

>> ALL RISE.

HEAR YE, HEAR YE, THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA IS NOW IN SESSION.

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

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

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA. PLEASE BE SEATED.

>> GOOD MORNING.

WELCOME TO THE FLORIDA SUPREME COURT.

LET ME JUST ADJUST MY CHAIR HERE.

THERE, SEE I'M TALL.

BEFORE WE BEGIN, A COUPLE OF THINGS I WANT TO DO.

FIRST OF ALL WE HAVE THE PORT CHARLOTTE COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL.

I BELIEVE THE SENIOR CLASS IS HERE.

WOULD YOU PLEASE STAND.

THANK YOU.

AND THIS IS A, ARE YOU SENIORS THIS YEAR?

I THINK, WHAT 15 OF YOU?

15 STUDENTS.

WHO ARE THE TEACHERS?

ARE THE TEACHERS HERE?

WHY DON'T THE STUDENTS SEE.

LET ME SEE WHERE THE TEACHERS ARE.

THERE YOU GO.

>> [INAUDIBLE]

>> THANK YOU.

THANK YOU.

AND THE SECOND THING, JUSTICE PARIENTE IS UNABLE TO BE PRESENT FOR TODAY'S COURT SESSION DUE TO THE DEATH OF HER BELOVED MOTHER. OUR DEEPEST CONDOLENCES TO JUSTICE PARIENTE AND HER FAMILY. JUSTICE QUINCE IS ALSO UNABLE TO BE PRESENT FOR TODAY'S SESSION. BOTH JUSTICES, JUSTICE PARIENTE

AND JUSTICE QUINCE, WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE CASES BEFORE THE COURT TODAY.

SO, THE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS TODAY, THE FIRST CASE IS THE REPRIMAND OF JUDGE YACUCCI.

IF YOU WOULD PLEASE STEP FORWARD, SIR.

GOOD MORNING SIR.

JUDGE YACUCCI, YOU'RE HERE BEFORE THE COURT TODAY BECAUSE OF ETHICAL MISCONDUCT IN YOUR PROFESSIONAL RIP-- RELATIONSHIP WITH AN ATTORNEY WHO APPEARED BEFORE YOU.

JUDGE YACUCCI, THIS COURT IN ITS OPINION HAS FOUND CLEAR AND CONVINCING EVIDENCE THAT YOU ENGAGED IN ACRIMONIOUS CONFLICT WITH A LAWYER WHO OFTEN BROUGHT CASES TO YOUR COURTROOM.

YOU ALLOWED AN ADVERSARIAL AND CONTENTIOUS PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP TO DEVELOP BETWEEN YOU AND THIS ATTORNEY, LEADING YOU TO ENGAGE IN A PATTERN OF MISCONDUCT.

THE PROBLEMS BEGAN WHEN YOU HELD THIS LAWYER IN CONTEMPT IN 2009 FOR SHOWING UP LATE TO A HEARING.

AND YOUR RELATIONSHIP CONTINUED ITS DECLINE IN 2014 WHEN YOU JAILED THIS ATTORNEY FOR FIVE DAYS AND ANNOUNCED THAT YOU HAD LOST CONFIDENCE IN HIM.

AFTER 2014 THIS ATTORNEY RAN AGAINST YOU FOR A COUNTY COURT SEAT IN A HIGHLY-COMBATIVE ELECTION, LEADING YOU TO SUE HIM FOR DEFAMATION AND RELATED TORT CLAIMS.

THE ANIMOSITY BETWEEN YOU TWO LED TO, ANIMOSITY BETWEEN YOU AND THIS ATTORNEY LED TO AN ALTERCATION, PROMPTING HIM TO SUE YOU FOR ASSAULT AND OTHER CLAIMS.

AFTER YOU WON THE ELECTION, YOU CAME BEFORE THE FLORIDA JUDICIAL

QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION TO DISCUSS YOUR BEHAVIOR. AT THAT TIME YOU TOLD THE JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION THAT YOU WOULD RECUSE YOURSELF FROM CASES INVOLVING THIS ATTORNEY BUT THEN YOU ONLY DID SO FOR 21/2 YEARS. IN SEPTEMBER OF 2016 YOU REFUSED TO RECUSE YOURSELF FROM ONE OF THE LAWYER'S CASE, CAUSING HIM TO SEEK A WRIT OF PROHIBITION AGAINST YOU. DURING THIS TIME, YOU SOUGHT GUIDANCE FROM THE JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION AND WERE ADVISED THAT RECUSAL WAS THE SAFER COURSE FOR TO YOU TAKE. HOWEVER, YOU DECLINED TO RECUSE YOURSELF. IN NOVEMBER OF 2016 THE CIRCUIT COURT GRANTED THE WRIT OF PROHIBITION, DISQUALIFYING YOU FROM HEARING SEVERAL CASES. AT THE JUDICIAL QUALIFICATION COMMISSION CHARGES WERE BROUGHT AGAINST YOU CONTINUED TO MAINTAIN YOU DID NOT ACT INAPPROPRIATELY. ULTIMATELY THE JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION, HEARING PANEL CONCLUDED THAT YOUR ACTIONS VIOLATED THE CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT. JUDGE YACUCCI YOU DID NOT CONTEST THAT YOUR CONDUCT VIOLATED CANNONS, 1, 2-A, 3 B, SUBSECTION EIGHT AND 3-E, SUB SECOND ONE OF THE CODE. ARGUED 30 DAY SUSPENSION WITHOUT PAY IS EXCESSIVE AND INCONSISTENT WITH PRECEDENT. IN OUR WRITTEN OPINION THIS COURT DISAGREED WITH YOUR ARGUMENT. YOUR MISCONDUCT WAS DEFINITELY WARRANTS A SANCTION, HARSHER THAN JUST A PUBLIC REPRIMAND. THE ACRIMONIOUS RELATIONSHIP YOU

DEVELOPED WITH THIS ATTORNEY INCLUDED ALLEGATIONS OF TORTIOUS ACTS, ASSAULTS AND REFUSALS TO DISQUALIFY YOURSELF AS REQUIRED BY LAW.

THERE WERE CLEAR AND EGREGIOUS VIOLATION OF THE CANNONS OF THE CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT.

JUDGE YACUCCI YOU HAVE FAILED TO SHOW REGRET OR REMORSE FOR YOUR CONDUCT DURING THE COURSE OF THESE PROCEEDED PROCEEDINGS.

YOU DID NOT LISTEN TO THE COUNSEL OF JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION WHEN IT WAS ADVISED TO YOU.

AND YOU DID NOT APOLOGIZE.

YOU ATTEMPTED TO JUSTIFY YOUR ACTIONS DURING THE JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION'S PROCEEDINGS AND IN THE BRIEFS TO THIS COURT.

FOR THESE REASONS WE HAVE CONCLUDED THAT YOU MUST PAY THE COST OF THESE PROCEEDINGS.

YOU ALSO MUST COMPLETE AN APPROPRIATE JUDICIAL ETHICS COURSE WITHIN ONE YEAR.

YOU MUST BE SUSPENDED WITHOUT PAY FOR 30 DAYS.

WE ALSO REQUIRE YOU TO APPEAR IN PERSON FOR THIS PUBLIC REPRIMAND TODAY.

BEFORE WE RELEASE YOU, JUDGE YACUCCI, WE WILL GIVE YOU ONE FURTHER ADMONITION.

WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE YOU TO REVIEW THE PRIOR DISCIPLINARY CASES, THIS COURT, FROM TIME TO TIME HAS ADDRESSED.

BY THIS ACTION TODAY, WE INSTRUCT YOU TO CORRECT WHATEVER CAUSED YOU TO COMMITTEES VERY SERIOUS ETHICAL BREACHES.

WE ALSO ADVISE YOU, TO REMEMBER WHAT OUR PRIOR CASES CONSISTENTLY HAVE HELD.

A SECOND ETHICAL BREACH BY A JUDGE SUCH AS YOU, WILL BE VIEWED FAR MORE HARSHLY.

YOUR PUBLIC REPRIMAND IS
CONCLUDED, SIR.