

>> GOOD MORNING.

>> GOOD MORNING, EVERYONE.

1234-5678910.

>> ORDER IN THE COURT.

THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA IS  
NOW IN SESSION.

THE HONORABLE CHIEF JUSTICE  
CHARLES CANNADY PRESIDING.

>> GOOD MORNING.

>> THE JUDICIAL REPRIMAND  
ARISING FROM AN INQUIRY  
CONCERNING CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE  
SCOTT CUPP.

YOU ARE CALLED BEFORE THE COURT  
BECAUSE OF THE CODE OF JUDICIAL  
CONDUCT.

THIS IS A DIFFICULT DAY FOR YOU,  
FOR US AND FOR THE STATE  
JUDICIARY.

WHENEVER A JUDGE VIOLATES THE  
REQUIREMENTS OF THE CODE DAMAGE  
IS DONE TO THE PUBLIC TRUST AND  
CONFIDENCE IN OUR STATE COURTS.  
I KNOW YOU RECOGNIZE THIS IS A  
SERIOUS MATTER.

AS JUDGES WE ENFORCE THE RULES  
OF THE LAW OF LITIGANTS WHO COME  
BEFORE US.

AS RULE ENFORCES WE MUST BE  
FOLLOWERS.

WHEN JUDGES FAIL TO FOLLOW THE  
ETHICAL RULES TO WHICH THEY ARE  
SUBJECT TO THE INTEGRITY OF OUR  
SYSTEM IS BROUGHT INTO QUESTION.  
THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR  
JUDICIARY RESTS ON THE TRUSTS  
AND CONFIDENCE OF THE PEOPLE  
CONFER UPON JUDGES.

ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT ROLL BACK THE  
CLOCK AND UNDO YOUR MISCONDUCT  
WE HAVE COMMANDED YOU TO APPEAR  
TODAY FOR PUBLIC RECOMMEND AS  
ONE WAY OF ADDRESSING YOUR  
VIOLATIONS OF THE CODE.

BY DOING SO WE ASSURE THE PUBLIC  
THAT WE TAKE MISCONDUCT BY A  
JUDGE SERIOUSLY AND WE WILL NOT  
HESITATE TO PUNISH ERRANT JUDGES  
IN A MOST PUBLIC WAY.

JUDGE CUPP, YOU PUBLICLY  
ACKNOWLEDGED YOUR MISCONDUCT AND  
YOU AGREE TO THIS PUBLIC  
REPRIMAND.

THE STIPULATION REACHED WITH THE JAKE YOU SEE YOU ADMITTED IN THE LEAD UP TO THE 2020 ELECTION FOR INDEPENDENT COUNTY COURT JUDGE YOU BEGAN CONTACTING INDIVIDUALS YOU KNOW THE COUNTY TO INFORM THEM YOU WERE SUPPORTING THE INCUMBENT JUDGE'S OPPONENT BECAUSE OF CONCERNS YOU HEARD ABOUT THE INCUMBENT.

YOUR PREFERENCE FOR THE INCUMBENT'S OPPONENT BECAME WIDELY KNOWN IN THE COMMUNITY. YOU ADMITTED YOU CONTACTED INFLUENTIAL MEMBERS OF THE HENRY COUNTY PROVINCE FOR THE INCUMBENT'S OPPONENT.

REQUESTED MEMBERS OF THE COURT FOR THE CANDIDATE YOU FAVORED. THIS CONTACT WAS INAPPROPRIATE AND VIOLATED CANDIDATES OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT ONE, 2 B, 7 A, ONE B.

IT DAMAGED THE INTEGRITY OF THE JUDICIARY I GRADING THE APPEARANCE YOU WERE INTERESTED IN A JUDICIAL ELECTION.

YOU VIOLATED CANON 7 AND CHAPTER 106 FLORIDA STATUTES DURING YOUR 2020 ELECTION SPECIFICALLY YOU FAILED TO OFFICIALLY DESIGNATE A CAMPAIGN ACCOUNT WITH THE DIVISION OF ELECTIONS PRIOR TO RECEIVING A PERMISSION ON FUNDS. THIS DID FURTHER DAMAGE TO THE PUBLIC'S PERCEPTION OF THE JUDICIARY.

TO YOUR CREDIT, JUDGE CUPP, WHEN PRESENTED WITH NOTICE OF INVESTIGATION YOU TOOK RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR CONDUCT, BOTH YOUR WRITTEN RESPONSE AND SWORN TESTIMONY FOR JAKE YOU SEE, ADMITTED YOUR CONDUCT WAS INAPPROPRIATE AND VIOLATED CANDIDATES ONE, 2 AND WE EXPRESS REQUEST -- REGRET YOUR ACTION DAMAGED THE PERCEPTION OF THE JUDICIARY.

CONSIDERING THIS MATTER THE COURT WAIVED THE FACT YOU HAVE NO PRIOR DISCIPLINE IMPOSED BY THE JAKE YOU SEE.

YOU'VE BEEN LICENSED TO PRACTICE

LAW FOR 34 YEARS AND HAD NO  
PRIOR DISCIPLINARY HISTORY WITH  
THE FLORIDA BAR.

THE JCL WAS PERSUADED YOU  
WILL NEVER AGAIN ENGAGE IN SUCH  
MISCONDUCT IS IN KEEPING WITH  
OUR OWN VIEW OF THE STIMULATION,  
FOR THE PUBLIC REPRIMAND.

THIS REPRIMAND LIKE EVERY  
REPRIMAND SHOULD SERVE AS A  
SOBER WARNING TO ANY JUDGE WHO  
DOES NOT TAKE SERIOUSLY THE  
OBLIGATIONS IMPOSED BY THE CODE.

JUDGE CUPP, FOR YOUR VIOLATION  
OF THE CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT  
YOUR PUBLICLY REPRIMANDED.

WE TRUST YOU WILL FOLLOW THE  
OBLIGATIONS IMPOSED ON YOU BY  
THE CODE FROM THIS DAY FORWARD.

'S CASE LAW ESTABLISHES, FUTURE  
MISCONDUCT WILL BE VIEWED FAR  
MORE HARSHLY.

THANK YOU, THAT CONCLUDES THIS  
REPRIMAND.

THE COURT WILL NOW PREPARE TO  
TAKE UP THE NEXT CASE ON OUR  
DOCKET.