

>> PLEASE RISE.  
HEAR YE, HEAR YE, HEAR YE.  
THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA IS  
NOW IN SESSION.  
ALL YOU HAVE CAUSE TO PLEA DRAW  
NEAR, GIVE ATTENTION AND 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.  
>> WELCOME TO THE FLORIDA  
SUPREME COURT.  
THE FIRST CASE ON OUR DOCKET  
FOR THE DAY IS REPRIMAND OF  
JUDGE WILLIAM SINGBUSH.  
JUDGE SINGBUSH, PLEASE APPROACH  
THE PODIUM.  
JUDGE SINGBUSH, YOU STAND  
BEFORE US TODAY BECAUSE OF  
ETHICAL MISCONDUCT IN YOUR  
OFFICIAL ROLE AS A JUDGE.  
THIS IS A VERY, VERY SERIOUS  
MATTER.  
OUR COURTS EXIST TO THE PROTECT  
RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES, UPHOLD  
AND INTERPRET THE LAW AND  
PROVIDE FOR THE PEACEFUL  
RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES.  
THIS MISSION CAN BE CARRIED OUT  
ONLY WITH THE TRUST AND  
CONFIDENCE THAT THE PEOPLE  
CONFER UPON JUDGES.  
BY YOUR ACTIONS, YOU HAVE  
DAMAGED THAT TRUST AND  
CONFIDENCE.  
THIS IS A SAD DAY FOR YOU, FOR  
US, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY FOR  
THE ENTIRE STATE JUDICIARY.  
NONE OF US CAN UNDO WHAT YOU  
HAVE DONE BUT WE CAN MAKE CLEAR  
THE GRAVITY OF YOUR ETHICAL  
VIOLATIONS.  
IT IS FOR THAT REASON WE HAVE  
COMMANDED YOU TO APPEAR TODAY  
FOR A PUBLIC REPRIMAND THAT IS  
BEING BROADCAST THROUGHOUT THE  
STATE.  
IT IS ONE WAY WE CAN ASSURE THE  
PUBLIC THAT WE TAKE MISCONDUCT  
BY A JUDGE VERY SERIOUSLY.  
AND THAT WE WILL NOT HESITATE  
TO PUNISH ERRANT JUDGES IN A  
MOST PUBLIC WAY.  
JUDGE SINGBUSH, YOU ENTERED

INTO A STIPULATION WITH THE JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION ADMITTING THREE OF THE CHARGES AGAINST YOU. UNDER THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION THIS COURT HAS THE POWER AND RESPONSIBILITY TO REVIEW CASES OF JUDICIAL MISCONDUCT IN THEIR ENTIRETY AND TO ACCEPT, REJECT, OR MODIFY THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION. IN CASES WHERE A JUDGE ADMITS TO WRONGDOING AS YOU HAVE THIS COURT WILL ORDINARILY CONCLUDE THAT THE JQC FINDINGS ARE SUPPORTED BY CLEAR AND CONVINCING EVIDENCE. WE DID SO IN YOUR CASE AFTER THOROUGHLY CONSIDERING THE DETAILS OF YOUR ADMITTED MISCONDUCT. SPECIFICALLY, AS WE NOTED IN OUR OPINION YOU ADMITTED TO BEING HABITUALLY LATE FOR HEARINGS, FIRST APPEARANCES AND TRIALS. SINCE YOUR ELECTION TO THE BENCH IN 1991. FURTHER, YOU ADMITTED THAT YOU WERE OFTEN LATE BY MORE THAN 15 MINUTES AND YOU HAD NO GOOD CAUSE FOR BEING LATE MOST OF THE TIME. YOU ADMITTED THE CONSEQUENCES OF OUR TARDINESS, INCONVENIENCE, TO AND ECONOMIC BURDENS ON THE LITIGANTS WHO TURNED TO THE COURT FOR RELIEF, THEIR LAWYERS AND THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM AS A WHOLE. JUDGE SINGBUSH, YOU HAVE ALSO ADMITTED THAT IN ONE CASE YOU MADE A STATEMENT IN COURT INTRODUCING RELIGION OR RELIGIOUS BELIEFS INTO THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS. IN YOUR STIPULATION YOU ADMITTED THAT YOUR CONDUCT VIOLATED THREE CANNONS OF THE CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT. CANNON ONE, CANNON 3-B-4 AND CANNON 3-B-8. CANNON ONE EXPLAINS THE IMPORTANCE OF ETHICAL JUDICIAL CONDUCT BY NOTING INDEPENDENT AND HONORABLE JUDICIARY IS

INDISPENSABLE TO JUSTICE IN OUR SOCIETY.

CANNON ONE FURTHER PROVIDES A JUDGE MUST HOLD TO HIGH STANDARDS OF CONDUCT SO THAT THE INTEGRITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY MAY BE PRESERVED.

JUDGE SINGBUSH, THAT IS THE FIRST ETHICAL VIOLATION YOU HAVE ADMITTED TO AND THAT WE FIND YOU GUILTY OF.

WE CONCLUDED IN OUR OPINION, THE EVIDENCE ESTABLISHED THAT PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE INTEGRITY OF THE JUDICIARY WAS IMPAIRED BY JUDGE SINGBUSH'S UNEXCUSED HABITUAL TARDINESS AND INAPPROPRIATE STATEMENT REGARDING RELIGION.

CANNON 3-B-4 STATES IN PART A JUDGE MUST BE PATIENT, DIGNIFIED AND COURTEOUS TO LITIGANTS, JURORS, LAWYERS AND OTHERS WITH WHOM THE JUDGE DEALS IN AN OFFICIAL CAPACITY. JUDGE SINGBUSH, THAT IS THE SECOND VIOLATION YOU HAVE ADMITTED TO AND WE FIND YOU GUILTY OF.

AS WE CONCLUDED IN OUR OPINION THE EVIDENCE ESTABLISHED THAT JUDGE SINGBUSH WAS NOT COURTEOUS TO LITIGANTS, JURORS, WITNESS, AND LAWYERS DUE TO HIS HABITUAL TARDINESS WHICH INCONVENIENCED AND ECONOMICALLY BURDENED LAWYERS AND LITIGANTS.

CANNON 3-B-A STATES IN PART THAT JUDGES SHALL DISPOSE OF ALL JUDICIAL MATTERS PROMPTLY, EFFICIENTLY AND FAIRLY.

JUDGE SINGBUSH, THIS IS THE THIRD VIOLATION YOU HAVE ADMITTED TO AND THAT WE FIND YOU GUILTY OF.

AS WE NOTED IN OUR OPINION, HE WAS HABITUALLY TARDY, OFTEN MORE THAN 15 MINUTES AND WITHOUT GOOD CAUSE.

HIS BEHAVIOR INCONVENIENCED AND ECONOMICALLY BURDENED LAWYERS AND LITIGANTS ALIKE.

AS PART OF YOUR STIPULATION, JUDGE SINGBUSH, YOU AGREED THIS PROCEEDING COULD BE REOPENED IF FUTURE COMPLAINTS OF TARDINESS

OR INAPPROPRIATE RELIGIOUS  
STATEMENTS WERE MADE AGAINST  
YOU TO THE JQC.

YOU ALSO STIPULATED THAT YOU  
HAVE PROVIDED TO THE JQC WEEKLY  
LOGS DEMONSTRATING YOUR  
TIMELINESS AT COURT  
PROCEEDINGS.

FINALLY, JUDGE SINGBUSH, YOU  
AND THE JQC AGREED AT PUBLIC  
REPRIMAND WAS JUSTIFIED.  
THEY ALSO AGREED YOU WOULD  
WRITE A LETTER OF APOLOGY TO  
THE JUDGES, LEGAL COMMUNITY AND  
DEMONSTRATE LOGS DEMONSTRATE  
TARDINESS FOR A YEAR.  
YOU ACCEPTED FULL  
RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR  
ACTIONS.

IN LIGHT OF THAT, WE HAVE  
AGREED WITH THE JQC THAT THE  
INTERESTS OF, JUDGE AND SOUND  
JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION WILL BE  
SERVED BY THIS PUBLIC  
REPRIMAND.

YOUR LETTER OF APOLOGY AND YOUR  
WEEKLY LOG SUBMISSIONS.

IN CONCLUSION YOU'RE HEREBY  
PUBLICLY REPRIMANDED FOR YOUR  
MISCONDUCT.

YOU'RE FREE TO LEAVE.

>> THANK YOU, MR. CHIEF  
JUSTICE.