

>> 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.  
>> GOOD MORNING.  
WELCOME TO THE FLORIDA SUPREME  
COURT.  
THE FIRST CASE ON THE DOCKET IS  
THE REPRIMAND OF JUDGE VICTORIA  
L. GRIFFIN.  
JUDGE GRIFFIN, IF YOU WOULD STEP  
UP TO THE PODIUM, PLEASE.  
JUDGE GRIFFIN, YOUR APPEARANCE  
BEFORE THE COURT TODAY MARKS A  
SAD OCCASION, SAD FOR YOU, SAD  
FOR US, BUT SADDEST OF ALL FOR  
THE PUBLIC WE SERVE.  
THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR  
JUDICIARY ULTIMATELY RESTS ON  
THE TRUST AND CONFIDENCE REPOSED  
IN JUDGES BY THE PEOPLE.  
YOU ARE HERE TODAY AS A RESULT  
OF ETHICAL FAILURES THAT HAVE  
DAMAGED THIS PUBLIC TRUST AND  
CONFIDENCE.  
NO ONE CAN UNDO WHAT YOU HAVE  
DONE, BUT WE HAVE COMMANDED YOU  
TO APPEAR BEFORE US TO BE  
PUBLICLY REPRIMANDED ON LIVE  
TELEVISION BROADCAST THROUGHOUT  
THE STATE.  
THIS IS NOT A TASK THAT WE  
ENJOY.  
IT IS NOT A TASK THAT I ENJOY.  
CERTAINLY, IT IS ONE THAT WE AS  
A COURT REGARD AS VITALLY  
NECESSARY.  
IT IS ONE, IT IS ONE WAY WE CAN  
AT LEAST ASSURE THE PUBLIC THAT  
WE TAKE THIS MATTER VERY, VERY  
SERIOUSLY.  
WE WILL NOT HESITATE TO PUNISH  
JUDGES SUCH AS YOU IN A MOST  
PUBLIC WAY OVER MISCONDUCT SUCH  
AS THIS.  
YOU HAVE BEEN FOUND GUILTY OF

VIOLATING CANONS 1, 2 AND 7 OF  
THE CALL OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT  
ARISING FROM EVENTS AT THE  
INCEPTION OF YOUR CAMPAIGN FOR  
ELECTION AS JUDGE WHEN YOU  
OPENED YOUR CAMPAIGN ACCOUNT.  
YOU LOANED MONEY TO THAT ACCOUNT  
CONTRARY TO FLORIDA LAW.  
UNDER THE STIPULATION WITH  
JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS  
COMMISSION, YOU AGREED AND  
ADMITTED THAT THE LOAN WAS  
UNLAWFUL UNDER PORTIONS OF  
CHAPTER 106 OF FLORIDA STATUTES.  
SPECIFICALLY, AT THE TIME IN  
QUESTION YOU HAD FAILED TO FILE  
THE NECESSARY QUALIFYING  
PAPERWORK WITH THE QUALIFYING  
OFFICER AS REGARDED BY LAW.  
TO YOUR CREDIT, YOU ALSO HAVE  
ACKNOWLEDGED IN YOUR STIPULATION  
WITH THE JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS  
COMMISSION THAT THIS MISCONDUCT  
NEVER SHOULD HAVE OCCURRED AND  
THAT YOU HAVE ACCEPTED FULL  
RESPONSIBILITY FOR IT.  
JUDGE GRIFFIN, YOU AS A JUDGE  
HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO THE  
PEOPLE OF FLORIDA AND TO YOUR  
FELLOW JUDGES TO CONDUCT  
YOURSELF IN A MANNER THAT  
ENCOURAGES CONFIDENCE AND  
RESPECT IN THE LEGAL SYSTEM.  
THIS COURT IS STEADFASTLY  
COMMITTED TO MAINTAINING AND  
INCREASING PUBLIC TRUST AND  
CONFIDENCE IN THE JUDICIARY.  
WE WILL NOT TOLERATE ACTS OF  
JUDICIAL CONDUCT THAT ERODE THAT  
TRUST.  
IF THE PEOPLE WHO ARE SERVED BY  
THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM DO NOT HAVE  
CONFIDENCE IN AND RESPECT FOR  
THE JUDGES, THEN THE PEOPLE WILL  
NOT CAN CONFIDENCE IN AND  
RESPECT FOR THE JUDGMENT OF THE  
COURTS AND THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM.  
YOUR FAILURE TO ADHERE TO  
FLORIDA LAW AND YOUR ELECTION  
CAMPAIGN UNDERMINES PUBLIC TRUST  
AND CONFIDENCE IN OUR JUDICIAL  
SYSTEM.  
FINALLY, JUDGE GRIFFIN, WE  
ENCOURAGE YOU TO REVIEW THE  
PRIOR DISCIPLINARY CASES THIS

COURT FROM TIME TO TIME HAS BEEN  
REQUIRED TO ADDRESS.

YOU WILL FIND IN THESE CASES  
THAT WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY UPHELD  
THAT A SINGLE BREACH OF ETHICS  
COMPARABLE TO YOUR OWN MAY  
ITSELF ONLY BE WORTHY OF A  
PUBLIC REPRIMAND.

BY OUR ACTIONS HERE TODAY, WE  
ADMONISH YOU TO CORRECT YOU  
WHATEVER MAY HAVE CAUSED YOU TO  
COMMIT THIS SINGLE BREACH, BUT  
WE ADVISE YOU TO REMEMBER WHAT  
OUR PRIOR CASES HAVE  
CONSISTENTLY HELD, A SECOND  
ETHICAL BREACH BY A JUDGE WILL  
BE VIEWED FAR MORE HARSHLY.  
YOUR PUBLIC REPRIMAND IS  
CONCLUDED, AND YOU MAY LEAVE.  
OKAY.