

>>> ALL RISE.
HEAR YE, HEAR YE, HEAR YE.
THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA
IS NOW IN SESSION.
ALL WHO HAVE CAUSE TO PLEA,
DRAW NEAR, GIVE ATTENTION,
AND YOU SHALL BE HEARD.
GOD SAVE THESE UNITED STATES,
THE GREAT STATE OF FLORIDA
AND THIS HONORABLE COURT.
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE
SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA.
PLEASE BE SEATED.
>>> WELCOME TO THE FLORIDA
SUPREME COURT.
OUR FIRST CASE FOR THE DAY IS
THE PUBLIC REPRIMAND OF JUDGE
TIMOTHY SHEA.
JUDGE SHEA, PLEASE COME
FORWARD.
JUDGE SHEA, WE HAVE ORDERED
YOU HERE TODAY SO THAT WE MAY
FULFILL THE DUTY WE HAVE
UNDER THE FLORIDA
CONSTITUTION TO DISCIPLINE
JUDGES FOR CONDUCT UNBECOMING
A MEMBER OF THE JUDICIARY.
THIS IS A SAD DAY FOR YOU,
AND FOR US.
MOST IMPORTANTLY, THE NEED TO
DELIVER A PUBLIC REPRIMAND
MAKES THIS A SAD DAY FOR THE
ENTIRE JUDICIARY.
THE UNBECOMING CONDUCT THAT
NECESSITATES YOUR PUBLIC
REPRIMAND TODAY IS OUTLINED
IN THE OPINION THIS COURT
ISSUED IN MARCH.
I WILL ADDRESS YOUR BEHAVIOR
IN GREATER DETAIL IN A
MOMENT.
FIRST, IT'S APPROPRIATE TO
UNDERLINE THE GRAVE
SERIOUSNESS OF JUDICIAL
MISCONDUCT AND THE VITAL
IMPORTANCE OF THIS COURT'S
CONSTITUTIONAL DUTY, TO
DISCIPLINE JUDGES WHEN THEY
FALL SHORT OF THE STANDARDS
OUTLINED IN THE FLORIDA CODE

OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT.
THE CODE CLEARLY DESCRIBES
THE LINK BETWEEN JUDICIAL
CONDUCT AND PUBLIC CONFIDENCE
IN THE JUDICIARY.

AS CANON 1 OF THE CODE
MAINTAINS, ENFORCING HIGH
STANDARDS OF CONDUCT AND
SHALL PERSONALLY OBSERVE THE
STANDARDS SO THAT THE
INTEGRITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF
THE JUDICIARY MAY BE
PRESERVED.

MORE SPECIFICALLY, CANON 3B-4
OF THE CODE REQUIRES JUDGES
AT ALL TIME TO BE PATIENT,
DIGNIFIED, AND COURTEOUS TO
LITIGANTS, JURORS, WITNESSES,
LAWYERS AND OTHERS WITH WHOM
THE JUDGE DEALS IN AN
OFFICIAL CAPACITY.

JUDGE SHEA, YOU HAVE
STIPULATED THAT ON FOUR
INSTANCES, FROM 2007 TO 2010,
YOUR BEHAVIOR FELL SHORT OF
THE CONDUCT REQUIRED OF
JUDGES.

FIRST, UPON SEEING A
PROSECUTOR IN YOUR COURTROOM
SHAKE HER HEAD, YOU GOT UP,
WALKED BEHIND HER AND
SCREAMED LOUDLY AT HER FOR
WHAT YOU PERCEIVED TO BE
DISRESPECT.

SECOND, YOU MADE DISPARAGING
AND DISRESPECTFUL COMMENTS AS
A PROSECUTOR WAS MAKING A
LEGAL ARGUMENT.

THIRD, YOU SENTENCED A
DEFENDANT WITHOUT AN ATTORNEY
PRESENT OVER OBJECTION AND
SPOKE RUDELY TO THE
DEFENDANT'S FATHER.

AND FOURTH, YOU ANGRILY
REPRIMANDED A PROSECUTOR IN
OPEN COURT WHEN YOU
MISUNDERSTOOD THE STATUS OF
THE CASE.

YOU THEN ORDERED HIM INTO THE
JURY ROOM AND CONTINUED TO

BERATE HIM BEFORE REALIZING
YOUR MISTAKE AND APOLOGIZED.
AS NOTED IN THE STIPULATION
YOU ENTERED INTO WITH THE
JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS
COMMISSION, THESE REPEATED
ACTIONS CONSTITUTE CONDUCT
UNBECOMING A JUDICIAL
OFFICER, AND LACK THE DIGNITY
APPROPRIATE TO JUDICIAL
OFFICE WITH THE EFFECT
BRINGING THE JUDICIARY INTO
DISREPUTE.

WE AGREE WITH THAT.

JUDGE SHEA, AS WE NOTED IN
MARCH OPINION, YOUR BEHAVIOR
DID NOT MEET THE HIGH
STANDARD OF CONDUCT EXPECTED
OF FLORIDA JUDGES.

JUDICIAL MISCONDUCT DOES MORE
THAN DAMAGE THE CREDIBILITY
OF THE INDIVIDUAL JUDGE WHO
IS AT FAULT.

AS THIS COURT EXPLAINED IN
EARLIER OPINION AS WELL AS
THE MARCH OPINION DEALING
WITH YOUR CASE, JUDICIAL
MISCONDUCT STRIKES AT THE
VERY ROOTS OF AN EFFECTIVE
JUDICIARY.

FOR THOSE SERVED BY THE
COURTS WILL NOT HAVE
CONFIDENCE IN AND RESPECT FOR
THE COURT'S JUDGMENTS OF
JUDGES ENGAGED IN THIS
EGREGIOUS CONDUCT.

IN YOUR STIPULATION WITH THE
JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS
COMMISSION, YOU APOLOGIZED
FOR YOUR MISCONDUCT AND
REALIZED THAT YOU ALONE ARE
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE
INTEMPERANCE AND DISRESPECT
YOU EXHIBITED.

IT WAS IMPORTANT TO THE
COMMISSION AND IS IMPORTANT
ALSO TO THIS COURT THAT YOU
ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR WRONGDOING,
AND THAT YOU VOLUNTARILY TOOK
STEPS TO STOP YOUR

INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR.
YOU SAW PROFESSIONAL
TREATMENT AND COUNSELING FOR
YOUR TEMPER, AND YOU TURNED
TO EXPERIENCED AND RESPECTED
JUDGES IN YOUR CIRCUIT FOR
ADVICE COUNSEL.
I MUST EMPHASIZE, THAT ABSENT
THE STEPS YOU HAVE TAKEN TO
REFORM, THIS COURT WILL BE
SINKING YOU SEVERELY.
I ADVISE YOU TO CONSULT THE
LENGTHY BODY OF CASE LAW
ISSUED BY THIS COURT DEALING
WITH CASES OF JUDICIAL
MISCONDUCT.
YOU WILL FIND THAT THIS COURT
HAS VIEWED ANY FURTHER
VIOLATIONS BY A JUDGE VERY
HARSHLY INDEED.
JUDGE SHEA, THE SUPREME COURT
OF FLORIDA HEREBY PUBLICLY
REPRIMANDS YOU FOR YOUR
MISCONDUCT.
YOU ARE FREE TO LEAVE.
>> THANK YOU.