

>> 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, THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA, PLEASE BE SEATED.

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

THE FIRST MATTER ON THE DOCKET TODAY RELATES TO AN INQUIRY CONCERNING A JUDGE, ERNEST KOLLRA.

ERNEST KOLLRA, YOU ARE HERE BEFORE THE COURT BECAUSE OF MISCONDUCT IN YOUR ROLE AS A JUDGE.

WE ALL RECOGNIZE THAT THIS IS A SAD DAY FOR YOU.

THIS IS ALSO A SAD OCCASION FOR THIS COURT AND THE ENTIRE STATE JUDICIARY.

YOUR MISCONDUCT HAS DAMAGED THE PUBLIC'S TRUST AND CONFIDENCE IN YOU AS AN INDIVIDUAL JUDGE, AS WELL AS THE PUBLIC'S TRUST AND CONFIDENCE IN OUR STATE COURT SYSTEM.

THIS IS A VERY SERIOUS MATTER AND ONE THAT WE AS A COURT TAKE VERY SERIOUSLY.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR COURT TOTALLY RESTS ON THE TRUST AND CONFIDENCE THE PEOPLE CONFER UPON US AS JUDGES.

THE MISCONDUCT OF WHICH YOU ARE GUILTY CANNOT BE UNDONE BUT IT CAN BE RECTIFIED TO AN EXTENT BY THIS PUBLIC RECOMMEND.

A REPRIMAND SUCH AS THIS ONE IS ONE WAY WE CAN ASSURE THE PUBLIC THE WE TAKE MISBEHAVIOR BY JUDGES VERY SERIOUSLY.

JUDGE ERNEST KOLLRA STIPULATED

TO THE CHARGES AGAINST YOU AND
ACKNOWLEDGED YOUR MISCONDUCT.
ACCORDING TO THE SUPERVISION
YOU REACHED WITH THE JUDICIAL
QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION YOU
INTRODUCED PARTISAN POLITICAL
ACTIVITY INTO YOUR CAMPAIGN FOR
JUDICIAL OFFICE.

THERE WERE SEPARATE EVENTS YOU
MADE STATEMENTS ABOUT A
PARTISAN AFFILIATION AND
PARTISAN ENDORSEMENT.

IN MAY 2018 YOU, BEFORE THE SUN
SENTINEL NEWSPAPER AND IDENTIFY
YOURSELF AS A REGISTERED MEMBER
OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY.

IN JUNE 2018 YOU ATTENDED WHAT
WAS BILLED AND HIS ENDORSEMENT
EVEN FOR A PARTISAN
ORGANIZATION, THE DOLPHIN
DEMOCRATS.

YOU CONCLUDED A STUMP SPEECH BY
TELLING ATTENDEES YOU RECEIVED
THE ENDORSEMENT OF THE
ENDORPHIN -- DOLPHIN DEMOCRATS.
IN 7 SEAT 3 OF THE FLORIDA CODE
OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT THE
FOLLOWING STAY WITH APPLIES TO
CANDIDATES FOR JUDICIAL OFFICE.
IT SAYS THE CANDIDATE SHOULD
REFRAIN FROM COMMENTING ON
CANDIDATES AFFILIATION WITH ANY
POLITICAL PARTY.

IT ALSO PROVIDES THAT A
JUDICIAL CANDIDATE ATTENDING A
POLITICAL PARTY FUNCTION MUST
AVOID CONDUCT THAT SUGGESTS OR
APPEARS TO SUGGEST SUPPORT OF
OR OPPOSITION TO A POLITICAL
PARTY.

SUBJECT TO SERVING SECTIONS NOT
IRRELEVANT HERE A JUDGE SHALL
NOT ENGAGE IN POLITICAL
ACTIVITY.

IN ITS PROCEEDINGS THE JQC
NOTICED 7C3 AND 70 CLEARLY AND
AMBIGUOUSLY PROHIBIT PARTISAN
POLITICAL CONDUCT BY JUDGES OR
CANDIDATES FOR JUDICIAL OFFICE.
THIS SORT OF CONDUCT IN WHICH

YOU ENGAGED.
IN MITIGATION, THE JQC FOUND
YOU WERE A NEW AND
INEXPERIENCED JUDGE AT THE TIME
YOUR MISCONDUCT OCCURRED AND
YOU ADMITTED TO THE ETHICAL
BREACH, COOPERATED IN THE JQC
INVESTIGATION, TOOK
RESPONSIBILITY AND GREED TO
RECEIVE A PUBLIC REPRIMAND.
THE FACT THAT YOUR MISCONDUCT
WENT TO BOTH SIDES OF THE
POLITICAL AISLE DOES NOT MAKE
IT LESS OF VIOLATION.
THE PURPOSE OF THE APPLICABLE
CANDIDATE IS TO PROTECT THE
INTEGRITY OF NONPARTISAN
JUDICIAL ELECTIONS AND AS YOU
RECOGNIZE, THEY ACCOMPLISH THAT
BY PROHIBITING THE EXACT TYPE
OF CONDUCT IN WHICH YOU
ENGAGED.
IN OUR OPINION THE COURT FOUND
THE PUBLIC RECOMMEND --
REPRIMAND I'M ADMINISTERING IS
SUFFICIENT DISCIPLINE OF
JUDICIAL MISCONDUCT IN THE
PAST.
AS YOU YOUR SELF HAVE
ACKNOWLEDGED YOUR CONDUCT WAS A
SERIOUS ETHICAL BREACH THAT
DESERVES TO BE PUBLICLY
REJECTED.
YOU ARE HEREBY PUBLICLY
REPRIMANDED FOR VIOLATIONS OF
THE CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT
AND YOU ARE FREE TO LEAVE.