

>> PLEASE RISE.

HEAR Y, HEAR YE, HEAR YE,
SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA IS NOW
NO SESSION.

ALL WITH CAUSE TO PLEAD, DRAW
NEAR, GIVE ATTENTION, AND YOU
SHALL BE HEARD.

GOD SAVE THESE UNITED STATES,
THIS GREAT STATE OF FLORIDA,
AND THIS HONORABLE COURT.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE
FLORIDA SUPREME COURT.

PLEASE BE SEATED.

>> GOOD MORNING AND WELCOME TO
THE FLORIDA SUPREME COURT.

THE FIRST ITEM ON THE COURT'S
AGENDA IS THE INQUIRY
CONCERNING JUDGE ANGELA
DEMPSEY.

JUDGE DEMPSEY, IF YOU WOULD COME
TO THE PODIUM.

JUDGE DEMPSEY, YOUR APPEARANCE
BEFORE THE COURT TODAY MARKS A
SAD OCCASION, SADDEST OF ALL
FOR THE PUBLIC WE SERVE.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR
JUDICIARY ULTIMATELY RESTS ON
THE TRUST AND CONFIDENCE
REPOSED IN JUDGES BY THE
PEOPLE.

YOU'RE HERE TODAY AS A RESULT
OF AN ETH FAILURE THAT HAS
DAMAGED THE'S TRUST AND
CONFIDENCE.

BECAUSE NO ONE CAN UNDO WHAT
YOU HAVE DONE, WE HAVE

COMMANDED YOU TO APPEAR BEFORE US TO RECEIVE A REPRIMAND THAT IS BEING BROADCAST THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

THIS IS NOT A TASK I ENJOY BUT CERTAINLY ONE THAT WE AS A COURT REGARD AS VITALLY NECESSARY.

IT IS ONE WAY WE CAN AT LEAST ASSURE THE PUBLIC WE TAKE THIS MATTER VERY SERIOUSLY AND THAT WE WILL NOT HESITATE TO DISCIPLINE JUDGES SUCH AS YOU IN A MOST PUBLIC WAY.

YOU HAVE BEEN FOUND GUILTY OF VIOLATING CANNON 7 OF THE CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT.

THE CHARGES FILED AGAINST YOU ARISE FROM YOUR 2008 CAMPAIGN FOR THE CIRCUIT JUDGESHIP IN THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT WHICH YOU NOW HOLD.

YOU EMPLOYED THE SERVICES OF A PUBLIC, POLITICAL CONSULTANT FOR WHOSE CAMPAIGN CONDUCT YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE UNDER CANNON 7(A)(3)(d) OF THE CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT AS IT EXISTED IN BATE.

IN PERTINENT PART THE PROVISION OF THE CODE REQUIRES ALL CANDIDATES FOR JUDICIAL OFFICE TO PROHIBIT EMPLOYEES OR OTHERS SERVING AT THEIR PLEASURE FROM DOING ANYTHING THAT THE CANDIDATE IS FORBIDDEN TO DO.

ACCORDING TO YOUR OWN ADMISSION

THE CONSULTANT PREPARED TWO MERGESALS AND UPLOADED THEM TO THE SOCIAL MEDIA VIDEO SHARING SITE, YOUTUBE.

A LINK TO ONE OF THE YOUTUBE VIDEOS USED THE PHRASE, REELECT ANGELA DEMPSEY AND IN POINT OF FACT, YOU HAD NEVER BEEN PREVIOUSLY ELECTED TO THE OFFICE AT THAT POINT.

INSTEAD, YOU HAD BEEN APPOINTED IN 2005.

TO YOUR CREDIT YOU HAVE ACCEPTED FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONSULTANT'S ACTIONS EVEN THOUGH YOU HAD NO KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE PLACEMENT ON YOUTUBE.

AND SETS THIS CASE STANDS AS A WARNING TO ALL FUTURE FLORIDA JUDICIAL CANDIDATES.

YOU WILL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE AND ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE ACTIONS OF YOUR CAMPAIGN CONSULTANTS INCLUDING THE WAY THEY CHOOSE TO USE NEW TECHNOLOGY LIKE THE SOCIAL MEDIA.

BASED ON THIS INFORMATION THE JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION CONCLUDED, AND YOU HAVE STIPULATED THAT THIS CONDUCT VIOLATED CANNON 7(A)(3) (d)ii OF THE CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT.

THAT PROVISION PROHIBITED YOU IN PERTINENT PART, FROM MISREPRESENTING YOUR OWN

QUALIFICATIONS OR ANY OTHER
FACTS ABOUT YOURSELF DURING
YOUR CAMPAIGN.

IN ADDITION, THE JUDICIAL
QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION FOUND
THAT YOU HAVE, AND YOU HAVE
AGREED BY STIPULATION YOU MISLED
THE PUBLIC BY CLAIMING IN A MAILER
TO HAVE 20 YEARS OF LEGAL
EXPERIENCE.

IN FACT YOU WERE NOT ADMITTED
TO THE PRACTICE OF LAW UNTIL
1994, AND THE 20-YEAR
CALCULATION INCLUDED THE TIME
WHEN YOU WERE IN LAW SCHOOL.
THIS CONSTITUTED ANOTHER
VIOLATION OF CANNON 7(3)(D)ii AS
IT EXISTED IN 2008.

FOR THESE VIOLATIONS YOU MUST
BE AND ARE HEREBY REPRIMANDED.

FINALLY JUDGE DEMPSEY, WE
ENCOURAGE YOU TO REVIEW THE
PRIOR DISCIPLINARY CASES FROM
THIS COURT FROM TIME TO TIME.
WE WILL, YOU WILL FIND THAT IN
A NUMBER OF THESE CASES
INVOLVED ONLY A SINGLE BREACH
OF ETHICS DURING A JUDGE'S
CAREER, WITH NONE THAT FOLLOWED
AFTERWARDS.

WE HOPE THAT WILL BE THE CASE
HERE.

YOU WILL ALSO FIND A FAR FEWER
NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH JUDGES
DID NOT LEARN FROM THEIR
MISTAKES AND COMMITTED YET

ANOTHER VIOLATION.

WE ADVISE YOU TO REMEMBER THAT
OUR PRIOR CASES HAVE
CONSISTENTLY HELD A SECOND
ETHICAL BREACH BY A JUDGE WILL
BE VIEWED FAR MORE HARSHLY.
JUDGE DEMPSEY, YOUR PUBLIC
REPRIMAND IS CONCLUDED.