

>> SHALL BE HEARD.
GOD SAVE THESE UNITED STATES,
THE GREAT STATE OF FLORIDA, THIS
HONORABLE COURT.
>> LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE
SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA.
PLEASE BE SEATED.
>> GOOD MORNING.
WELCOME TO THE FLORIDA
SUPREME COURT.
THE FIRST CASE ON THE DOCKET
TODAY IS THE REPRIMAND OF JUDGE
DEBRA KRAUSE.
JUDGE KRAUSE, YOU ARE BEFORE THE
COURT TODAY IN SUPREME COURT
COURT CASE NUMBER 13-2263
BECAUSE OF CONDUCT THAT VIOLATES
FLORIDA'S CODE OF JUDICIAL
CONDUCT.
AND I MUST SAY HOW SAD A DAY
THIS IS FOR YOU, A SAD DAY FOR
US AND FOR THE ENTIRE STATE
JUDICIARY.
AND THE MOST-- AT THE MOST
FUNDAMENTAL LEVEL, YOU HAVE
DAMAGED THE PUBLIC'S TRUST AND
CONFIDENCE IN OUR STATE COURTS.
THIS IS A VERY SERIOUS MATTER.
THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR
JUDICIARY ULTIMATELY RESTS ON
THE TRUST AND CONFIDENCE THAT
THE PEOPLE CONFER UPON JUDGES.
THIS TRUST AND CONFIDENCE IS THE
VERY FOUNDATION OF A JUDICIAL
INDEPENDENCE THAT IS OF CRITICAL
IMPORTANCE TO THE AMERICAN
SYSTEM OF SEPARATION OF POWERS.
JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE, IN TURN,
IS TO GUARANTEE THAT OUR
FOUNDING FATHERS PLACED IN THE
CONSTITUTION TO INSURE THAT
PERSONAL LIBERTIES, RIGHTS AND
EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER LAW WOULD
FOREVER REMAIN AVAILABLE TO OUR
NATION'S POSTERITY.
THAT IS WHY WE'RE HERE, WE ARE
HERE TODAY IN THIS COURTROOM, TO
CALL PUBLIC ATTENTION TO YOUR
ERRORS AND TO LET YOU AND
EVERYONE ELSE KNOW THAT THIS

MISCONDUCT IS UP ACCEPTABLE--
UNACCEPTABLE AND WILL NOT BE
TOLERATED.

THOUGH NONE OF US CAN UNDO WHAT
YOU HAVE DONE, WE HAVE COMMANDED
YOU TO APPEAR TODAY FOR A
REPRIMAND THAT IS BEING
BROADCAST THROUGHOUT THE STATE.
IT IS ONE WAY WE CAN INSURE THE
PUBLIC THAT WE TAKE
ETHICAL MISCONDUCT BY A JUDGE
VERY SERIOUSLY AND THAT WE WILL
NOT HESITATE TO PUNISH ERRANT
JUDGES IN A MOST PUBLIC WAY.
YOU HAVE BEEN FOUND GUILTY OF
VIOLATING CAN KNOPPS 1, 6B, 7A
SUB 1 AND 7B SUB 3 OF THE
FLORIDA CODE OF JUDICIAL
CONDUCT.

IN YOUR STIPULATION WITH THE
FLORIDA JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS
COMMISSION, YOU HAVE ADMITTED TO
THIS MISCONDUCT AND HAVE AGREED
TO A PUNISHMENT CONSISTING OF
THIS REPRIMAND AND A PAYMENT OF
A FINE OF \$25,000.

THIS MISCONDUCT IN QUESTION
AROSE FROM CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES
WHEN YOU WERE RUNNING FOR
ELECTION AS A STATE JUDGE.
YOU HAVE ADMITTED THAT YOU
PURCHASED A TABLE AT A
FUNDRAISING EVENT HELD BY A
POLITICAL PARTY WHICH WAS
CONTRARY TO THE STRICTLY
NONPARTISAN NATURE OF JUDICIAL
ELECTIONS IN FLORIDA.
SPECIFICALLY, THIS CONDUCT
CONTRAVENES SECTION 106.143 OF
THE FLORIDA STATUTES AND ALSO
CANON 7 OF THE CODE OF JUDICIAL
CONDUCT.

YOU FURTHER HAVE ADMITTED THAT
SOME OF YOUR EARLY CAMPAIGN
MATERIALS FAILED TO CONTAIN
LANGUAGE REQUIRED OF
NONINCUMBENT CANDIDATES.
THIS MISCONDUCT WAS A VIOLATION
OF SECTION 106.000 OF THE
FLORIDA STATUTES.

YOU ALSO HAVE ADMITTED TO ACCEPTING FUNDS FROM YOUR HUSBAND FOR YOUR CAMPAIGN IN EXCESS OF THE \$500 LIMIT IMPOSED BY CAMPAIGN LAW.

THIS SECTION, IN THIS TOO VIOLATED SECTION 106.000 OF THE FLORIDA STATUTES.

TO YOUR CREDIT, THE JUDICIAL COMMISSION FOUND THAT YOU ACKNOWLEDGED YOUR MISCONDUCT AND ACCEPTED FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR IT.

THE JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION ALSO NOTED THAT YOU WERE COOPERATIVE, RESPONSIVE AND FORTHRIGHT DURING ITS INVESTIGATION INTO YOUR MISCONDUCT.

THE COURT HAS ACCEPTED YOUR STIPULATION IN THIS CASE.

AS A RESULT, WE HAVE ORDERED THAT YOU PAY A FINE OF \$25,000 AND TO RECEIVE THIS PUBLIC REPRIMAND IN THIS CASE.

I MUST ALSO MENTION THAT IN A SEPARATE CASE DECIDED THIS YEAR, SUPREME COURT CASE NUMBER 14-1812, YOU ALSO STIPULATED TO GUILT FOR IMPROPER INVOLVEMENT IN YOUR HUSBAND'S JUDICIAL CAMPAIGN.

THIS COURT ALREADY HAS ACCEPTED YOUR AGREEMENT TO SEPARATE PUNISHMENT IN THAT CASE CONSISTING OF A 30-DAY SUSPENSION WITHOUT PAY.

WITH ALL OF THAT IN MIND, I STRONGLY CAUTION YOU TO REVIEW THE CASE LAW RELATED TO JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE FOR ETHICAL MISCONDUCT IN FLORIDA.

YOUR OBLIGATION NOW AND HENCE FORWARD IS TO SEE THAT YOU NEVER AGAIN COMMIT AN ETHICAL VIOLATION THAT REQUIRES THIS COURT TO DISCIPLINE YOU.

AS OUR PRIOR CASES HAVE CONSISTENTLY HELD, ADDITIONAL VIOLATIONS BY YOU WILL BE VIEWED

FAR MORE HARSHLY THAN THE ONES
AT ISSUE HERE TODAY.
GOVERN YOURSELF ACCORDINGLY.
YOUR REPRIMAND IS CONCLUDED, AND
YOU'RE FREE TO LEAVE.
OKAY.