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

In Re the Matter of

The Honorable David Ruzumna
Judge Pro Tempore of the King
County District Court

CJC No. 11424-F-210

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 King County District Court Judge Pro Tem David Ruzumna.

I. BACKGROUND

A. On February 16, 2023, David Ruzumna (Respondent) was serving as a Judge Pro Tem of the King County District Court in Seattle. Respondent frequently served as a King County pro tem judge.¹

B. On April 19, 2023, the Commission received a complaint alleging that on February 16, 2023, Respondent created a fraudulent document and presented the document to a parking attendant to obtain a discounted parking rate for county employees. The document at issue was a note stating that Respondent was employed with the King County District Court as a Judge Pro Tem and was stamped with a King County District Court Seal and the signature

¹ When serving in a judicial capacity, Respondent was usually referred to at the courts as a “judge pro tem,” but he served often enough to be defined as a part-time judge under the Code of Judicial Conduct, and thus subject to more judicial ethics restrictions than apply to an occasional pro tem judge. See Code of Judicial Conduct, Application and Terminology Sections. Those additional restrictions are not applicable here, however. For purposes of this proceeding, he is referred to as a “judge pro tem.”

1 stamp of a different judge. The complaint alleged Respondent did not have permission to use
2 either stamp.

3 C. Following an independent investigation, the Commission initiated disciplinary
4 proceedings against Respondent pursuant to CJCRP 17(c)(3) by serving him with a Statement
5 of Allegations on September 26, 2023. The Statement of Allegations alleged that Respondent
6 may have violated Canon 1, Rules 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 of the Code of Judicial Conduct by creating
7 a fraudulent letter and presenting it as an official document in an attempt to gain a discounted
8 parking rate for county employees.

9 D. Respondent submitted a written response to the Statement of Allegations on
10 October 16, 2023.

11 E. At its executive session on February 9, 2024, the Commission on Judicial
12 Conduct made a finding that probable cause exists to believe that the Respondent violated Canon
13 1, Rules 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3 of the Code of Judicial Conduct.

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

15 Respondent is charged with violating Canon 1, Rules 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3 of the Code of
16 Judicial by using a stamp of the King County District Court seal and the signature stamp of an
17 elected King County District Court judge without permission, and creating a fraudulent or
18 misleading document which he presented to a parking attendant in an attempt to gain a
19 discounted parking rate for county employees.

20 **III. BASIS FOR COMMISSION ACTION**

21 On February 9, 2024, the Commission determined that probable cause exists to believe
22 that Respondent has violated Canon 1, Rules 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3 of the Code of Judicial Conduct.
23 These sections of the Code state:

24 **CANON 1, Rule 1.1**

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

1 **CANON 1, Rule 1.2**

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

4 **CANON 1, Rule 1.3**

5 A judge shall not abuse the prestige or judicial office to advance the personal or
6 economic*² interests of the judge or others, or allow others to do so.

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

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

13
14 DATED this 6th day of May, 2024.

15
16 COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT
17 OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

18 

19 J. Reiko Callner
20 Executive Director
21 PO Box 1817
22 Olympia, WA 98507

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² Asterisked terms in the Code of Judicial Conduct are defined within the Code's Terminology section.