

>> 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 WILL BE HEARD.

GOD SAVE THESE UNITED STATES, GREAT STATE OF FLORIDA AND THIS HONORABLE COURT.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE FLORIDA SUPREME COURT.

PLEASE BE SEATED.

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

OUR FIRST CASE TODAY WILL BE A JUDICIAL REPRIMAND OF JUDGE WOODY ROBERT CLERMONT, CASE

2025 - 1319.

JUDGE CLERMONT, WE ARE HERE TODAY BECAUSE YOU AND THE JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION HAVE AGREED

YOU'VE ENGAGED IN CERTAIN ACTIONS THAT VIOLATE THE CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT.

SPECIFICALLY APRIL 11, 2025,

YOU ACTED AS DEFENSE COUNSEL AT A FIRST APPEARANCE HEARING AFTER A FRIEND

HAD BEEN ARRESTED ON A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CHARGE.

YOU NEGOTIATED WITH THE PROSECUTOR HANDLING THE CASE,

YOU PROVIDED UNSUBPOENAED CHARACTER TESTIMONY

AND YOU ADVOCATED ON YOUR FRIENDS BEHALF.

WHILE THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE PRESIDING JUDGE OR PROSECUTOR WAS INFLUENCED BY YOUR

JUDICIAL STATUS, EACH WAS AWARE OF THAT STATUS AT THE TIME.

YOU'VE ACKNOWLEDGED THESE ACTIONS VIOLATED PROVISIONS OF THE CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT

THAT PROHIBIT JUDGES FROM PRACTICING LAW,

FROM

LENDING THE PRESTIGE OF THEIR JUDICIAL OFFICE TO ADVANCE ANOTHER'S PRIVATE INTEREST

AND FROM ENGAGING IN CONDUCT THAT CREATES AN APPEARANCE OF IMPROPRIETY.

JUDGE, YOUR ACTIONS SHOWED A REMARKABLE LACK IN JUDGMENT

AND RISK UNDERMINING PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE JUDICIARY OF OUR STATE.

WHILE OUR COURT AGREES WITH THE JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION THIS PUBLIC REPRIMAND IS SUFFICIENT DISCIPLINE,

THAT IS LARGELY BECAUSE OF YOUR REMORSE AND PROMPT ACCEPTANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY.

WE URGE YOU FROM NOW ON TO FAITHFULLY COMPLY WITH ALL THE ETHICAL OBLIGATIONS THAT BIND JUDGES IN FLORIDA.

THIS CONCLUDES YOUR PUBLIC REPRIMAND AND YOU ARE FREE TO LEAVE.

THANK YOU.