

JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD



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BARBARA R. BLACKMAN, ESQ.
CHAIR

June 28, 2021

CLOSURE REPORT OF THE VERMONT JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

Re: Docket No.: 20.026

Complainants have filed numerous communications with the Judicial Conduct Board. Although none of the correspondences identify a specific judge, nor specific acts undertaken by a judicial officer, the Complainants assert that the facts warrant and require investigation and action by the JCB.

The communications concerned documents posted on the Vermont Judiciary website, that Complainants believed were fraudulent due to the way the Court titled the name of the case on the documents.


The Judicial Conduct Board conducted an extensive initial inquiry including review of the case files for the referenced purportedly "fraudulent" documents. The Board found no evidence of fraud. Determinations as to the proper titling of a case caption are ones which fall upon the Court to make, and any contentions of errors are appropriately addressed to the Court. Further, to the extent that Complainants assert that the failure of the Court to remedy the asserted error is the result of judicial misconduct, by some unknown judicial officer, the facts fall well short of suggesting ethical misconduct, let alone evidencing such misconduct. Rather, it simply evidences a legal determination made well within the bounds of the Court's adjudicative responsibilities.

Complainants also engaged in a pattern of abusive and threatening communications, sending more than 125 email messages with allegations that the Board Chair was lying, that the Board Chairs [two different Chairs] were incompetent, and questioning the status of staff for the Board. Therefore, it is not expected that any further communications from Complainants will receive a response from this Board.

To the extent the Complaint alleges ethical impropriety or a violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct, the Board has determined that the Complaint is unfounded and there is no cause for further proceedings. *Rules of the Supreme Court for the Disciplinary Control of Judges*, Rule 11.

Accordingly, the Complaint in Docket No. 20.026 is DISMISSED.

JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

By: 
Barbara R. Blackman, Chair


Michael N. Donofrio, Vice Chair