

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
JUDICIAL CONDUCT COMMISSION**

**IN RE THE MATTER OF:**

**ANN RUTTLE, DISTRICT COURT JUDGE  
16<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, DIVISION 1**

**AGREED ORDER OF SUSPENSION**

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Ann Ruttle is a District Court Judge for Kentucky's 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Division 1, for Kenton County. Prior to the commencement of formal proceedings, the parties reached an agreement to resolve the matter. Judge Ruttle has waived formal proceedings and has agreed to the entry of this Order.

During a preliminary investigation resulting from two complaints, the Commission received information concerning certain court proceedings of June 3, 2020; June 23, 2020; July 14-15, 2020; August 4, 2020; the week of August 17, 2020; and August 24, 2020; and other court records concerning cases called on those dates. Judge Ruttle: (i) required defendants in criminal trials to file written demands for jury trials; (ii) made comments directed to attorneys with the Department of Public Advocacy that were not patient, dignified, and courteous; and (iii) in a proceeding with an unrepresented defendant, *Commonwealth v. Dell*, 10-F-16, suggested entering into a plea agreement by the defendant that could reasonably be perceived as coercive.

The Commission concludes Judge Ruttle's conduct violated SCR 4.300, the Code of Judicial Conduct, Canon 1, Rule 1.2, which requires a judge to act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary, and to avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety; Canon 2, Rule 2.2, which requires a judge to uphold and apply the law and perform all duties of judicial office fairly and impartially; and

Canon 2, Rule 2.8(B) which provides a judge shall be patient, dignified, and courteous to litigants, jurors, witnesses, lawyers, court staff, court officials, and others.

Therefore, in light of the foregoing conduct, Judge Ruttle is hereby suspended from her duties as District Court Judge without pay for a period of seven consecutive days beginning April 15, 2021, and ending April 22, 2021. During the suspension, Judge Ruttle shall not use her judicial office at the Kenton County Judicial Center. Judge Ruttle shall also not use her secure courthouse access pass and shall turn in any access passes, keys, or credentials to court security while the suspension is in effect.

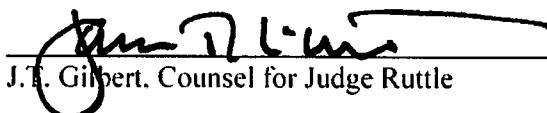
In imposing this sanction, the Commission duly considered the circumstances and impact caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and the fact that Judge Ruttle fully cooperated with the investigation and acknowledged her actions were inappropriate.

Date: 4/7/2021

  
Michael Sullivan, Chair

Agreed to:

  
Hon. Ann Ruttle, Judge

  
J.T. Gilbert, Counsel for Judge Ruttle

  
Bryan H. Beauman, Counsel for the Commission