

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
JUDICIAL CONDUCT COMMISSION**

ORDER OF PRIVATE REPRIMAND

The Commission issues this order of private reprimand to a judge 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 resulting from a self-reported complaint. The Commission received information that the Judge consumed too much alcohol and sent a private message on social media to an individual who was at the time participating in a court program over which he was presiding. The messages were flirtatious and expressed the Judge's desire to meet with the individual at the conclusion of the individual's participation in the program. The Judge immediately recused from oversight of the individual's case and subsequently resigned from oversight of the program.

The Commission concludes that Judge violated SCR 4.020(1)(b)(i) by engaging in misconduct in office. The Commission further concludes that the Judge 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, the judge is hereby privately reprimanded.

In issuing this private reprimand, the Commission duly considered that the judge fully cooperated in the investigation and agreed to accept this Private Reprimand.

Date: 1/18/2022


R. MICHAEL SULLIVAN, CHAIR