

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE
STATE OF FLORIDA**

**INQUIRY CONCERNING A
JUDGE, SUSAN B. FLOOD,
NO. 13-344**

SC14-___

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATION OF DISCIPLINE

The Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission (the "JQC") served a Notice of Investigation on Polk County Judge Susan B. Flood pursuant to Rule 6(b) of the Florida Judicial Qualification Commission Rules. This inquiry culminated with the Notice of Formal Charges and Stipulation that are being filed concurrently with these Findings and Recommendations.

The Investigative Panel of the Commission has now entered into a Stipulation with Judge Flood in which Judge Flood admits that her conduct, was inappropriate and lessens the public's confidence in the judiciary. Canons 1, and 2A of the Code of Judicial Conduct require a judge to act at all times in a manner that upholds the integrity of the judiciary and to avoid the appearance of impropriety. Her relationship with her bailiff, over whom she had supervisory authority, undermined public confidence in the judiciary.

Judge Flood has admitted the foregoing, accepts full responsibility, and acknowledges that such conduct should not have occurred. Judge Flood recognizes that behavior was inappropriate and has undertaken steps to prevent their reoccurrence.

The Judicial Qualifications Commission has concluded that the conduct was an isolated incident and does not demonstrate an unfitness for office.

Accordingly, the Commission therefore finds and recommends that in the interests of justice, the public welfare and sound juridical administration will be well served by a public reprimand of Judge Flood.

Dated this 7th day of ~~June~~ ^{July}, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,



Ricardo Morales, III, Chair
Judicial Qualifications Commission
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