

>> ALL RISE.

HEAR YE, 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 THIS HONORABLE COURT.

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

>> WELCOME TO THE FLORIDA SUPREME COURT.

THE FIRST ITEM ON TODAY'S DOCKET RELATES TO A DISCIPLINARY MATTER.

JUDGE ROBIN C. LEMONIDIS READY FOR A PUBLIC REPRIMAND.

JUDGE ROBIN C. LEMONIDIS, YOU'RE HERE BEFORE THE COURT TODAY BECAUSE OF MISCONDUCT IN YOUR OFFICIAL MISS -- CAPACITY IS A JUDGE.

I'D BEGIN BY ACKNOWLEDGING HOW UNFORTUNATE A DAY THIS IS FOR YOU, THIS COURT AND THE ENTIRE STATE JUDICIARY.

BY YOUR MISCONDUCT YOU HAVE DAMAGED THE PUBLIC'S TRUST AND CONFIDENCE IN OUR STATE'S COURTS.

THIS IS A VERY SERIOUS MATTER. THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR JUDICIARY ULTIMATELY RESTS ON THE TRUST AND CONFIDENCE THE PEOPLE OF FLORIDA CONFER ON THEIR JUDGES.

WE COMMAND YOU TO APPEAR TODAY FOR A PUBLIC REPRIMAND.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF PUBLIC REPRIMANDS IS A WAY TO ASSURE THE PUBLIC WE TAKE MISCONDUCT BY JUDGES VERY SERIOUSLY.

THERE SHOULD BE NO DOUBT THIS COURT WILL NOT HESITATE TO PUNISH JUDGES IN A MOST PUBLIC WAY.

JUDGE ROBIN C. LEMONIDIS, YOU'RE

HERE BECAUSE OF YOUR INTEMPERATE BEHAVIOR DURING COURT PROCEEDINGS ON WHICH YOU PRESIDED.

IN THE FIRST OF TWO EPISODES HE BECAME FRUSTRATED WITH SEVERAL APPARENT VIOLATIONS OF COURTROOM DECORUM DURING THE TRIAL.

INSTEAD OF SHOWING THE PATIENCE REQUIRED OF JUDGES YOU ASSUME THAT AGGRESSIVE ADVERSARIAL TONE AND Demeanor, LOUDLY STRUCK YOUR GAVEL, MADE FACIAL GESTURES AND TOOK OTHER ACTIONS TO SHOW YOUR ANNOYANCE.

YOUR BEHAVIOR REACHED THE POINT THAT A JUROR IN THE TRIAL COMMENTED ON YOUR PERCEIVED DISLIKE OF DEFENSE COUNSEL.

IN THE SECOND EPISODE YOU WERE CONDUCTING A SENTENCING HEARING OF FIRST-DEGREE MURDER CASE.

AFTER LISTENING TO A VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT OF IT AFTER LISTENING TO THE VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENTS YOU MADE INAPPROPRIATE REMARKS TO THE DEFENDANT DURING YOUR SENTENCING COLLOQUY.

ALTHOUGH THE LAW REQUIRED A LIFE SENTENCE BASED ON THE JURY'S RECOMMENDATION, YOU MADE REMARKS SUGGESTING THE DEFENDANT WAS NOT WORTHY.

YOU COMMENTED ON THE DEFENDANT'S MISERABLE LIFE AND HOPE TO THE DEFENDANT WOULD FIGHT FOR HIS LIFE EVERY MINUTE OF EVERY DAY.

WE CONCLUDED THESE COMMENTS DEGRADED THE SOLEMNITY OF THE PROCEEDINGS BY CASTING INSULT AND ABUSE UPON THE DEFENDANT. JUDGE ROBIN C. LEMONIDIS, THE UNANIMOUS OPINION CONCLUDED THESE EPISODES AND MISCONDUCT VIOLATED CANON ONE, CANON 2 A, CANNON 3 B 4 AND CANON 3 B 5 OF THE CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT. THESE REQUIRE JUDGES TO MAINTAIN THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF INTEGRITY,

TO ACT AT ALL TIMES IN A MANNER THAT PROMOTES PUBLIC CONFIDENCE, TO BE PATIENT, DIGNIFIED AND COURTEOUS, TO REFRAIN FROM MANIFESTING BIAS OR PREJUDICE. TO YOUR CREDIT YOU HAVE AGREED YOUR BEHAVIOR WAS INAPPROPRIATE AND VIOLATED THE CANONS. THE FIRST OF YOUR VIOLATIONS WE MUST KNOW YOUR FAILURE TO EXERCISE SELF-CONTROL AS YOU BECAME AWARE AGE OR PERCEIVED YOUR ACTIONS AS DISFAVORING DEFENSE COUNSEL. THAT FACT ALONE SHOULD HAVE MADE YOU CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO REGULATE YOUR OWN CONDUCT TO PRESERVE IMPARTIALITY REQUIRED OF JUDGES. AS TO THE SECOND VIOLATION YOUR STATEMENT CLEARLY COMPROMISED THE JUDICIARY TO EXPRESS UNSEEMLY DESIRE THE DEFENDANT SHOULD FIGHT FOR HIS LIFE WHILE IN PRISON AND IN DOING SO YOU CLEARLY DEGRADED THE SOLEMNITY OF THE PROCEEDINGS. BASED ON YOUR OWN CONCESSIONS WE CONCLUDED YOUR MISCONDUCT HAS BEEN PROVEN BY CLEAR AND CONVINCING EVIDENCE. THE JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATION THAT YOU ARE TO SPEED AND STRESS MANAGEMENT COUNCIL AND REQUIRE YOU APPEAR HERE TODAY FOR THIS PUBLIC REPRIMAND IN THIS PUBLIC FORUM. FOR THESE FAILINGS, JUDGE ROBIN C. LEMONIDIS, YOU ARE HEREBY PUBLICLY REPRIMANDED. YOU ARE FREE TO LEAVE.