

State Commission on Judicial Conduct

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June 21, 2016

CONFIDENTIAL

George Donald Haslam, Jr.
Attorney at Law
3131 Mckinney Ave Ste 600
Dallas, TX 75204

Re: CJC No. 16-0211-DI

Dear Mr. Haslam, Jr.:

We appreciate the concerns raised in your complaint, including the allegation that the judge provided false testimony to the Commission in August of 2015. However, the Commission voted to dismiss your complaint as moot in light of the enclosed Resignation Agreement that was recently signed by the judge, which permanently disqualifies him from sitting or serving as a judge in the State of Texas.

We appreciate your concerns and your interest in assisting us in maintaining the high ethical standards of the Texas judiciary. Thank you for bringing these issues to our attention.

Sincerely,


Royce LeMoine
Senior Commission Counsel

RL/cg



**BEFORE THE
STATE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

**IN RE: HONORABLE ERIC CLIFFORD
6TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
LAMAR COUNTY AND RED RIVER COUNTY, TEXAS
CJC Nos. 14-1152-DI, 16-0211-DI, and 16-0232-DI**

**VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT TO RESIGN FROM
JUDICIAL OFFICE IN LIEU OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

This Agreement is being entered into by the undersigned parties pursuant to Section 33.032(h) of the Texas Government Code.

WHEREAS at all times relevant hereto, the Honorable Eric Clifford was Judge of the 6th Judicial District Court in Lamar County and Red River County, Texas, and

WHEREAS on August 29, 2014, a complaint was filed with the Commission alleging Judge Clifford exhibited a bias or prejudice against a criminal defendant, engaged in impermissible *ex parte* conversations, and made inappropriate comments during the criminal trial, and

WHEREAS on November 12, 2015, a complaint was filed with the Commission alleging the judge's testimony before the Commission on August 14, 2015 was not truthful, and

WHEREAS on November 19, 2015, a complaint was filed with the Commission alleging that in a divorce matter, Judge Clifford engaged in impermissible *ex parte* conversations with an attorney, denied a litigant his right to be heard, and exhibited a bias or prejudice towards a litigant, and

WHEREAS on or about March 23, 2016, Judge Clifford officially and formally resigned from office due to disability, but has agreed to forever be disqualified from judicial service in the State of Texas, including (a) sitting or serving as a judge, (b) standing for election or appointment to a judicial office, and/or (c) performing or exercising any judicial duties or functions of a judicial officer, including the performance of wedding ceremonies in lieu of discipline for the pending complaints.

WHEREAS no Findings of Fact or Conclusions of Law have been made in connection with the above-referenced matters, and

WHEREAS the parties agree that the allegations of judicial misconduct, if found to be true, could result in further disciplinary action against Judge Clifford, and

WHEREAS the parties to this Agreement are desirous of resolving these matters without the time and expense of further disciplinary proceedings.

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED that Judge Clifford, upon the signing of this Agreement, has officially and formally resigned his judicial duties, and is entering into this Agreement to resolve the above-referenced complaints in lieu of disciplinary action by the Commission, pursuant to Section 33.032(h) of the Texas Government Code. The Commission agrees that it shall pursue no further disciplinary proceedings against Judge Clifford in connection with the above-referenced matters.


IT IS FURTHER AGREED that, upon the Commission's approval of this Agreement, Judge Clifford shall be forever disqualified from judicial service in the State of Texas, including (a) sitting or serving as a judge, (b) standing for election or appointment to a judicial office, and/or (c) performing or exercising any judicial duties or functions of a judicial officer, including the performance of wedding ceremonies.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that any violation of this Agreement by Judge Clifford would constitute willful or persistent conduct that is clearly inconsistent with the proper performance of his duties or casts public discredit upon the judiciary or administration of justice in violation of Art. 5, §1-a(6)A of the Texas Constitution, and Section 33.001(b) of the Texas Government Code.


IT IS FURTHER AGREED that this agreement shall be made public as a voluntary agreement to resign from judicial office, pursuant to Section 33.032(h) of the Texas Government Code, and the Commission may enforce this Agreement through any legal process necessary, including injunctive relief; that Travis County, Texas, shall be the proper venue for any dispute between the parties or proceeding relating to this Agreement; and that Judge Clifford, individually, shall bear the expense, cost, and any reasonable and necessary attorneys' fees in the event any dispute arising under this Agreement is decided against him by any court or tribunal.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that Judge Clifford, by his execution of this voluntary agreement, does not admit guilt, fault or liability regarding the matters contained in the complaints referenced above.

AGREED TO AND ACCEPTED upon its execution by the parties.



ERIC CLIFFORD



HON. VALERIE ERTZ, CHAIR
STATE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL
CONDUCT

Date: May 19, 2016

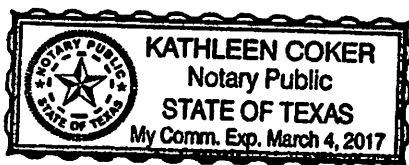
Date: _____

VERIFICATION

State of Texas §
County of Lamar §

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared **ERIC CLIFFORD**, who by me being first duly sworn, on his oath deposed and said that the above "Voluntary Agreement to Resign from Judicial Office in Lieu of Disciplinary Action" is a true and correct recitation of the facts and accurately reflects his understanding of the terms and conditions of, and voluntary consent to enter into, such Agreement.

SWORN TO BEFORE ME, on this the 19th day of May, 2016.



Kathleen Coker

NOTARY PUBLIC, IN AND FOR THE
STATE OF TEXAS