

BEFORE THE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT  
OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

FILED  
JUN 28 2019  
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

In re the matter of: )  
 )  
The Honorable Leonid Ponomarchuk )  
Commissioner of the King County )  
Superior Court )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

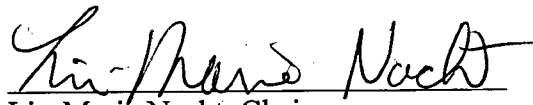
No. 8838-F-179

**CERTIFICATE OF  
COMPLETION AND ORDER**

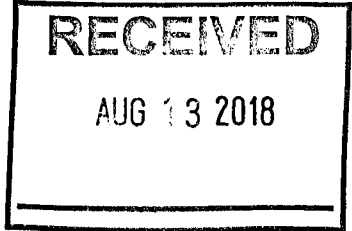
The Commission on Judicial Conduct, pursuant to CJCRP 29(b), has considered information submitted by Commissioner Leonid Ponomarchuk. Based on the information considered and attached and incorporated herein, the Commission hereby certifies that Commissioner Ponomarchuk has satisfactorily completed the terms and conditions of Agreement section II subsections D and F of the Stipulation, Agreement and Order of Admonishment filed July 20, 2018.

So ordered.

Dated this 28<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2019.

  
Lin-Marie Nacht, Chair  
Commission on Judicial Conduct

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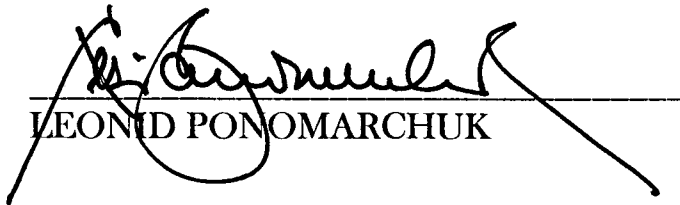


In Re the matter of )  
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The Honorable Leonid Ponomarchuk )  
Commissioner of the King County )  
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 )  
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CJC No. 8838-F-179

I, LEONID PONOMARCHUK, sworn penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington declare that I have promptly read and familiarized myself with the Code of Judicial Conduct in its entirety.

Signed this 2 day of August, 2018 at Shoreline, Washington

  
LEONID PONOMARCHUK

MEMORANDUM

TO: Commission Members

FROM: J. Reiko Callner, <sup>JK</sup> Executive Director

RE: King County Commissioner Leonid Ponomarchuk

DATE: June 25, 2019

CJC  
JUN 25 2019  
SC/PF

The CJC accepted a stipulation and order of admonishment from King County Commissioner Leonid Ponomarchuk in July of 2018, regarding his demeanor. He was required to complete two remedial measures in Agreement Sections II (D) & (F):

“D. Respondent agrees that he will participate in ethics training focusing on appropriate courtroom demeanor, approved in advance by the Commission Chair or Chair designate. Respondent agrees he will complete one hour of such training (not at Commission expense) and will certify successful completion of such training in writing within one year from the date this stipulation is accepted by the Commission. This requirement takes into account the prior training and counseling required by the court’s Executive Committee and sanctions, and it is the Commission’s hope and expectation that Respondent will fully absorb the gravity of the situation and put to use the skills he acquired during previous remedial training.

...

F. Respondent agrees that he will promptly read and familiarize himself with the Code of Judicial Conduct in its entirety and provide written confirmation of that fact within one month of the date this stipulation is accepted.”

The office received Commissioner Ponomarchuk’s confirmation that he read and familiarized himself with the Code promptly. He had a challenging time finding suitable training as required in Section II(D), and contacted our office for suggestions in June. We recommended he work with Dr. Stephen Feldman, who has done similar remedial work with other judges in the past. Dr. Feldman sent in the following via email (and added, upon my query, that their work session was for a complete hour).

“I have met with Commissioner Ponomarchuk as was required by Section II-D of the Stipulation and Order of Admonishment entered July 20, 2018 dealing with his courtroom demeanor.

I am pleased to report that Commissioner Ponomarchuk accepted this requirement as an opportunity to examine the propriety of his courtroom behaviors, and eh plans adjustments as suggested by feedback he has received from colleagues on the bench. He recognizes that there is a difficult balance between a desire for genuine engagement with litigants in an effort to be helpful to them, and the frustration that sometimes attends those efforts when they are unfulfilled. His goal going forward is to continue to try to be helpful, but to be more mindful and accepting of the frustration that so often occurs in this context.

I can report that our conversation was candid, open and productive.

Please let me know if you need further information.

Stephen R. Feldman Ph.D.”

Recommendation: Certify Commissioner Leonid Ponomarchuk’s compliance with the terms of the stipulation.