

FILED
DEC - 9 2005
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

BEFORE THE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT
OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

In re the matter of

COMMISSIONER STEPHEN GADDIS
King County Superior Court
Seattle, Washington

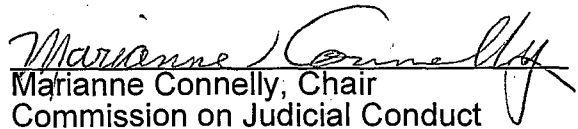
No. 3855-F-114

CERTIFICATE OF
COMPLETION AND ORDER

The Commission on Judicial Conduct, pursuant to CJCRP 29(b), has considered information submitted by the Honorable Stephen Gaddis. Based on the information considered and attached and incorporated herein, the Commission herein certifies that Commissioner Gaddis has satisfactorily completed the terms and conditions of paragraphs 4 and 6 of the Agreement section of the Stipulation, Agreement and Order of Reprimand filed December 10, 2004.

So ordered.

Dated this 9th day of December, 2005.


Marianne Connelly, Chair
Commission on Judicial Conduct

3855

RECEIVED
OCT 26 2005

REDACTED

October 25, 2005

Ms. J. Reiko Callner
Executive Director
Commission on Judicial Conduct
P. O. Box 1817
Olympia, WA 98507

Regarding: *Honorable Stephen Gaddis, CJC Complaint #3855*

Dear Ms. Callner,

You may recall that this matter was resolved by stipulation approximately one year ago. In addition to receipt of a Reprimand, there were several conditions that I was to comply with. I am now writing to advise you of my activities during the past year, including those that I have taken toward compliance with the Stipulation.

1. I appeared before the entire Commission, heard the entire Stipulation, Agreement and Order of Reprimand read publicly and signed it before the Commission.
2. Both prior to the receipt of reprimand and immediately thereafter, I read and re-read the entire Code of Judicial Conduct.
3. I remain contrite and have felt remorse on a continuing -- daily -- basis for having participated in the acts for which I was sanctioned. I have had the opportunity to participate in several informal consultations with commissioner colleagues, in which I have advised and actively discouraged their participation in similar activities or events. Rather than hide this part of my past, I have attempted to make an example of it with others, so that there would be greater respect for the judiciary.
4. I revised my judicial practices and educational activities so that there could not even be a suggestion of re-occurrence. As examples: I completed my formal transfer to the Family Law Department, so I would have no further professional or personal association with the persons cited in the complaint; I filed a recusal list with the court coordinators, so that persons I know well, such as my former law partners, would not appear before me; I declined invitations to participate in activities in which it might appear that there could be the appearance of a special relationship; and I drafted and circulated a form "no ex parte contact" letter that could be used by court staff on behalf of me and others. I participated in a project leading to the removal of personal court email addresses of all commissioners from the bar, AOC and attorney directories. Though not required, I phased out

bar-bench activities over the year, in order to give myself an opportunity to reflect upon the proper bounds of contact; and to give others a clear sign of my change of attitude, approach and conduct. Upon retirement, the last board I was on was the Judicial College Board of Trustees, and I have now resigned from that.

5. I checked in periodically with Presiding Judge Richard Eadie, of King County Superior Court, to ascertain whether he had any continuing concerns regarding my conduct. He affirmed that not only had he heard nothing ill, rather he had received compliments from several quarters concerning my demeanor and conduct.
6. Prior to administration of the Reprimand I had attended the Judicial Ethics Class offered at the Superior Court Judges' Spring Judicial Conference in 2004, as a part of my agreement with Superior Court. Subsequent to the Reprimand and as we discussed on the date of its administration, I attended the Judicial Ethics Class offered at the Spring, 2005 Judicial Conference. Subsequently, and of substantially even greater impact, I attended the one-week course at New Judicial College in Wyoming. Abstracts of each of these courses are attached.
7. During the past year I read each Judicial Conduct resolution, Ethics Advisory Opinion and Supreme Court ruling on disciplinary cases on the date I received them.
8. I retired from the bench on September 30th, 2005, as I had indicated would occur in the near-term future.

I sincerely hope that these steps will meet with your approval, and that you may then confirm my full compliance with the terms of the Stipulation. While I am no longer sitting as a regular judicial officer, I do seek the endorsement from the CJC so as to be able to serve a pro tem judicial officer, as a part of my professional and personal retirement plan.

If I may answer any questions or provide further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Stephen M. Gaddis

Attachments:

Recent Significant Judicial Ethics Course Attended
Continuing Judicial Education Progress Report (showing ethics attendance)
Program Outline Excerpt, Superior Court Spring Judicial Conference, April, 2004
Course and Materials Outline, Superior Court Spring Judicial Conference, April, 2005
Course Outline, Certificate of Completion of New Judicial College, September, 2005

Recent Significant Judicial Ethics Courses Attended by Comm. Stephen Gaddis, Ret.

1. Superior Court Spring Judicial Conference, April, 2004

Course Description: "Campaign Ethics and Judicial Demeanor," by Justices Bobbe Bridge, Mary Fairhurst, and Judge Vicki Hogan

2. Superior Court Spring Judicial Conference, April, 2005

Course Description: Compromising of judicial ethics can take many forms and conference participants will identify two major forms: "Ordinary Corruption" and "Institutional Arrangements." They are insidious and, as will be shown in this judicial ethics session, are best treated with a strong, independent judiciary that addresses the vulnerability of judges.

3. New Judicial College, September, 2005

The New Judicial College is a one-week residential program offered at Thunderhead Ranch, near Dubois, Wyoming. Thirty judges from around the United States, including two Court of Appeals judges and three magistrates attended. The Faculty was comprised of fifteen judges, attorneys and psychologists, offering a unique 1:2 faculty to student ratio.

The means used by the college is "psycho-drama", that is, the judges collectively, and more frequently individually, are called upon to tell and re-enact real life problematic occurrences and relationships which relate to personal, moral, legal, and judicial situations. By re-enacting them, the "protagonist" is given an opportunity to reflect on what was occurring within the personal context, and then is offered participatory assistance from faculty and students alike in re-determining the outcome in a more positive way. From these experiences, which by their nature are common to all judicial officers, each judge may gain a better understanding of (1) what is actually occurring, (2) how it may appear to others, (3) what the range of solutions to the problem may be, and (4) what the ethical implications and parameters – and consequences – of each course of action may be. Additionally, each judicial officer is called upon to reflect on the greater values he or she is called upon to serve; how successfully or not they meet this standard; and what each may do in their own life and practice to re-decide and incorporate the insight gained and choices learned in the future.

Examples of personal situations reviewed with an ethical overlay include: listening exercises in which a person must understand, from the other's point of view, the how, what and why of what they are experiencing; and then be able to recount that to the group. Other examples include how to deal with (1) contentious pro se litigants or attorneys acting out in court, (2) appropriate responses to colleagues or appellate judges who intermingle personal issues with court administrative matters, (3) relationships with lawyers and persons who appear before the judge within the justice system, (4) the strong overlay between the ethical handling of a matter and issues of race, gender, and sexual orientation, and (5) the personal, ethical responsibility of each judicial officer for what occurs in one's own courtroom and life.