

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

**INQUIRY CONCERNING A
JUDGE, BRENDA TRACY SHEEHAN,
NO. 13-309**

SC13-___

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATION OF DISCIPLINE

The Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission (the "JQC") served a Notice of Investigation on Thirteenth Circuit Judge Brenda Tracy Sheehan 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 Sheehan in which Judge Sheehan admits that her conduct, was inappropriate and lessens the public's confidence in the judiciary. Violation of the law by driving while under the influence violates Canons 1, and 2A of the Code of Judicial Conduct, as set forth in the Stipulation submitted herewith.

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

5. The Judicial Qualifications Commission has concluded that the conduct was an isolated incident and does not demonstrate an unfitness for office. The Investigative Panel is guided by this Court's acceptance of stipulations for public reprimands in similar situations. *In re Gloeckner*, 626 So.2d 188 (Fla. 1993), *In re Esquiroz*, 654 So.2d 558 (Fla. 1995), and *In re Nelson*, 95 So.3d 122 (Fla. 2012).
6. 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 Sheehan.

Dated this 23 day of January, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,



Ricardo Morales, III, Chair
Judicial Qualifications Commission
1110 Thomasville Road
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 488-1581

