

FILED

JUL - 6 2020

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

**BEFORE THE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT
OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON**

In Re the Matter of

NO. 9608-F-189

The Honorable David S. Keenan
Judge of the King County Superior Court

STATEMENT OF CHARGES

Pursuant to authority granted in Article IV, Section 31 of the Washington State Constitution, 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 David S. Keenan.

I. BACKGROUND

A. Judge David S. Keenan (Respondent) is currently a judge of the King County Superior Court. At all times referred to in this document, Respondent served as a judge of the King County Superior Court.

B. On August 30, 2019, the Commission received a complaint against Respondent, alleging that he was using his position as a superior court judge to advance the interest of others, specifically by being pictured on a bus advertisement for North Seattle College. (See photograph, attached.)

C. Following an independent investigation, the Commission initiated disciplinary proceedings against Respondent pursuant to CJCRP 17(c)(3) by serving him with a Statement of Allegations on December 18, 2019. The Statement of Allegations alleged that Respondent may have violated Canon 1, Rules 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3, of the Code of Judicial Conduct in August 2019, by appearing in advertisements on buses for North Seattle College, while identified as a judicial officer.

1 D. Respondent, through counsel, submitted a written response to the Statement of
2 Allegations on January 9, 2020. In his answer, Respondent denied that his conduct violated the
3 Code as alleged.

4 E. At its executive session on June 26, 2020, the Commission on Judicial Conduct
5 made a finding that probable cause exists to believe that the Respondent violated Canon 1, Rules
6 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 of the Code of Judicial Conduct.

7 **II. CONDUCT GIVING RISE TO CHARGES**

8 It is alleged Judge David S. Keenan of the King County Superior Court violated Canon
9 1 (Rules 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3) of Code of Judicial Conduct by appearing in images on advertisements
10 on buses for North Seattle College, while identified as a judicial officer and thereby misused, or
11 allowed others to misuse, his judicial position to advance the personal or economic interest of
12 others. This is alleged to have occurred in August and September 2019. The language in the ad
13 accompanying his photograph read as follows: “A Superior Court Judge, David Keenan got into
14 law in part to advocate for marginalized communities. David’s changing the world. He started
15 at North.”

16 **III. BASIS FOR COMMISSION ACTION**

17 On June 26, 2020, the Commission determined that probable cause exists to believe that
18 Respondent has violated Canon 1 (Rules 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3) of the Code of Judicial Conduct. These
19 sections of the Code state:
20

21 **CANON 1**

22 A Judge shall uphold and promote the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the
23 judiciary, and shall avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety.

24 **Rule 1.1**

25 **Compliance with the Law**

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

1 **Rule 1.2**

2 **Promoting Confidence in the Judiciary**

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

6 **Rule 1.3**

7 **Avoiding Abuse of the Prestige of Judicial Office**

8 A judge shall not abuse the prestige of judicial office to advance the personal or economic
9 interests of the judge or others, or allow others to do so.

10 **IV. RIGHT TO FILE A WRITTEN ANSWER**

11 In accordance with CJCRP 20 and 21, Respondent may file a written answer to this
12 Statement of Charges with the Commission within twenty-one (21) days after the date of service
13 of the Statement of Charges; failure to answer the formal charges shall constitute an admission
14 of the factual allegations therein and the Statement of Charges will be deemed admitted.
15

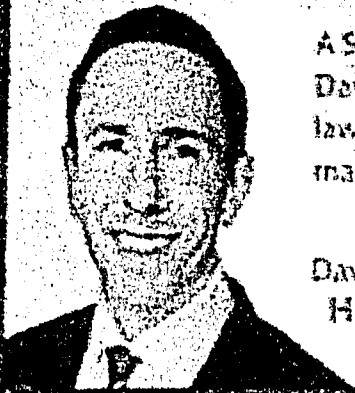
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17 DATED this 1st day of July, 2020.

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19 COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT
20 OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

21 

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A Superior Court Judge,
David Keenan got into
law in part to advocate for
marginalized communities.

David's changing the world.
He started at North.

Bright futures start here.
Fall classes begin Sept. 23.