

BEFORE THE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT
OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

In Re the Matter of)

Honorable Edward B. Ross, Judge)

Whatcom County District Court)

311 Grand Avenue)

Bellingham, WA 98225-4007)

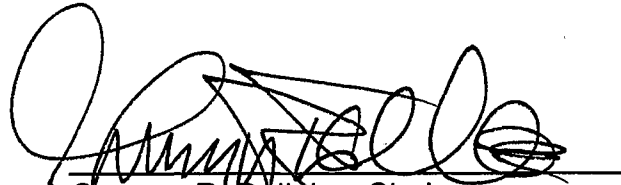
No. 98-2915-F-75

**CERTIFICATION
AND ORDER OF
COMPLETION**

The Commission on Judicial Conduct, pursuant to CJCRP 29(b), has considered information submitted by the Honorable Edward B. Ross, Judge of the Whatcom County District Court, Bellingham, Washington. Based on the information considered and attached and incorporated herein, the Commission herein certifies that Judge Ross has satisfactorily completed the terms and conditions of training required under its order of December 3, 1999, and formally dispenses with any compliance proceedings on this issue.

So ordered.

Dated this 1ST day of DECEMBER 2000.



Gregory R. Dallaire, Chair
Commission on Judicial Conduct

Judge Edward B. Ross
2801 Fox Road
Ferndale, WA 98248-8785
November 5, 2000

Mr. Gregory R. Dallaire, Chair
State of Washington Commission on Judicial Conduct
Olympia, WA 98507

Re: Judge Edward B. Ross, 98-2915-F-75

Dear Mr. Dallaire:

Pursuant to the order of the Commission requiring that I take a course in gender sensitivity training, I am filing herein my declaration of completion of such course. On October 18, 2000, I met with Dr. David Biviano for a full-day session.

We started with my giving him a full rendition of the events that led to the Commission admonishing me. He asked about my feelings regarding the events. I indicated to him that although I felt a full and complete examination of my position on the issues was not considered, I had no one to blame for having initiated the events but myself. He was pleased that I had achieved some insight as to my role as a judge in these matters, but felt that I needed to examine the effects of my behavior on the female attorney involved. We spent the balance of the day defining, examining and reaching an understanding about what sexism is and its subtle and not-so-subtle effects on people.

I must admit that anticipation of taking this course included a feeling that I had "been there and done that" many times before. During the 22 years that I have been a judge, I have attended numerous seminars that cover the topics of ethnic and gender sensitivity. I have always felt that I am a person that didn't need such courses and that my behavior in the workplace, as well as in my personal life, has been exemplary. However, the information that I have gleaned from my training with Dr. Biviano has enlightened me as to the potential problems that off-hand or humorous comments made in an unintentionally offensive manner can cause. To the extent that the training provided a different perspective on the events, I feel benefited by it.

My experiences in the last two years with respect to all these events have been quite painful and expensive both in financial and reputation terms. I have always striven to be a fair and professional judge and hope to continue to do so for the balance of my term on the bench. With the insight that I have gained from these events, I hope to improve my performance in that endeavor.

Please advise me as to the Commission's acceptance of this declaration and my compliance with the Commission's order so that I can put this matter to rest.

Sincerely,
Judge Edward B. Ross
Whatcom County District Court
cc: Reiko Callner

*Sent via
e-mail*



WORKFORCE DIVERSITY SERVICES

David J. Biviano, Ph.D.

2915

October 19, 2000

Reiko Callner
Commission on Judicial Conduct
P.O. Box 1817
Olympia, WA 98507-1817

Re: Judge Ed Ross

Reiko,

I met with Judge Ed Ross yesterday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for a Gender/Diversity consultation.

I can certify that Judge Ross engaged in a sincere and thorough conversation regarding the complaints filed regarding his conduct. I was impressed with the level of introspection and self-assessment he articulated regarding his personal responsibility for his actions and their consequences.

Most significantly, I found that during the session Judge Ross developed the ability to take the perspective of the complainant, and of women in general, in relation to the impact of his conduct. He also clearly articulated an understanding of his unique role in setting and modeling standards of conduct for the court. We also discussed the opportunity the situation provides for his leadership for institutional change. I am confident that this perspective will contribute to the prevention of recurrences, and assist in achieving the desired outcome of the corrective action.

If you require any further information, or if I can be of any further assistance, please contact me.

Thank you for this opportunity to be of service to the Commission.

Sincerely yours,

David J. Biviano, Ph.D.

cc: Judge Ed Ross