

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
JUDICIAL CONDUCT COMMISSION**

IN RE THE MATTER OF:

**BRIAN PRIVETT, FORMER CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE
14TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**

PUBLIC REPRIMAND

The Commission issues this order of public reprimand to Judge Privett for violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct, SCR 4.300, Rules 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, and 3.1 (c).

The Commission conducted a preliminary investigation arising out of a complaint that Judge Privett exchanged flirtatious and sexual text messages in 2018 with an AOC employee that he did not supervise while serving as Circuit Court Judge in the 14th Judicial Circuit. The text messages involved multiple conversations including exchanges that occurred while the Judge was on the bench presiding over court proceedings.

The Judge resigned as Circuit Judge on January 31, 2022 for reasons unrelated to these events.

The Commission concludes that Judge Privett violated SCR 4.020(1)(b)(i) by engaging in misconduct in office. The Commission further concludes that he violated SCR 4.300 and the relevant portions of the following Rules of the Code of Judicial Conduct:

Canon 1, Rule 1.1 which requires a judge to comply with the law, including the Code of Judicial Conduct.

Canon 1, Rule 1.2 which requires judges to act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary.

Canon 1, Rule 1.3 prohibits judges from abusing the prestige of judicial office to advance the personal or economic interests of the judge or others, or allow others to do so.


Canon 3, Rule 3.1 (c) prohibits a judge from participating in activities that would appear to a reasonable person to undermine the judge's independence, integrity, or impartiality when engaging in extrajudicial activities.

Based upon the foregoing conduct, Judge Privett is hereby publicly reprimanded. In rendering its disposition, the Commission duly considered that the former judge fully cooperated in the investigation and agreed to accept this Public Reprimand.

Date: 11/10/2022


R. MICHAEL SULLIVAN, CHAIR

Agreed to:



Brian Privett, Former Circuit Court Judge