

# JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD



TELEPHONE: (802) 786-1063

P.O. Box 310  
RUTLAND, VT 05701-0310

BARBARA R. BLACKMAN, ESQ.  
CHAIR

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August 7, 2023

## CLOSURE REPORT OF THE VERMONT JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

Re: Docket No.: 22.039

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This Complaint contained allegations of violation of Rule 1.2 which provides, "A judge shall act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary, and shall avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety." *Vermont Code of Judicial Conduct*.

The Judicial Conduct Board conducted an Investigation, including engaging Special Counsel, who listened to pertinent parts of the hearing, reviewed the hearing transcript, interviewed the Complaint and client as well as the Respondent Judge. The results of the investigation demonstrate that many of the allegations were not supported by the audio recording of the hearing or transcripts but also determined that the allegations of the Complaint merited a Non-Public Written Warning.

Pursuant to Rule 8 (2) of the Rules of Supreme Court for Disciplinary Control of Judges, the Board issued Respondent Judge a non-public written warning. The Board concludes that the conduct is potentially a violation of the Code if proved but is not established by clear and convincing evidence; the conduct is potentially a violation of the Code, but on its own, discipline is not warranted; and the Board concludes that a Formal Complaint is not warranted.

This written warning is intended to alert Respondent Judge that the conduct might rise to the level of a violation requiring action if it occurred on multiple occasions.

To the extent the Complaint alleges ethical impropriety or a violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct, the Board has determined 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. 21.007 is DISMISSED.

JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

By:   
Barbara R. Blackman, Chair

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**Via Email Only**

Claudia Safar, Esq.  
Monaghan Safar Ducham PLLC  
156 Battery Street  
Burlington, VT 05401

Re: Judicial Conduct Board Docket 22.039

Dear Attorney Safar, Esq.:

The Board has issued the Respondent Judge a Non-Public Written Warning under Rule 8.2 of the Rules of Supreme Court for Disciplinary Control of Judges. Therefore, the Complaint in this matter has been dismissed by the Vermont Judicial Conduct Board.

A copy of the Closure Report is enclosed for your information. Pursuant to Rule 6 of the Rules of Supreme Court for Disciplinary Control of Judges, this matter shall remain confidential, except that the Closure Report shall be a public record pursuant to Rule 11.

Sincerely

JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

By:   
Barbara R. Blackman, Esq.  
Board Chair

BRB/lcw  
Enclosure: Closure Report

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August 7, 2023

**PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL**

Samuel Hoar

Via email only: shjresq@icloud.com

Re: Judicial Conduct Board Docket No.: 22.039

Dear Judge Hoar:

The Board has determined that a Non-Public Written Warning under Rule 8(2) of the Rules of Supreme Court for Disciplinary Control of Judges is warranted for the facts of this Complaint. That Written Warning was sent to your attorney on January 23, 2023.

The Board directs your attention to Rule 8(2) which provides, "Under the Rules, conduct that has been the subject of a written warning may later be used as the basis for a Formal Complaint if further complaints are filed within three years of the date the first complaint was filed with the Board. The fact that the judge has been the subject of one or more written warnings may be considered in determining the appropriate level of any later sanction."

Therefore, the Complaint in this matter has been DISMISSED by the Vermont Judicial Conduct Board. A copy of the Closure Report is enclosed for your information.

Pursuant to Rule 6 of the Rules of Supreme Court for Disciplinary Control of Judges, this matter shall remain confidential, except that the Closure Report shall be a public record pursuant to Rule 7(1).

Very truly yours,

JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

By: 

Barbara R. Blackman, Chair

BB/lcw

Enclosures: Closure Report,