



1           6. The Commission received Respondent's reply to the Statement of  
2 Allegations on November 1, 2002 and a supplemental response on November 20,  
3 2002.

4           7. In her response, Respondent admitted and accepted responsibility for the  
5 delays. She described the cases as being complicated, difficult and lengthy. With the  
6 press of other court business, Respondent found it difficult to find time to return to  
7 conclude the cases.

8           8. Respondent also self-reported two other cases in which her decisions were  
9 delayed. Respondent presided over a four-day trial in case 97-3-00250-6 concluding  
10 on November 16, 2001. Her decision in that case was not filed until May 24, 2002.

11           Respondent presided over a proceeding in case 81-3-02665-4 concluding on  
12 May 24, 2001. Her decision in that case was not filed until July 18, 2002.

13           9. The time Respondent took to make decisions in the four cases identified  
14 above, substantially exceeded that established by RCW 2.08.240<sup>1</sup> and Washington  
15 State Constitution Article IV, Section 20.<sup>2</sup> Such conduct involving delay violated  
16 Canons 1, 2(A), and 3(A)(6) of the Code of Judicial Conduct. Canon 3(A)(6) states:  
17 "Judges should dispose promptly of the business of the court."

18           10. When Respondent was assigned as the sole family law judge in January  
19 2001, family law cases were not being resolved in compliance with state time  
20 standards. In July, 2001, a second judge was added to the department. By the end  
21 of 2001, the department's compliance with state time standards improved  
22 considerably.

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25 <sup>1</sup> RCW 2.08.240 provides:

26           Every case submitted to a judge of a superior court for his decision shall be decided by him within ninety days from  
the submission thereof; PROVIDED, That if within said period of ninety days a rehearing shall have been ordered, then the  
27 period within which he is to decide shall commence at the time the cause is submitted upon such rehearing, and upon wilful  
failure of any such.

28 <sup>2</sup> WASHINGTON STATE CONSTITUTION ARTICLE 4, §20 provides:

          Every cause submitted to a judge of a superior court for his decision shall be decided by him within ninety days from  
the submission thereof; Provided, That if within said period of ninety days a rehearing shall have been ordered, then the period  
within which he is to decide shall commence at the time the cause is submitted upon such a hearing.



