

# JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

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ANDREW H. MAASS, ESQ.  
CHAIR

November 24, 2020

## CLOSURE REPORT OF THE VERMONT JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

Re: Docket No.: 19.032

This Complaint is the result of a landlord-tenant matter and contained allegations of bias, legal error in construing a statute regarding rent escrow, denial of Complainant's right to be heard, refusing to admit specific evidence, and dismissal of the case when Complainant voiced an opinion that the Judge's rulings were unjust.

If found justified, these allegations could be violations of:

*Canon 2: A Judge Shall Avoid Impropriety and the Appearance of Impropriety in All of the Judge's Activities*

*A. A judge should respect and comply with the law and shall act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary.*

*Canon 3: A Judge Shall Perform the Duties of Judicial Office Impartially and Diligently*

*(B) Adjudicative Responsibilities*

*(4) A judge should be patient, dignified and courteous to litigants. . .*

*(7) A judge shall accord to every person who has a legal interest in a proceeding, or that person's lawyer, the right to be heard according to law.*

*(8) A judge shall dispose of all judicial matters promptly, efficiently and fairly.*

The Judicial Conduct Board conducted an initial inquiry including a review of the recording of the hearing in question, review of the docket, and review of two responses from the Judge to the Complaint, including an acknowledgement from the Judge that the situation should have been handled differently.

The Board found that sufficient probable cause existed to issue a Non-Public Written Warning under Rule 8(2) of the *Rules of the Supreme Court for the Disciplinary Control of Judges* after finding there was not a sufficient pattern or practice of this conduct to merit further discipline.

In accordance with Rule 8(2), one or more written warnings may be considered in determining the appropriate level of any later sanction or action.

Accordingly, the Complaint in Docket No. 19.032 is DISMISSED and a Non-Public Written Warning has been issued to the Judge.

JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

By: 

Andrew H. Maass, Chair