

>> 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 THE UNITED STATES, THE
GREAT STATE OF FLORIDA AND THIS
HONORABLE COURT.

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

>> GOOD MORNING AND WELCOME TO
TODAY'S SESSION OF THE FLORIDA
SUPREME COURT.

OUR FIRST MATTER TODAY IS CASE
NUMBER 20-605 CONCERNING JUDGE
BARBARA KAYE HOBBS.

AS YOU KNOW, YOU'RE HERE TODAY
TO RECEIVE A PUBLIC REPRIMAND
FROM OUR COURT.

ALONG WITH A \$30,000 FINE, 60
DAY SUSPENSION WITHOUT PAY AND
REQUIREMENT THAT YOU ATTEND AN
EMPLOYEE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.

THIS RESOLVES JUDICIAL
QUALIFICATIONS, COMMISSION
CHARGES THAT WERE ORIGINALLY
FILED AGAINST YOU TWO YEARS AGO.

OUR COURT IS IMPOSING THIS
DISCIPLINE AFTER OUR REVIEW OF
THE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS
OF THE JQC HEARING PANEL.

THAT PANEL AND THIS COURT
AFFORDED YOU AN OPPORTUNITY TO
BE HEARD AND YOU ARE ONLY BEING
HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CHARGES
PROVEN AGAINST YOU BY CLEAR AND
CONVINCING EVIDENCE.

THE EVIDENCE AT YOUR HEARING
SHOWS YOU COVETED TWO FORMS OF
MISCONDUCT.

FIRST, AFTER YOUR ADULT SON WAS
ARRESTED ON A POSSIBLE, WILL
CHARGE YOU PURPORTED TO SERVE AS
HIS ATTORNEY AND ACTIVELY
REPRESENTED HIM DURING A POLICE
INTERVIEW.

SECOND, EVEN AFTER HAVING BEEN
COUNSELED BY YOUR CHIEF JUDGE
YOU REPEATEDLY FAILED TO
EFFECTIVELY SUPERVISE YOUR
JUDICIAL ASSISTANT.

THAT IN ACTION THAT YOUR JUDICIAL ASSISTANT TO COMMIT BREACHES OF HER OWN, SITTING AT COUNSEL TABLE DURING A JUDICIAL HEARING INVOLVING YOUR SON AND IMPROPERLY GIVING YOUR SON UNSUPERVISED ACCESS TO NONPUBLIC AREAS OF YOUR COURTHOUSE. ALTHOUGH THESE ACTS OF MISCONDUCT ARE DISTINCT THEY SHARE A COMMON DONE NOMINATOR, YOU ALLOWED PERSONAL ATTACHMENTS AND LOYALTY TO OVERCOME YOUR ETHICAL OBLIGATIONS AS A JUDGE. THESE ACTIONS VIOLATED THE CANONS OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT WHICH ARE THE ETHICAL RULES OF THE ROAD FOR JUDGES. THERE ARE CANONS THAT PROHIBIT JUDGES FROM PRACTICING LAW THE REQUIRED JUDGES TO PROPERLY SUPERVISE THEIR STAFF. MOST FUNDAMENTALLY, THE CANONS DEMAND JUDGES AVOID IMPROPRIETY AND UPHOLD THE INTEGRITY OF THE JUDICIARY. THROUGH THE MISCONDUCT I HAVE DESCRIBED YOU BREACHED THESE FOUNDATIONAL DUTIES. OUR COURT'S WRITTEN OPINION IN YOUR CASE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT YOUR MISCONDUCT OCCURRED IN THE CONTEXT OF A CHALLENGING AND STRESSFUL TIME FOR YOUR FAMILY. I NOTE THAT AGAIN TODAY. THE RECORD ALSO SHOWED THAT YOU HAD NO PRIOR DISCIPLINARY INFRACTIONS AS A JUDGE OR AS AN ATTORNEY AND AT YOUR HEARING SEVERAL WITNESSES TESTIFIED TO YOUR HIGH STANDING AND SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY. THESE MITIGATING FACTORS PARTLY EXPLAIN WHY OUR COURT DECIDED YOUR MISCONDUCT, WHILE SERIOUS, DOES NOT WARRANT REMOVING YOU FROM THE BENCH. IN ADDITION TO SERVING AS A FORM OF DISCIPLINE, THIS REPRIMAND ALLOWS THE COURT TO PUBLICLY REAFFIRM THE HIGH ETHICAL STANDARDS THAT BIND ALL MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY. WHEN WE BECOME JUDGES WE

VOLUNTARILY ACCEPT ETHICAL
CONSTRAINTS ON OUR BEHAVIOR
ESPECIALLY THE DUTY TO
SUBORDINATE OUR PRIVATE
INTERESTS AND CONCERNS TO OUR
OBLIGATIONS AS PUBLIC SERVANTS.
AT A VERY BASIC LEVEL WE NEED TO
BEHAVE IN A WAY THAT EARNS THE
TRUST OF THE PEOPLE OF FLORIDA,
THEY DESERVE REASONS TO HAVE
CONFIDENCE IN OUR JUDGMENT.
OTHERWISE WE JUDGES CANNOT
EFFECTIVELY FULFILL OUR
CONSTITUTIONAL ROLE.
JUDGE HOBBS, I HOPE OUR COURT
WILL NEVER AGAIN ENCOUNTER YOU
IN THESE UNHAPPY CIRCUMSTANCES.
THIS CONCLUDES YOUR PUBLIC
REPRIMAND AND YOU MAY LEAVE,
THANK YOU.
>> THANK YOU.