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BEFORE THE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

FILED

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COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

In Re the Matter of the

**HONORABLE RAMON P. REID
Toppenish and Wapato Municipal
Courts**

)
) **No. 3713-F-105**
)
) **ANSWER TO STATEMENT OF**
) **CHARGES AND AFFIRMATIVE**
) **DEFENSES**
)

I.

COMES NOW, THE HONORABLE RAMON P. REID, who respectfully denies that any conduct described in the Commission's complaint violates the Canons as charged.

FURTHERMORE, THE HONORABLE RAMON P. REID alleges the Commission has mis-characterized and misrepresented said conduct, and, therefore, denies the same.

II.

AS AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES AND COUNTER-ALLEGATIONS, THE HONORABLE RAMON P. REID ALLEGES AS FOLLOWS:

1. Many of the allegations are of the type, that, if the Judge committed an error, the proper remedy is an appeal to the Superior Court. RCW 3.02.02 provides review of proceedings in a court of limited jurisdiction shall be by the Superior Court. The question of whether a guilty plea form is adequate is one for the Superior Courts and the appellate courts to decide, not the Commission. The Commission is exceeding and abusing its authority in such cases and such complaints should be dismissed.

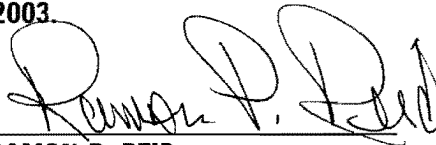
2. The Commission is biased in this case and should not act as judge. The Commission oversees the investigation of these allegations. The Commission then alleges the victim judge is guilty of these allegations and hires prosecutors to prosecute the victim judge. The Commission then sits as the judge in the matter. This deprives the victim judge of due process as he is entitled to a judge who has not previously made up its mind in the matter. Here the Commission alleges the judge is guilty and then sits as an unbiased judge in the matter. On the basis of the impossibility of receiving a fair hearing, the complaint should be dismissed.

3. That nearly all of the violations have been admitted in previous correspondence and changes have been made to correct all claimed violations that were found. CJCR II(6)(b) provides that the Commission has the authority to (1) Admonish (2) Reprimand (3) Censure (4) Censure and suspension or removal. That, a reprimand would appear to be the proper penalty, or at most, a censure, but without suspension.

4. There exist other affirmative allegations which the Judge reserves the right to address at the hearing.

WHEREFORE, THE HONORABLE RAMON P. REID REQUESTS DISMISSAL OF THE COMPLAINT AGAINST HIM.

Respectfully submitted this 10th day of June, 2003.


RAMON P. REID