

>> ALL RISE. HEAR YE HEAR YE HEAR YE..THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA IS NOW IN SESSION, LET ALL WHO HAVE CAUSE TO PLEA, DRAW NEAR. GIVE ATTENTION. 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

>> Chief Justice Carlos Muniz: GOOD MORNING AND WELCOME TO THE FLORIDA SUPREME COURT. OUR FIRST CASE TODAY IS INQUIRY CONCERNING JUDGE JOHN B. FLYNN. AND WE ARE HERE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF A PUBLIC REPRIMAND. JUDGE FLYNN YOU'RE HERE TODAY BECAUSE DURING YOUR 2022 CAMPAIGN FOR POLK COUNTY JUDGE YOU AND YOUR CAMPAIGN REPEATEDLY MADE STATEMENTS THAT INTENTIONALLY OR NOT SUGGESTED A BIAS IN FAVOR OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AND AGAINST PEOPLE ACCUSED OF CRIMES.

THIS SERIOUS MISCONDUCT YOU RISKED UNDERMINING PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN YOUR IMPARTIALITY AND IN THE OVERALL FAIRNESS OF OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.

TO ADDRESS THE HARM THAT YOUR COMPLAINT STATEMENTS CAUSED, YOUR CHIEF JUDGE FELT COMPELLED TO ENSURE THAT YOU WOULD NOT BE ASSIGNED TO A CRIMINAL DOCKET AT THE START OF YOUR TENURE ON THE BENCH.

TO YOUR CREDIT YOU HAVE ADMITTED YOUR MISTAKES AND ACKNOWLEDGED THAT YOU VIOLATED CANONS OF JUDICIAL ETHICS THAT REQUIRED JUDGES AND JUDICIAL CANDIDATES TO BE IMPARTIAL AND TO UPHOLD THE INTEGRITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY. ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION AND WITH YOUR AGREEMENT OF RECORD IN NOVEMBER APPROVED A PENALTY CONSISTING OF A 25 DAY SUSPENSION WITHOUT PAY.

AND WITH THE ADMINISTRATION OF THIS PUBLIC REPRIMAND.

A COURT ISSUES AND THE PUBLIC RECOMMENDS TO HIGHLIGHT AND UPHOLD THE PRINCIPLES EMBODIED IN THE CANONS OF JUDICIAL ETHICS.

ACKNOWLEDGE THE JUDICIARY'S ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE PUBLIC WE SERVE AND TO DETER JUDGES FROM ENGAGING IN CIVIL OR MISCONDUCT JUDGE FLYNN, WHILE YOUR ACCEPTANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY IS COMMENDABLE IT DOES NOT AUTOMATICALLY ERASE THE HARM THAT YOU'VE CAUSED WE URGE YOU TO CONTINUE TO WORK HARD TO EARN THE PUBLIC'S TRUST IN YOUR IMPARTIALITY AND INTEGRITY. AND GOING FORWARD WE INSIST THAT YOU SCRUPULOUSLY ADHERE TO ALL THE CANONS OF JUDICIAL ETHICS.

JUDGE YOUR PUBLIC REPRIMAND IS NOW CONCLUDED AND YOU'RE FREE TO LEAVE THANK YOU.