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in Re the Matter of Honorable A. Eugene Hammermaster, Former Judge

Sumner and Orting Municipal Courts.

Pierce County, Washington

No. 3210-F-94

RECONSIDERATION OF AND **GRANTING OF MOTION TO** DISMISS AND ORDER OF **CLOSURE**

The Honorable A. Eugene Hammermaster (Retired), former Judge of the Sumner and Orting Municipal Courts, Washington filed a document entitled "Stipulation and Renewal of Motion Pursuant to Order of Commission on Judicial Conduct" which is attached hereto as Exhibit A. Therein, former Judge Hammermaster unilaterally stipulated to his ineligibility to hold future judicial office and moved the Commission to dismiss the proceeding on the grounds of his stipulated ineligibility.

BEFORE THE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

After former Judge Hammermaster's censure and suspension by the Washington Supreme Court, 1 and following his return to judicial duties, the Commission found probable cause that Respondent violated rules of judicial conduct and issued a "Statement of Charges" publicly filed on October 8, 2001. A fact-finding hearing was scheduled to commence on March 4, 2002 in Tacoma, Washington.

Following Commission rulings on prehearing motions filed on February 5, 2002, Respondent stipulated to his ineligibility to hold judicial office and moved that

¹ Discipline of Hammermaster, 139 Wn.2d 211 (1999).

this proceeding be terminated.

The Commission has considered Respondent's stipulation of ineligibility, the fact he has retired from his judicial offices, the potential costs to the State for further proceedings, the fact that the Commission's finding of probable cause and charges have been made public (incorporated herein by reference), and the fact that Respondent has been previously censured and suspended from office. While the Commission retains the jurisdiction and authority to proceed against a retired or former judge, the overall goal of the Commission to maintain confidence and integrity in the judicial system is adequately addressed by this disposition.

- Therefore, the Commission hereby orders that:
- 1. Former Judge A. Eugene Hammermaster's stipulation is accepted and he shall be disqualified and ineligible to hold any form of judicial office.
- 2. This proceeding shall be closed subject to any Commission action necessary to enforce the disqualification and closure.

Dated this _______, day of ________, 2002.

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Hon. Michael E. Donohue, Presiding Officer

RECONSIDERATION OF AND GRANTING OF MOTION TO DISMISS AND ORDER OF CLOSURE - Page 2

Stipulation and Renewal of Motion Pursuant to Order of Commission on Judicial Conduct dated February 4th, 2002

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