

November 13, 2002

Dear Citizens of Broward County:

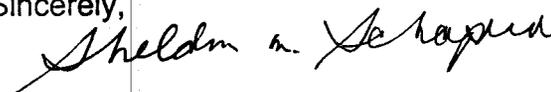
It is with a sense of great pride and gratitude that I have served these last ten years as a Judge of your Circuit Court, in the criminal division. It is with nearly as much regret that I admit that certain events in my life, for a period of time over four years ago to approximately a year and a half ago, the death of my wife, a sometimes hopelessly overcrowded court calendar, and a serious threat on my life by a disgruntled defendant, while never affecting my legal decisions, all combined to shorten my patience and temper and, on several occasions, contributed to my becoming unnecessarily uncompromising, inappropriate and intemperate in my behavior in Court, both in words and actions, with attorneys and others appearing before me.

With the help and urging of colleagues and friends, I sought, and continue to receive, professional therapy in order to understand and appreciate the underlying reasons for this series of difficulties, and to insure that nothing like this would reoccur. I apologize sincerely for any actions of mine which, in any fashion, brought the judiciary of this state into disrepute or impaired the confidence that you have, as citizens of this state, in myself as a Judge, or the integrity of the judicial system in general. I recognize, through my own fault, that I may have jeopardized that public perception.

It is my fervent hope that this set of circumstances, and the recognition that I have made of them, will serve to enhance and promote a more compassionate and understanding performance of my duties as a Circuit Court Judge.

Again, I apologize for these untoward actions, and assure each of you that this will never be repeated.

Sincerely,



Sheldon M. Schapiro
Circuit Judge

EXHIBIT A