

>> Marshal: ALL RISE. HEAR YE HEAR YE HEAR YE..THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA IS NOW IN SESSION, 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 WE WILL BEGIN TODAY WITH THE PUBLIC REPRIMAND OF JUDGE STEFANIE MOON. GOOD MORNING.

JUDGE MOON AS YOU KNOW RESOLVE SEPARATE CASES FILED AGAINST YOU BY THE JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMITTEE YOU ADMITTED YOU VIOLATED THE CANONS OF THE CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT THROUGH THREE DISTINCT INSTANCES OF MISCONDUCT.

EARLIER THIS YEAR OUR COURT APPROVED THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATION THAT YOU WERE DISCIPLINED FOR THOSE VIOLATIONS CONSIST OF A FINE A 10 DAY SUSPENSION WITHOUT PAY AND THIS PUBLIC REPRIMAND.

YOUR MISCONDUCT WAS AS FOLLOWS.

FIRST, IN OPEN COURT FROM THE BENCH YOU ASKED AN ATTORNEY WHO WOULD JUST APPEARED BEFORE YOU WHY HE HAD NOT RETURNED YOUR CALL ASKING HIM TO SERVE ON YOUR REELECTION CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE.

THAT INTERACTION WAS OBVIOUSLY INAPPROPRIATE AND INHERENTLY COERCIVE TO THE ATTORNEY. SECOND, IN A DIFFERENT MATTER YOU ENGAGED IN EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS WITH A WITNESS A THERAPIST TO DISCUSS THE MENTAL CONDITION OF A PARTY IN THE CASE.

FINALLY IN VIOLATION OF CLEAR PROVISIONS OF THE CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT MADE FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO VARIOUS POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS AND CANDIDATES ON TOP OF ALL THAT THE JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION HAD ALREADY CAUTIONED YOU IN 2019 FOR IMPROPER CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES.

JUDGE MOON YOUR BEHAVIOR IN THESE INSTANCES IS UNACCEPTABLE. IN TWO OF THE INSTANCES YOU CAUSED HARM TO PERSONS WHO APPEARED BEFORE YOU DISCREDITED YOURSELF AND YOUR THOUGHTLESS ACTIONS HAVE RISKED UNDERMINING PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE JUDICIARY AS A WHOLE. JUDGE MOON WE HOPE NEVER TO SEE YOU AGAIN UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES LIKE THIS.

OUR DUTY TO THE PUBLIC AND TO THE JUDICIAL BRANCH WILL NOT ALLOW US TO TOLERATE ANY FURTHER MISCONDUCT BY YOU.

YOUR REPRIMAND IS CONCLUDED AND YOU MAY LEAVE THANK YOU.