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COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

BEFORE THE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT
OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

In Re the Matter of
THE HONORABLE MARY E. ROBERTS,
Judge of the King County Superior Court

CJC No. 8222-F-171

STATEMENT OF CHARGES

Pursuant to authority granted in Washington State Constitution, Article IV, section 31, the Revised Code of Washington, Chapter 2.64, and the Commission on Judicial Conduct Rules of Procedure ("CJCRP"), 17(d)(4)(C), the Commission on Judicial Conduct orders this Statement of Charges filed alleging violations of the Code of Judicial Conduct by Judge Mary E. Roberts.

I. BACKGROUND

1. Mary Roberts ("Respondent") is a King County Superior Court Judge and was serving in that capacity at all times relevant herein.

2. Pursuant to CJCRP 17(c), after independently investigating a complaint concerning allegations that Respondent failed to issue decisions in numerous cases in a timely manner, the Commission on Judicial Conduct initiated disciplinary proceedings against Respondent by serving her with a Statement of Allegations on January 20, 2017.

3. Respondent did not file an answer to the Statement of Allegations.

4. At its executive session on February 24, 2017, the Commission on Judicial Conduct made a finding that probable cause exists to believe that the Respondent violated Canon 1 (Rules 1.1 and 1.2) and Canon 2 (Rule 2.5) of the Code of Judicial Conduct.

II. CONDUCT GIVING RISE TO CHARGES

Respondent is charged with failing to issue decisions in several cases in a timely manner, and thus failed to comply with the law (Washington Constitution, article 4, section 20, RCW 2.08.240) and failed to dispose promptly of the business of the court in violation of Canon 1 (Rules 1.1 and

1 1.2) and Canon 2 (Rule 2.5) of the Code of Judicial Conduct. Examples of such decisional delay
2 include, but are not limited to, the following civil and family law cases, King County Superior Court
3 cause numbers 14-3-03942-9 SEA; 12-2-03549-1 KNT; 14-2-32078-7 SEA; 15-2-01791-8 SEA; 11-
4 3-08713-5 SEA; 13-2-19125-3 SEA; 15-2-28794-0 SEA; and 15-2-18085-1 SEA.

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6 **III. BASIS FOR COMMISSION ACTION**

7 On February 24, 2017, the Commission determined that probable cause exists to believe that
8 Respondent has violated Canon 1 (Rules 1.1 and 1.2) and Canon 2 (Rule 2.5) of the Code of Judicial
9 Conduct. These sections of the Code state:

10
11 **CANON 1**

12 **A Judge shall uphold and promote the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the**
13 **judiciary, and shall avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety.**

14
15 **Rule 1.1**

16 **Compliance with the Law**

17 A judge shall comply with the law, including the Code of Judicial Conduct.

18
19 **Rule 1.2**

20 **Promoting Confidence in the Judiciary**

21 A judge shall act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the independence,
22 integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary, and shall avoid impropriety and the appearance of
23 impropriety.

24
25 **CANON 2**

26 **A Judge should perform the duties of judicial office impartially, competently, and diligently.**
27
28

1 **Rule 2.5**

2 **Competence, Diligence, and Cooperation**

3 (A) A judge shall perform judicial and administrative duties, competently and diligently.

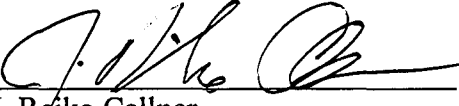
4 (B) A judge shall cooperate with other judges and court officials in the administration of court
5 business.

6
7 **IV. RIGHT TO FILE A WRITTEN ANSWER**

8 In accordance with CJCRP 20, Respondent may file a written answer to this Statement of
9 Charges with the Commission within twenty-one (21) days after the date of service of the Statement
10 of Charges. CJCRP 21 provides that failure to answer shall constitute an admission of the factual
11 allegations. In the event respondent fails to answer within the prescribed time, the statement of
12 charges shall be deemed admitted. The commission shall proceed to determine the appropriate
13 discipline.

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16 DATED this 3rd day of March 2017.

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18 COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT
19 OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

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