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BEFORE THE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT
OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

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In Re the Matter of:)
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The Honorable Toni A. Sheldon)
Mason County Superior Court)
P.O. Box 727)
Shelton, Washington 98584)
_____)

CJC No. 3654-F-97

**STIPULATION, AGREEMENT
AND
ORDER OF ADMONISHMENT**

The Commission on Judicial Conduct and the Honorable Tori A. Sheldon, Judge of the Mason County Superior Court, stipulate and agree as follows:

This stipulation is submitted pursuant to CJCRP 23 and shall not have any effect until approved by the Washington Commission on Judicial Conduct.

STIPULATED FACTS

1. The Honorable Toni A. Sheldon, Respondent, was at all times referred to herein a Judge of the Mason County Superior Court, Shelton, Washington.
2. Respondent presided over Cause No. 99-2-00805-1, the judicial review of an administrative decision of the Shoreline Hearings Board, heard and submitted for decision on October 30, 2000.
3. By letter dated March 26, 2001, more than 90 days after the hearing, Respondent was reminded that the parties were awaiting her decision. No decision was issued.
4. On September 17, 2001, a complaint concerning Respondent's decision delay was filed with the Commission. On December 10, 2001 the Commission contacted Respondent seeking a response. At that time, Respondent had not entered a decision on

1 the matter submitted to her.

2 5. On January 17, 2002, Respondent rendered a memorandum opinion in Cause
3 No. 99-2-00805-1.
4

5 6. Respondent contacted the Commission. Respondent admitted the facts as set
6 forth in this stipulation. Respondent admitted that she did not timely enter a decision in the
7 matter before her, and that she did not promptly attend to the business of the court.
8 Respondent was cooperative with the Commission, and admitted the alleged violations.
9 Respondent has no history of prior disciplinary action.
10

11 **AGREEMENT**

12 1. Based upon the stipulated facts, Respondent agrees that while a Judge of the
13 Mason County Superior Court she violated Canons 1, 2(A) and 3(A)(6) of the Code of Judicial
14 Conduct and RCW 2.08.240 by failing to dispose promptly of the business of the court.
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16 2. Respondent agrees to accept a written admonishment as described in RCW
17 2.64.010(1) and CJCRP Terminology and Rule 6.
18

19 3. Respondent agrees that she will exercise caution to avoid repeating the
20 violations.
21

22 4. Respondent agrees further that she shall not engage in any retaliatory conduct
23 with regard to any person known or suspected to have cooperated with the Commission,
24 named as a potential witness in this matter, or otherwise associated with this proceeding.

25 5. In accepting this stipulation, the Commission takes into account Respondent's
26 cooperation with the Commission's investigation and her acknowledgment of the violations.
27

28 6. Respondent states that she has either consulted or had an opportunity to

1 consult with counsel of her choosing regarding this stipulation and proceeding. Respondent
2 voluntarily enters into this stipulation.

3
4 7. Respondent agrees that by entering into this Stipulation and Agreement she
5 hereby waives her procedural rights and appeal rights pursuant to the Commission on Judicial
6 Conduct Rules of Procedure and Article IV, Section 31 of the Washington State Constitution
7 in this proceeding.

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10 Toni A. Sheldon 2-7-2002
11 Honorable Toni A. Sheldon, Respondent Date

12 David Akana 2/8/02
13 David Akana, Counsel *WSPA 5523* Date
14 Commission on Judicial Conduct

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16
17 **ORDER OF ADMONISHMENT**

18 Based upon the above stipulation and agreement, the Commission on Judicial
19 Conduct hereby ORDERS, and Judge Toni A. Sheldon, Respondent, is hereby
20 ADMONISHED for violating Canons 1, 2(A) and 3(A)(6) of the Code of Judicial Conduct.
21 Respondent shall fulfill the terms of the agreement as above set forth.

22 DATED this 5 day of April, 2002.

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25 Margo T. Keller
26 Margo T. Keller, Chair
27 Commission on Judicial Conduct
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