BEFORE THE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

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In Re the Matter of:) NO. 98-2832-F-78
The Honorable Steven L. Michels Sunnyside Municipal Court 401 Homer Street Sunnyside, WA 98944-1354	STIPULATION, AGREEMENT AND ORDER OF ADMONISHMENT

The Commission on Judicial Conduct and the Honorable Steven L. Michels, Sunnyside Municipal Court Judge, do hereby stipulate and agree as provided for herein. This stipulation is submitted pursuant to CJCRP 23 and shall not become effective until approved by the Washington Commission on Judicial Conduct.

The Commission on Judicial Conduct is represented in these proceedings by its counsel, David Akana, and the Honorable Steven L. Michels is representing himself.

STIPULATED FACTS

- 1. The Honorable Steven L. Michels, Respondent herein, was at all times discussed herein a part-time judge of the Sunnyside Municipal Court, Sunnyside, Washington.
- 2. In June of 1998 and in September of 1994, Respondent made financial contributions to the campaign for office of two nonjudicial candidates for public office. Such contributions by a judge are expressly prohibited by Canons 7(A)(1)(b), (c) and (f) of the Code of Judicial Conduct.
- 3. Promptly upon being notified of this violation of the Code, Respondent admitted that he had made the contributions. He indicated that he had been confused by the language of the Application section of the Code of Judicial Conduct which sets forth exceptions to the applicability of the Code of Judicial Conduct for part-time judges.

STIPULATION, AGREEMENT AND **ORDER OF ADMONISHMENT - 1**

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1	4. Respondent was at all times cooperative with the Commission and did not engage in				
2	the proscribed behavior with bad intent. He indicated he appreciated the reasons for the				
3	prohibitions and would not violate this Code provision, or any other, in the future.				
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5	AGREEMENT				
6	1. Based upon the foregoing stipulated facts, Respondent agrees that while a part-time				
7	judge of the Sunnyside Municipal Court he did violate Canons 1, 2(A), 7(A)(1)(b), (c) and (f) of				
8	the Code of Judicial Conduct by making financial contributions to two non-judicial candidates for				
9	public office.				
10	2. Respondent agrees to accept a written admonishment of an advisory nature as				
11	described in RCW 2.64.010(1) and CJCRP Terminology and Rule 6.				
12	3. Respondent agrees that he will exercise caution to avoid repeating the violations in the				
13	future.				
14	4. In accepting this stipulation, the Commission takes into account Respondent's				
15	cooperation with the Commission's investigation and his prompt acknowledgment of the				
16	Commission's concerns and efforts to correct the problems created.				
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18	Honoroble Steven I Wishels Respondent				
19	Honorable Steven L. Michels, Respondent Date				
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21	Davd alan 9/3/99				
22	David Akana, Counsel Commission on Judicial Conduct				
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28	STIPULATION, AGREEMENT AND ORDER OF ADMONISHMENT - 2				

ORDER OF ADMONISHMENT

Based upon the above stipulation and agreement, the Commission on Judicial Conduct hereby orders, and Judge Steven L. Michels, Respondent, is hereby ADMONISHED for violating Canons 1, 2(A), 7(A)(1)(b), (c) and (f) of the Code of Judicial Conduct. Respondent shall exercise caution to avoid repeating the violation in the future.

DATED this 3RD day of SEPTEMBER

_, 1977.

Gregory R/ Dallaire, Chair Commission on Judicial Conduct

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