICIAL CENTER
601 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE, SUITE 3500
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FRANCIS J. PUSKAS II
CHIEF COUNSEL

717-234-7911

October 13, 2022

Via UPS Overnight Mail
Tracking No. 1ZY4X7450197718716
The Honorable Sonya M. McKnight
Magisterial District Court 12-2-04
1805 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17103

**Re: Judicial Conduct Board File Nos. 2021-742 and 2022-373
Notice of Full Investigation**

Dear Judge McKnight:

The Judicial Conduct Board is required by the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to receive and investigate complaints concerning judicial conduct. Article V, §18(d) sets forth the conduct that shall subject a justice, judge or justice of the peace to disciplinary action. This letter is to notify you, pursuant to J.C.B.R.P. 30(B), that a full investigation of your conduct has been authorized by the Board. The specific allegations that the Board has determined may involve misconduct are set forth below as are the provisions of the Constitution or applicable disciplinary code which the Board has determined may have been violated.

You have a right to provide a written response or other information within twenty (20) days of your receipt of this notice of full investigation. If an attorney is submitting a response on your behalf, please ensure that the response includes a signed verification stating that you have reviewed the response and attest to the truth and accuracy of the information contained therein. The ongoing investigation may reveal facts concerning the allegations that could change the violations alleged or charged. If you are directed to appear or testify and fail to do so without justification, the Board may consider such failure when making its final determination.

The Board is investigating the following allegations:

1. In the fall of 2018, you asked Ray Seals, to harm Enoch McKnight, your estranged husband, telling Seals to "beat him up real bad."



2. You gave each of your court clerks permission to take four days of vacation during November and December of 2021, without requiring them to properly report the days in the county payroll/vacation system.
3. On March 23, 2022, your Magisterial District Court received a civil complaint in the matter of *Kimberly Ross Seals v. Sonya M. McKnight* along with a check for the filing fee.
4. The civil complaint, which named you as the defendant, sought \$2,073.49 from you and alleged:

The defendant owes me money for a loan and also for my business checks that she hasn't returned to me since my resignation on 12/6/21 even though I have asked numerous people to get them from her.

5. Upon receipt of the civil complaint, you instructed a member of your staff not to process the complaint.
6. Per your instructions, the civil complaint was never properly docketed nor scheduled for any appropriate court proceedings.
7. On November 12, 2020, you were interviewed by an investigator from the Office of Attorney General (OAG) as part of its investigation regarding your conduct at the scene of your son's arrest on February 22, 2020.
8. Present with you during the interview was your attorney, Brian Perry.
9. On December 16, 2020, the OAG charged you with three misdemeanor offenses pertaining to your conduct on February 22, 2022.
10. Attorney Perry represented you at your preliminary arraignment and made statements to the media on your behalf.
11. At your preliminary hearing on February 19, 2021, pertaining to the charges filed by the OAG against you, Harrisburg Police Department Officer Farida Kingsboro testified on behalf of the Commonwealth and all charges were bound over to the Dauphin County Court of Common Pleas.
12. Attorney Perry contacted the Judicial Conduct Board Chief Counsel and informed him that you were being investigated by the OAG.
13. In February 2021, the JCB charged you in the Court of Judicial Discipline (CJD) with violations of the Rules Governing Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

14. The communication from Attorney Perry to the JCB regarding the fact that you were being investigated by the OAG was the subject of a stipulation in the CJD case, was noted by your counsel during oral argument before the CJD and was included in the Proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law as a defense to the charge that you had failed to comply with Rule 1921 of the Rules of Judicial Administration by failing to notify the JCB of the OAG investigation of your February 22, 2020 conduct.
15. The CJD case is still pending against you.
16. On July 23, 2021, you submitted a Citizen's Complaint to the City of Harrisburg in which you alleged that the four Harrisburg Police Officers involved in the OAG investigation into your February 22, 2020 conduct that resulted in your arrest, corroborated a story against you with the intent to destroy your character and credibility in the community.
17. On July 25, 2021, the night before the commencement of your criminal trial pertaining to the charges filed against you by the OAG, you called Karen Johnson asking her to call someone at the Harrisburg Police Department records office to get a copy of a confidential report related to your criminal case.
18. Johnson has a professional relationship with you in your capacity as a magisterial district judge and in her capacity as the night court secretary.
19. Anthony Cummings is one of the four police officers against whom you submitted the above referenced Citizen's Complaint and who testified against you at your criminal trial pertaining to the charges filed against you by the OAG.
20. On April 1, 2022, Officer Cummings filed a criminal complaint in your magisterial district court in the matter of *Commonwealth v. Reynolds*, MJ-12204-CR-75-2022.
21. On April 25, 2022, you presided over the preliminary hearing in the matter of *Commonwealth v. Reynolds*, MJ-12204-CR-75-2022 at which time Officer Cummings testified.
22. At the conclusion of the April 25, 2022 preliminary hearing referenced above, you dismissed the felony charge, bound over the ungraded misdemeanor charge, and modified the defendant's bail from \$50,000 cash to ROR.
23. On April 30, 2022, Officer Cummings refiled the felony charge previously filed in the matter of *Commonwealth v. Reynolds* to MJ-12204-CR-103-2022.

24. On May 4, 2022, you presided over the preliminary arraignment in the matter of *Commonwealth v. Reynolds*, MJ-12204-CR-103-2022, setting bail at \$50,000 cash scheduling a preliminary hearing for June 6, 2022.
25. On June 6, 2022, while presiding over the preliminary hearing in the matter of *Commonwealth v. Reynolds*, MJ-12204-CR-103-2022, you interrupted Officer Cummings testimony saying that you were going to call Judge David Judy.
26. After a brief recess in the above referenced matter, you returned to the courtroom and announced that you were recusing from the case.
27. At no time while presiding of the *Reynolds* matters referenced above did you inform the parties that (1) you had filed a Citizens Complaint against Officer Cummings and (2) that he had testified on behalf of the Commonwealth in your criminal trial.
28. On June 7, 2022, Attorney Brian Perry appeared in front of you representing his client, the defendant, in a criminal case, *Commonwealth v. Shaw*, MJ-12204-CR-133-2022, for the preliminary arraignment at which time you set the bail at ROR and scheduled the preliminary hearing for July 25, 2022.
29. During the *Shaw* preliminary arraignment, you did not inform the parties that (1) Attorney Perry represented you when you were investigated and charged with criminal offenses by the OAG, (2) that Attorney Perry represented you when the JCB investigated your February 22, 2020 conduct, and (3) that Attorney Perry is a potential witness in the CJD case pending against you.
30. Farida Kingsboro is one of the four police officers against whom you submitted the above referenced Citizen's Complaint and who testified as a Commonwealth witness at your criminal trial pertaining to the charges filed against you by the OAG.
31. During the evening hours on June 19, 2022, Harrisburg Police Officer Collin Ware delivered an arrest warrant to you for approval as you were presiding over Dauphin County Night Court.
32. The affiant on the warrant was Officer Kingsboro.
33. You refused to review the warrant telling Officer Ware "I am never doing anything for that liar" referring to Officer Kingsboro.
34. On June 19, 2022, at 10:22 p.m., you sent the following email to Dauphin County President Judge Cherry:

Good evening PJ Cherry,

I am on night court this weekend. Affiant F Kingsboro, had Affiant Ware to bring me a warrant to be signed for her.

You personally told me that this officer would have No contact with me ever again and that she F. Kingsboro has been Court Ordered out of my office and no contact should ever been had between us. My heart is raising (sic) right now. I do Not trust her.

35. On June 21, 2022, you sent the following email to President Judge Cherry and four other Dauphin County employees:

Good morning everyone!

Judge Cherry,

I did send you an email on Sunday evening concerning affiant Farida Kingsboro, sending officer Ware into the booking center for a warrant. I was put in a very uncomfortable situation on Sunday evening as I worked night court. Please PJ, I ask that this officer/affiant stays away from me as I feel that this was intentional harassment. This affiant has caused me so much hardship, pain, anguish, discomfort. I do NOT trust her. Affiant Kingsboro is fully aware that I was the night court judge on duty.

Can you please provide me with a copy of the Court Order for all 4 officers that falsely accused me and lied on me.

36. On June 23, 2022, Deborah Freeman, the Dauphin County District Court Administrator, sent the following email, in relevant part, to you:

Good afternoon, Judge McKnight,

President Judge Cherry asked me to touch base with you on a few matters.

- Attached are two orders entered regarding Officer Kingsboro and Special Agent Ferrari. You mentioned 4 officers. Who are the other two? I do not believe there are any other orders. President Judge Cherry said it appears that Officer Kingsboro did the correct thing by sending Officer Ware to Night Court in her place.
...
- Regarding cases with Brian Perry, President Judge Cherry advises that you should recuse upon learning that he is involved in the case.
...

37. On July 13, 2022, Officer Cummings filed a criminal complaint in the matter of *Commonwealth v. Turner*, charging the defendant with one count of Robbery.
38. You presided over the *Turner* preliminary arraignment and released the homeless defendant on her own recognizance.
39. At no time while presiding of the *Turner* matter referenced above did you inform the parties that (1) you had filed a Citizens Complaint against Officer Cummings, (2) that he had testified on behalf of the Commonwealth in your criminal trial and (3) that you believed he had "falsely accused" you and "lied on" you.
40. On July 18, 2022, Attorney Perry appeared in front of you representing his client, the defendant, in a criminal case, *Commonwealth v. Ingram*, MJ-12204-CR-127-2022 for the preliminary hearing.
41. Prior to the commencement of the preliminary hearing, the parties in the *Ingram* matter reached a plea agreement in which the Commonwealth dropped the misdemeanor offense, and the defendant entered a guilty plea to the remaining summary offense.
42. You accepted the guilty plea and sentenced the defendant accordingly.
43. At no time while presiding over the *Ingram* matter referenced above did you inform the parties that (1) Attorney Perry represented you when you were investigated and charged with criminal offenses by the OAG, (2) that Attorney Perry represented you when the JCB investigated your February 22, 2020 conduct, and (3) that Attorney Perry is a potential witness in the CJD case pending against you.

Some, all, or one of these allegations, if true, may subject you to discipline pursuant to Article V, §18(b)(5) and §18(d)(1), or may constitute a violation of §17(b) of Article V of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The specific provision(s) which may have been violated include:

1. Canon 1, Rule 1.1 of the Rules Governing the Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges;
2. Canon 1, Rule 1.2 of the Rules Governing the Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges;
3. Canon 1, Rule 1.3 of the Rules Governing the Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges;
4. Canon 2, Rule 2.5 of the Rules Governing the Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges;

5. Canon 2, Rule 2.11 of the Rules Governing the Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges;
6. Canon 2, Rule 2.16 of the Rules Governing the Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges;
7. Article V, §17(b) of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and
8. Article V, §18(d)(1) of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

To aid the Board in its investigation, the Board requests that you provide the following information:

- A. A specific affirmation or denial of each numbered factual allegation contained in this Notice of Full Investigation. You may also include any further explanatory information you believe is relevant to address each factual allegation. The Board understands that some numbered paragraphs may contain background factual information for which you may have no personal first-hand knowledge.
- B. The identity of any witness(es) that the Board should interview during the course of this investigation and a brief summary of what information you believe such witness(es) will provide to address a specific factual allegation.
- C. Any information or documents which you believe the Board should consider during the course of this investigation.

You should note that the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Article V, §18(a)(8) provides that all proceedings before the Board and all information gathered in the course of the Board's investigation are confidential and are not public records. Additionally, J.C.B.R.P. 17 provides that "all information and proceedings relating to a complaint and records of the Board's deliberations shall be confidential."

Very truly yours,


Melissa L. Norton
Deputy Chief Counsel

MLN/jec

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January 24, 2023

Melissa L. Norton, Esquire
Chief Counsel
Judicial Conduct Board of Pennsylvania
VIA EMAIL

Re: The Honorable Sonya McKnight
JCB File Nos. 2021-742 and 2022-373

Dear Ms. Norton:

Please be advised that I represent Judge Sonya McKnight, the Respondent, in reference to your October 13th, 2022 Letter of Inquiry. I will respond on her behalf to your October 13th, 2022 letter. I appreciate you allowing us to file this response out of time, thank you. I will respond now to the numbered paragraphs.

1) Judge McKnight emphatically denies ever asking anyone to harm her estranged husband. That never happened. In fact, her former husband has been abusive to her and has beaten her on several occasions. Judge McKnight was never charged with such false accusations.

2) Denied. Judge McKnight never told her Court Clerks not to enter the appropriate entries in the payroll/vacation system.

3) Denied. To the Judge's knowledge, the complaint was never sent to her office. Ms. Seals did send something to the Judge's home but it was not the formal complaint. There was no check with what was sent to her home.

4) Admitted there is a civil complaint recently filed by Ms. Seals alleging that Judge McKnight owes her money. The Judge denies that and contends that those allegations are incorrect.



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It should be noted that Ms. Seals is being investigated by the Dauphin County Detectives' Office about issues of improper use of checks and forgery. There were allegations she forged her dead uncle's name to make herself executor of his estate.

5) Denied. The Judge did not receive the complaint in any timely fashion at the office. She never told anyone not to process it. The Judge was not involved with the complaint being filed or processed. She never told anyone not to handle it. The only thing she may have told her staff, was that if the complaint came in, her office could not handle it because she was a named party.

6) Emphatically denied. See the above answer to no. 5. The Judge did not see the complaint, and as noted in no 5., she instructed her staff that if it came in, to sent it to another Judge.

7) Admitted. The Judge met with a representative from the Attorney General's Office about the unrelated case. As noted, the Judge was charged in that case but was acquitted of all charges after a trial by jury.

8) Admitted that Judge McKnight had her then attorney, Brian Perry, present.

9) Admitted subsequently, the Judge was charged. The charges were not accurate and after a jury trial before a Common Pleas Judge, as noted above, she was acquitted of all charges.

10) Admitted that Attorney Perry represented her at the preliminary arraignment. Judge McKnight recalls that Mr. Perry did make some statements. She did not ask him to make any such statements.

11) Admitted there was a preliminary hearing and the District Judge found there was a prima facie case and sent the matter to the Court of Common Pleas.

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12) Admitted that attorney Perry informed the Judicial Conduct Board of the investigation by the Attorney General's Office. He did that at the request of Judge McKnight to comply with the Rules.

13) Admitted that the Judicial Conduct Board charged Judge McKnight with violations under the Rules, arising out of the allegations involving her son's arrest.

14) I am not sure exactly what stipulations are referenced because I was not representing Judge McKnight at the time. However, to my understanding, Judge McKnight instructed her attorney, Mr. Perry, to notify the Judicial Conduct Board of the fact that there was an investigation by the Attorney General's Office about the situation involving her son's arrest and her appearing at the scene of the alleged crime at the time of his arrest. Judge McKnight spoke to her attorney, Mr. Perry, who confirmed he had timely reported the matter on her behalf. Therefore, I am a little confused about this accusation and would have to see the stipulations and findings before I can answer further.

15) Admitted that the case is still pending before the Court of Judicial Discipline but, the Judge was found not guilty of all charges and acquitted after a trial by jury. The criminal case is over. There was a hearing in December before the Court of Judicial Discipline and the Judge is awaiting the outcome of the decision by the Court of Judicial Discipline.

16) Admitted that the Judge did submit a complaint to the appropriate police complaint board in Harrisburg about four Harrisburg police officers and their conduct in terms of the criminal case that was pending against her at the time her son was arrested. She did so because she was upset with the conduct of those officers.

17) Denied. Judge McKnight has no recollection of that and she would not have needed the report because her attorney and she had all of the discovery, which would include any report. It

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is possible that she may have spoken to Karen Johnson, who she knows fairly well, but she has no recollection of asking for that report.

18) Denied. There is no professional relationship other than Judge McKnight knows Ms. Johnson, who is a Court employee for night Court. The Judge has had conversations with her over the years, particularly about administrative matters and staffing matters. She is not unfriendly with her and they are friends but there is no professional relationship other than they both work for the Court system.

19) Admitted that Officer Cummings testified against the Judge at the criminal trial where she was acquitted.

20) Admitted that on or about April 1st, 2022, Officer Cummings did file criminal charges in the case of Commonwealth v. Reynolds in Judge McKnight's District Court.

21) Admitted that Judge McKnight proceeded over the preliminary hearing. Although she had made a complaint against Officer Cummings, she did not recognize him and really did not know him.

22) Admitted that the at end of the preliminary hearing, the Judge found there was not a prima facie case on the felony charge and only held the case over on ungraded misdemeanor charges. As a result of the felony being discharged, the bail was reduced from \$50,000.00 cash to release on recognizance.

23) Admitted that Officer Cummings or the Dauphin County District Attorney's Office refiled the felony charges. In other words, Mr. Reynolds was rearrested. Judge McKnight was not involved with that.

24) Admitted. Initially, the Judge did not recall that arraignment but she checked and she did actually do the arraignment and set bail at \$50,000.00 cash because the felony was reinstated.

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25) Judge McKnight did hear portions of this preliminary hearing. She was not aware that this was the same case she had thrown out the felony before. No one said anything to her. As she started hearing the evidence, she recalled that she had heard this case so she stopped the testimony to call Judge David Judy. Judge David Judy is a respected District Judge and like a mentor to Judge McKnight. She asked him what she should do because she had previously heard the preliminary hearing. That is why there was a recess.

26) Admitted. After Judge McKnight spoke to Judge Judy, he suggested to her that she should recuse herself and she did.

27) Admitted. Judge McKnight was not aware that Mr. Cummings was the officer she had complained about. She did not recognize him, and he never raised the issue. It should be noted that Judge McKnight heard several cases during that time where Officer Cummings was a witness. Officer Cummings never raised any questions and never asked her to recuse herself and never reminded her that he was the officer who testified against her.

28) Admitted that attorney, Brian Perry, had appeared on June 7th, 2022 in an unrelated criminal case before Judge McKnight. It is admitted that Judge McKnight ordered ROR bail and set a preliminary hearing date. It should be noted also that Judge McKnight had talked to the President Judge of Dauphin County, Judge Cherry, about whether she should recuse herself for Brian Perry, and he advised her she did not have to unless she felt that she could not be fair.

29) Denied. To the Judge's recollection, she did inform the parties that attorney Perry had been her attorney previously. Judge McKnight has had that practice ever since attorney Perry has represented her. It should be noted that on June 7th, 2022, attorney Perry was no longer representing her. The representation had concluded somewhere about eight months to a year before. Mr. Stretton who has represented many Judges, has appeared before Judges he previously represented. Usually, after

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six months to a year, most District Attorneys will not object and the Judge would hear the case. Mr. Stretton always makes a disclosure. In this case, to the Judge's knowledge, the disclosure was made. It was fairly common knowledge that attorney Perry had represented her.

30) Admitted.

31) Admitted.

32) The affiant was Officer Kingsboro, and that is correct.

33) Denied as stated. To the Judge's recollection, Officer Ware presented her with two warrants. She reviewed the one and signed it. As to the one involving Officer Kingsboro, the Judge briefly reviewed it but indicated that she would not sign it. The Judge never said that Officer Kingsboro was a liar or anything to that effect. It should be noted that Denise Shartle was the night clerk secretary. She normally works with Judge Judy. She was present and will confirm that at no time did Judge McKnight say "I will never sign anything for that liar". That is just false.

34) Admitted. Judge McKnight was surprised that the complaint signed by Officer Kingsboro was before her. As a result, she sent an email to President Judge Cherry. She reminded the President Judge that he told her that Officer Kingsboro should not have any contact with her, yet, the officer was back in Court. She was asking for advice by that email and was somewhat upset when she sent it.

35) Admitted the next day another email was sent by the Respondent to Judge Cherry. The email speaks for itself.

36) Admitted that Judge Cherry's assistant sent an email then to Judge McKnight and the full email speaks for itself. These statements were in the email but the whole email should be read. The portion quoted in the email about Brian Perry does not

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capture the extent of the email. Judge Cherry had told her she could hear cases with him, as noted above.

37) Admitted.

38) Admitted the Judge did the arraignment.

39) Admitted that the Judge did not say anything about Officer Cummings and her complaint against him at the time. As noted above, she did not recognize Officer Cummings and did not realize he was the person involved with the other case.

40) Admitted that attorney Perry appeared on July 18th, 2022 before Judge McKnight in the case of Commonwealth v. Ingram. The Judge has no recollection of that now.

41) Admitted that there was a plea agreement presented to the Judge for a summary offense only.

42) Admitted that the Judge accepted the plea agreement and sentenced the Defendant pursuant to the plea agreement. That happens all of the time when the lawyer for the Defendant and the police officer reaches an agreement, particularly if it is reduced to a summary offense. The Judge then accepted the agreement.

43) In terms of attorney Perry, as noted above, he had not represented the Judge for almost a year at that point. Most people in the Court system were aware that he had been her attorney. To the Judge's recollection, her staff and she would always state he had represented her but she has no recollection one way or the other. But in this case, it really did not make a difference because the case never went for a hearing before her. She was presented with a negotiated plea, which was agreed to by the prosecution and which attorney Perry agreed to and then presented for her approval. That happens all of the time.

Having responded to the numbered paragraphs, I should note that the Judge emphatically denies violating any of the charged rules and emphatically denies violating the Constitution of

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Pennsylvania and particularly, emphatically denies bringing the Judiciary into disrepute.

In terms of witnesses, it is too soon yet for Mr. Stretton to prepare a witness list. I thought I would need to get some of the statements and discovery from the Judicial Conduct Board. However, it would appear that the Judge's Office Manager, Barbara Voya, might be a witness. It would appear that attorney, Brian Perry, would be a potential witness. Susan Wilson Brown, a constable who works in the Judge's Court, might well be a witness. There will also be numerous character witnesses at the time of any hearing.

Having responded, the Judge will fully cooperate and of course, will appear for the deposition on February 22nd, 2023. Although I am not entitled to it yet, I would very much like to receive any statements from the police and anyone else that you have.

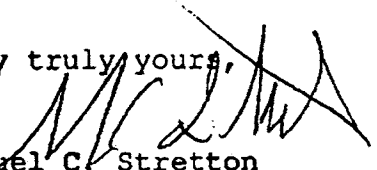
In conclusion, let's hope that this matter can be discharged at this point in time since apparently it does not appear that Judge McKnight did anything wrong.

Finally, I would point out that the Judge has an excellent background. She is 55 years of age. She was previously married and has three children from that marriage. She worked for a number of years of Congressman Holden as an administrative assistant. After winning the election, she was sworn into her District Judge position in 2016 and she ran for reelection and was successful in 2021. Until the matter arising out of her son's case, she had no history of judicial discipline.

Melissa L. Norton, Esquire
January 24, 2023
Page Nine

In conclusion, Judge McKnight respectfully requests these charges be dismissed.

Very truly yours,



Samuel C. Stretton

SCS:rht

Enc.

Cc: The Honorable Sonya McKnight

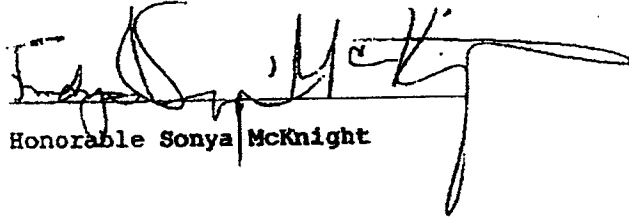
VIA EMAIL

VERIFICATION

I, the Honorable Sonya McKnight, verify that the statements contained in the answer to the Letter of Inquiry dated October 13th, 2022 are true and correct to the best of my information, knowledge and belief.

1-20-2023

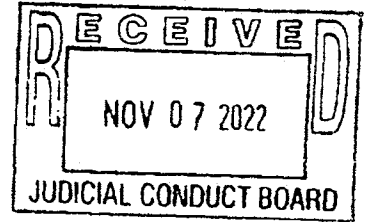
Date


Honorable Sonya McKnight



**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD**

PENNSYLVANIA JUDICIAL CENTER
601 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE, SUITE 3500
P.O. Box 62525
HARRISBURG, PA 17106-2525
WWW.JCBPA.ORG



FRANCIS J. PUSKAS II
CHIEF COUNSEL

717-234-7911

October 13, 2022

Via UPS Overnight Mail
Tracking No. 1ZY4X7450197718716
The Honorable Sonya M. McKnight
Magisterial District Court 12-2-04
1805 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17103

**Re: Judicial Conduct Board File Nos. 2021-742 and 2022-373
Notice of Full Investigation**

Dear Judge McKnight:

The Judicial Conduct Board is required by the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to receive and investigate complaints concerning judicial conduct. Article V, §18(d) sets forth the conduct that shall subject a justice, judge or justice of the peace to disciplinary action. This letter is to notify you, pursuant to J.C.B.R.P. 30(B), that a full investigation of your conduct has been authorized by the Board. The specific allegations that the Board has determined may involve misconduct are set forth below as are the provisions of the Constitution or applicable disciplinary code which the Board has determined may have been violated.

You have a right to provide a written response or other information within twenty (20) days of your receipt of this notice of full investigation. If an attorney is submitting a response on your behalf, please ensure that the response includes a signed verification stating that you have reviewed the response and attest to the truth and accuracy of the information contained therein. The ongoing investigation may reveal facts concerning the allegations that could change the violations alleged or charged. If you are directed to appear or testify and fail to do so without justification, the Board may consider such failure when making its final determination.

The Board is investigating the following allegations:

1. In the fall of 2018, you asked Ray Seals, to harm Enoch McKnight, your estranged husband, telling Seals to "beat him up real bad." **NO**



2. You gave each of your court clerks permission to take four days of vacation during November and December of 2021, without requiring them to properly report the days in the county payroll/vacation system. **NO**
3. On March 23, 2022, your Magisterial District Court received a civil complaint in the matter of *Kimberly Ross Seals v. Sonya M. McKnight* along with a check for the filing fee. **NO**
4. The civil complaint, which named you as the defendant, sought \$2,073.49 from you and alleged: **NO**

The defendant owes me money for a loan and also for my business checks that she hasn't returned to me since my resignation on 12/6/21 even though I have asked numerous people to get them from her. **NO**

5. Upon receipt of the civil complaint, you instructed a member of your staff not to process the complaint. **NO**
6. Per your instructions, the civil complaint was never properly docketed nor scheduled for any appropriate court proceedings. **NO**
7. On November 12, 2020, you were interviewed by an investigator from the Office of Attorney General (OAG) as part of its investigation regarding your conduct at the scene of your son's arrest on February 22, 2020. **YES**
8. Present with you during the interview was your attorney, Brian Perry. **YES**
9. On December 16, 2020, the OAG charged you with three misdemeanor offenses pertaining to your conduct on February 22, 2022. **NO**
10. Attorney Perry represented you at your preliminary arraignment and made statements to the media on your behalf. **YES**
11. At your preliminary hearing on February 19, 2021, pertaining to the charges filed by the OAG against you, Harrisburg Police Department Officer Farida Kingsboro testified on behalf of the Commonwealth and all charges were bound over to the Dauphin County Court of Common Pleas. **YES**
12. Attorney Perry contacted the Judicial Conduct Board Chief Counsel and informed him that you were being investigated by the OAG. **YES**
13. In February 2021, the JCB charged you in the Court of Judicial Discipline (CJD) with violations of the Rules Governing Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. **YES**

14. The communication from Attorney Perry to the JCB regarding the fact that you were being investigated by the OAG was the subject of a stipulation in the CJD case, was noted by your counsel during oral argument before the CJD and was included in the Proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law as a defense to the charge that you had failed to comply with Rule 1921 of the Rules of Judicial Administration by failing to notify the JCB of the OAG investigation of your February 22, 2020 conduct. **YES**
15. The CJD case is still pending against you. **YES**
16. On July 23, 2021, you submitted a Citizen's Complaint to the City of Harrisburg in which you alleged that the four Harrisburg Police Officers involved in the OAG investigation into your February 22, 2020 conduct that resulted in your arrest, corroborated a story against you with the intent to destroy your character and credibility in the community. **YES**
17. On July 25, 2021, the night before the commencement of your criminal trial pertaining to the charges filed against you by the OAG, you called Karen Johnson asking her to call someone at the Harrisburg Police Department records office to get a copy of a confidential report related to your criminal case. **No**
18. Johnson has a professional relationship with you in your capacity as a magisterial district judge and in her capacity as the night court secretary. **YES**
19. Anthony Cummings is one of the four police officers against whom you submitted the above referenced Citizen's Complaint and who testified against you at your criminal trial pertaining to the charges filed against you by the OAG. **YES**
20. On April 1, 2022, Officer Cummings filed a criminal complaint in your magisterial district court in the matter of *Commonwealth v. Reynolds*, MJ-12204-CR-75-2022. **Do not recall**
21. On April 25, 2022, you presided over the preliminary hearing in the matter of *Commonwealth v. Reynolds*, MJ-12204-CR-75-2022 at which time Officer Cummings testified. **Do not recall**
22. At the conclusion of the April 25, 2022 preliminary hearing referenced above, you dismissed the felony charge, bound over the ungraded misdemeanor charge, and modified the defendant's bail from \$50,000 cash to ROR. **Do not recall**
23. On April 30, 2022, Officer Cummings refiled the felony charge previously filed in the matter of *Commonwealth v. Reynolds* to MJ-12204-CR-103-2022. **Do not recall**

24. On May 4, 2022, you presided over the preliminary arraignment in the matter of *Commonwealth v. Reynolds*, MJ-12204-CR-103-2022, setting bail at \$50,000 cash scheduling a preliminary hearing for June 6, 2022. *Do not recall*
25. On June 6, 2022, while presiding over the preliminary hearing in the matter of *Commonwealth v. Reynolds*, MJ-12204-CR-103-2022, you interrupted Officer Cummings testimony saying that you were going to call Judge David Judy. *YES*
26. After a brief recess in the above referenced matter, you returned to the courtroom and announced that you were recusing from the case. *YES*
27. At no time while presiding of the *Reynolds* matters referenced above did you inform the parties that (1) you had filed a Citizens Complaint against Officer Cummings and (2) that he had testified on behalf of the Commonwealth in your criminal trial. *That is correct*
28. On June 7, 2022, Attorney Brian Perry appeared in front of you representing his client, the defendant, in a criminal case, *Commonwealth v. Shaw*, MJ-12204-CR-133-2022, for the preliminary arraignment at which time you set the bail at ROR and scheduled the preliminary hearing for July 25, 2022. *Do not recall*
29. During the *Shaw* preliminary arraignment, you did not inform the parties that (1) Attorney Perry represented you when you were investigated and charged with criminal offenses by the OAG, (2) that Attorney Perry represented you when the JCB investigated your February 22, 2020 conduct, and (3) that Attorney Perry is a potential witness in the CJD case pending against you. *Do not recall*
30. Farida Kingsboro is one of the four police officers against whom you submitted the above referenced Citizen's Complaint and who testified as a Commonwealth witness at your criminal trial pertaining to the charges filed against you by the OAG. *YES*
31. During the evening hours on June 19, 2022, Harrisburg Police Officer Collin Ware delivered an arrest warrant to you for approval as you were presiding over Dauphin County Night Court. *YES*
32. The affiant on the warrant was Officer Kingsboro. *YES*
33. You refused to review the warrant telling Officer Ware "I am never doing anything for that liar" referring to Officer Kingsboro. *NO*
34. On June 19, 2022, at 10:22 p.m., you sent the following email to Dauphin County President Judge Cherry:

Good evening PJ Cherry,

I am on night court this weekend. Affiant F Kingsboro, had Affiant Ware to bring me a warrant to be signed for her.

You personally told me that this officer would have No contact with me ever again and that she F. Kingsboro has been Court Ordered out of my office and no contact should ever been had between us. My heart is raising (sic) right now. I do Not trust her. **YES**

35. On June 21, 2022, you sent the following email to President Judge Cherry and four other Dauphin County employees:

Good morning everyone!

Judge Cherry,

I did send you an email on Sunday evening concerning affiant Farida Kingsboro, sending officer Ware into the booking center for a warrant. I was put in a very uncomfortable situation on Sunday evening as I worked night court. Please PJ, I ask that this officer/affiant stays away from me as I feel that this was intentional harassment. This affiant has caused me so much hardship, pain, anguish, discomfort. I do NOT trust her. Affiant Kingsboro is fully aware that I was the night court judge on duty.

Can you please provide me with a copy of the Court Order for all 4 officers that falsely accused me and lied on me. **YES**

36. On June 23, 2022, Deborah Freeman, the Dauphin County District Court Administrator, sent the following email, in relevant part, to you:

Good afternoon, Judge McKnight,

President Judge Cherry asked me to touch base with you on a few matters.

- Attached are two orders entered regarding Officer Kingsboro and Special Agent Ferrari. You mentioned 4 officers. Who are the other two? I do not believe there are any other orders. President Judge Cherry said it appears that Officer Kingsboro did the correct thing by sending Officer Ware to Night Court in her place.

...

- Regarding cases with Brian Perry, President Judge Cherry advises that you should recuse upon learning that he is involved in the case. **YES**

...

37. On July 13, 2022, Officer Cummings filed a criminal complaint in the matter of *Commonwealth v. Turner*, charging the defendant with one count of Robbery. Do Not recall
38. You presided over the *Turner* preliminary arraignment and released the homeless defendant on her own recognizance. Do Not recall
39. At no time while presiding of the *Turner* matter referenced above did you inform the parties that (1) you had filed a Citizens Complaint against Officer Cummings, (2) that he had testified on behalf of the Commonwealth in your criminal trial and (3) that you believed he had "falsely accused" you and "lied on" you. DO NOT RECALL
40. On July 18, 2022, Attorney Perry appeared in front of you representing his client, the defendant, in a criminal case, *Commonwealth v. Ingram*, MJ-12204-CR-127-2022 for the preliminary hearing. DO NOT recall
41. Prior to the commencement of the preliminary hearing, the parties in the *Ingram* matter reached a plea agreement in which the Commonwealth dropped the misdemeanor offense, and the defendant entered a guilty plea to the remaining summary offense. DO NOT recall
42. You accepted the guilty plea and sentenced the defendant accordingly. Do Not recall
43. At no time while presiding over the *Ingram* matter referenced above did you inform the parties that (1) Attorney Perry represented you when you were investigated and charged with criminal offenses by the OAG, (2) that Attorney Perry represented you when the JCB investigated your February 22, 2020 conduct, and (3) that Attorney Perry is a potential witness in the CJD case pending against you. Do Not recall

Some, all, or one of these allegations, if true, may subject you to discipline pursuant to Article V, §18(b)(5) and §18(d)(1), or may constitute a violation of §17(b) of Article V of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The specific provision(s) which may have been violated include:

1. Canon 1, Rule 1.1 of the Rules Governing the Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges;
2. Canon 1, Rule 1.2 of the Rules Governing the Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges;
3. Canon 1, Rule 1.3 of the Rules Governing the Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges;
4. Canon 2, Rule 2.5 of the Rules Governing the Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges;

5. Canon 2, Rule 2.11 of the Rules Governing the Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges;
6. Canon 2, Rule 2.16 of the Rules Governing the Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges;
7. Article V, §17(b) of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and
8. Article V, §18(d)(1) of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

To aid the Board in its investigation, the Board requests that you provide the following information:

- A. A specific affirmation or denial of each numbered factual allegation contained in this Notice of Full Investigation. You may also include any further explanatory information you believe is relevant to address each factual allegation. The Board understands that some numbered paragraphs may contain background factual information for which you may have no personal first-hand knowledge.
- B. The identity of any witness(es) that the Board should interview during the course of this investigation and a brief summary of what information you believe such witness(es) will provide to address a specific factual allegation.
- C. Any information or documents which you believe the Board should consider during the course of this investigation.

You should note that the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Article V, §18(a)(8) provides that all proceedings before the Board and all information gathered in the course of the Board's investigation are confidential and are not public records. Additionally, J.C.B.R.P. 17 provides that "all information and proceedings relating to a complaint and records of the Board's deliberations shall be confidential."

Very truly yours,


Melissa L. Norton
Deputy Chief Counsel

MLN/jec



CIVIL COMPLAINT

Mag Dist No
MDJ Name
Address
Telephone

	AMOUNT	DATE PAID
FILING COSTS	\$ _____	_____
POSTAGE	\$ _____	_____
SERVICE COSTS	\$ _____	_____
CONSTABLE FEE	\$ _____	_____
TOTAL	\$ _____	_____

Docket #
Case Filed

Pa R C P M D J No. 206 sets forth those costs recoverable by the prevailing party
 To The Defendant The above named plaintiff(s) asks judgment against you for \$ _____ together with _____
 upon the following claim (Civil fines must include citation of the statute or ordinance violated)

I, Kimberly Rose Seals verify that the facts set forth in this complaint are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief. This statement is made subject to the penalties of Section 4904 of the Crimes Code (18 PA C S § 4904) related to unsworn falsification to authorities.

I certify that this filing complies with the provisions of the Case Records Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania that require filing confidential information and documents differently than non-confidential information and documents.

Kimberly Rose Seals
 (Signature of Plaintiff or Authorized Agent)

The plaintiff's attorney shall file an entry of appearance with the magisterial district court pursuant to Pa R C P M D J 207.1

If you intend to enter a defense to this complaint, you should notify this office immediately at the above telephone number. You must appear at the hearing and present your defense. Unless you do, judgment may be entered against you by default.

If you have a claim against the plaintiff which is within the magisterial district judge jurisdiction and which you intend to assert at the hearing, you must file it on a complaint form at this office at least five days before the date set for the hearing.

If you are disabled and require a reasonable accommodation to gain access to the Magisterial District Court and its services, please contact the Magisterial District Court at the above address or telephone number. We are unable to provide transportation.

AOPC 303A

FREE INTERPRETER
www.pacourts.org/language-rights

FILE COPY

BOARD'S EXHIBIT
 3

KIMBERLY A ROSS-SEALS 01-21
1910 CHESTNUT ST
HARRISBURG, PA 171041329

139



M&T Bank



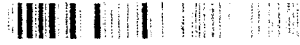
1110017

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION

- Complete items 1, 2, and 3.
- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

1. Article Addressed to:

MDJ 12-2-04
1805 N Cameron St.
Hog Ln 17103



7530 1970 0000 3779 1697

2. Article Number (Transfer from service label)

7021 1970 0000 3779 1697

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

A. Signature Agent
 Addressee

B. Received by (Printed Name) C. Date of Delivery

D. Is delivery address different from item 1? Yes
If YES, enter delivery address below: No

3. Service Type

<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Signature	<input type="checkbox"/> Priority Mail Express®
<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Signature Restricted Delivery	<input type="checkbox"/> Registered Mail™
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Mail®	<input type="checkbox"/> Registered Mail Restricted Delivery
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Mail Restricted Delivery	<input type="checkbox"/> Signature Confirmation™
<input type="checkbox"/> Collect on Delivery	<input type="checkbox"/> Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery
<input type="checkbox"/> Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery	
<input type="checkbox"/> Insured Mail Restricted Delivery	

CITY



7021 1970 0000 3779 1697



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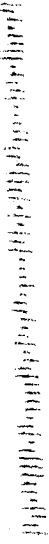


17103

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FROM LETTER
HARRISBURG PA
17107

97-30

R2304P118605-05



1710361021 0045

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**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
COURT OF JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE**

COURT OF JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE
OF PENNSYLVANIA

FEB 10 2022

IN RE:

Judge Sonya M. McKnight :
Magisterial District Judge :
Magisterial District 12-2-04 : 1 JD 2021
12th Judicial District :
Dauphin County :

**JOINT STIPULATIONS OF FACT IN LIEU OF TRIAL AND
WAIVER OF TRIAL PURSUANT TO C.J.D.R.P. NO. 502(D)(1)**

AND NOW, this 10th day of February 2022, comes the Judicial Conduct Board of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (Board), and Judge Sonya M. McKnight (Respondent), by and through their undersigned counsel, and files these Joint Stipulations Of Fact In Lieu Of Trial And Waiver Of Trial Pursuant To C.J.D.R.P. No. 502(D)(1), as follows:

1. From January 4, 2016, to the present, Respondent has served as a Magisterial District Judge for Magisterial District Court No. 12-2-04 in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania.
2. On February 8, 2021, the Board filed a Complaint against Respondent in the above captioned matter.
3. The Complaint pertained to an incident that occurred on February 22, 2020 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.
4. The Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General (OAG) conducted a criminal investigation regarding the February 22, 2020 incident.
5. In furtherance of its investigation, on November 12, 2020, the OAG interviewed Respondent regarding her February 22, 2020 conduct.



6. On December 16, 2020, the OAG charged Respondent with Tampering with Evidence, 18 Pa.C.S.A. §4910, Obstructing Administration of Law, 18 Pa.C.S.A. §5101 and Official Oppression, 18 Pa.C.S.A. §5301 regarding her conduct on February 22, 2020.
7. On July 26 and 27, 2021, Judge Stephen Leiberman presided over a jury trial in the matter of *Commonwealth v. Sonya McKnight* pertaining to the above referenced charges.
8. At the conclusion of the Commonwealth's case, Judge Leiberman granted the defense motion for judgment of acquittal.
9. During the course of the July 2021 jury trial in the matter of *Commonwealth v. Sonya McKnight*, the following six witnesses testified on direct and on cross-examination:
 - a. Farida Kingsboro;
 - b. Chad Showers;
 - c. Anthony Cummings;
 - d. Dominic Cristillo;
 - e. Thomas Carter; and
 - f. Jarrett Ferrari.
10. The six witnesses who testified at the July 2021 trial are the same witnesses whom the Board would call to testify in the matter now before this Honorable Court.
11. If called to testify before this Honorable Court relative to the above captioned matter, the six witnesses who testified at the July 2021 trial would testify consistent with their testimony during the July 2021 trial.

EXHIBIT J

EXHIBIT J

IN RE: RELOCATION OF 12-1-02

: IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
: DAUPHIN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

: 0010-18-MD-2022

: AO - 31 - 2022

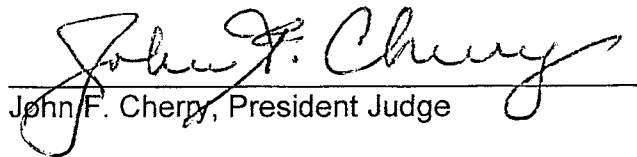
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

AND NOW, this 11th of July 2022, due to the temporary relocation of MDJ Court 12-1-02 to the Dauphin County Judicial Center located at 451 Mall Road, Harrisburg, PA beginning on July 19, 2022, the following alternate issuing authority changes for criminal and non-traffic cases filed by any law enforcement agency shall be in effect immediately until further notice pursuant to Rules and Standards with Respect to Offices of Magisterial District Judges 112(B)(1)(c):

1. Beginning on **July 19, 2022**, all criminal cases originating within the Magisterial District Boundaries of 12-2-04 (MDJ Sonia McKnight) shall be filed with MDJ 12-1-02 (MDJ Barbara Pianka) at the Dauphin County Judicial Center, 451 Mall Road, Harrisburg, PA.
2. Beginning on **July 19, 2022**, all non-traffic cases originating within the Magisterial District boundaries of 12-1-02 (MDJ Barbara Pianka) shall be filed with MDJ 12-2-04 (MDJ Sonia McKnight) at 1805 N. Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA.
3. All pending cases in either court shall continue to be processed in the court where the case is currently filed until July 18, 2022. Any remaining cases pending after July 18, 2022, will be transferred, and rescheduled in the new court.

4. This change in issuing authority is necessitated by the temporary relocation of MDJ 12-1-02 since there is only one courtroom at the Dauphin County Judicial Center and this is the only available space to accommodate MDJ 12-1-02.
5. This order will be rescinded when MDJ 12-1-02 is relocated to its permanent location.

BY THE COURT:


John F. Cherry, President Judge

DISTRIBUTION:

President Judge John F. Cherry
Judge Scott Arthur Evans
Judge John F. Cherry
Judge Deborah E. Curcillo
Judge Andrew H. Dowling
Judge William T. Tully
Judge Edward M. Marsico, Jr.
Judge John Joseph McNally
Judge Royce L. Morris
Judge Jeffrey Engle
Senior Judge Richard A. Lewis
All Magisterial District Judges and Office Managers
Deborah Freeman, Esquire, District Court Administrator
Lili Hagenbuch, Deputy Court Administrator-Civil
Robert Sisock, Deputy Court Administrator-Criminal
Troy Petery, Deputy Court Administrator-MDJ
Jennifer Simpson, Deputy Court Administrator-HR
Dauphin County Bar Association
Harrisburg Police Department, 123 Walnut Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101
Office of Attorney General, 16th Floor, Strawberry Square, Harrisburg, PA 17120
Pennsylvania State Police, 8000 Bretz Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17112
District Attorney Fran Chardo
Chief Public Defender Mary Klatt

2011 JUN 1 10 29 AM '12
CLERK OF COURT