



NEW YORK STATE
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

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61 BROADWAY, SUITE 1200
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10006

646-386-4800 518-299-1757
TELEPHONE FACSIMILE
www.cjc.ny.gov

ROBERT H. TEMBECKJIAN
ADMINISTRATOR & COUNSEL

CONFIDENTIAL

August 5, 2021

Via Email: [REDACTED] and
UPS: Tracking #1ZV57A912494345431

Honorable Walter W. Jones
Canandaigua Town Justice
c/o Richard C. Roxin, Esq.
The Law Office of Richard C. Roxin PLLC
70 South Main Street, Suite 260
Canandaigua, New York 14424

LETTER OF DISMISSAL AND CAUTION

Dear Judge Jones:

The Commission on Judicial Conduct has completed its investigation of a complaint alleging that in *People v D [REDACTED] S [REDACTED]*, you (1) engaged in *ex parte* communications with the complaining witness, and (2) failed to comply with COVID-19 safety protocols set forth by state officials. After considering your response to the allegations, the Commission has determined not to institute formal charges.

In accordance with Section 7000.3(c) of the Commission's Operating Procedures and Rules, the Commission has dismissed the complaint with this letter of dismissal and caution.

Honorable Walter W. Jones

August 5, 2021

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You are cautioned to adhere to Section 100.1 of the Rules Governing Judicial Conduct (“Rules”), which requires a judge to observe high standards of conduct so that the integrity and independence of the judiciary will be preserved; Section 100.2(A) of the Rules, which requires a judge to respect and comply with the law and to act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary; and Section 100.3(B)(6) of the Rules, which requires a judge to accord to every person who has a legal interest in a proceeding, or that person’s lawyer, the right to be heard according to law and prohibits a judge from initiating, permitting or considering unauthorized *ex parte* communications in a pending or impending proceeding.

You did not comply with those standards when you directed the court clerk to contact a complaining witness in a pending matter, to obtain a restitution amount. Such a substantive conversation was inconsistent with the above-cited rules, which prohibit a judge from initiating or participating in an unauthorized *ex parte* communication.

The allegation that you did not comply with state or court-system mandated Covid protocols was not substantiated.

In concluding this matter with a confidential caution rather than formal charges, the Commission notes that you were cooperative and readily acknowledged the impropriety in your conduct, and that you committed not to repeat such conduct.

In accordance with the Commission’s policy, you may either accept this letter of dismissal and caution or request a formal disciplinary hearing. If you choose to accept this letter of dismissal and caution, no further action will be taken. If you request a hearing, the Commission may authorize a Formal Written Complaint against you pursuant to Judiciary Law Section 44, subdivision 4, and designate a referee to hear and report findings of fact and conclusions of law. If a hearing is held, the Commission may then decide to dismiss the Complaint, issue a letter of caution to you, or file a determination pursuant to Judiciary Law Section 44, subdivision 7, that you be publicly admonished, publicly censured, or removed from office.

The letter of dismissal and caution is a confidential disposition of the current complaint but may be used in a future disciplinary proceeding pursuant to

Honorable Walter W. Jones

August 5, 2021

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Section 7000.4 of the Commission's Operating Procedures and Rules (22 NYCRR §7000.4).

Please have your attorney send to the Commission, no later than 10 days after his receipt of this letter, your signed acknowledgment that you received this letter of dismissal and caution.

Please advise the Commission in writing no later than 10 days after your attorney's receipt of this letter if you choose not to accept this letter of dismissal and caution and wish to have a hearing on formal charges. If we do not hear from you requesting a formal hearing within 10 days, the letter shall be final.

The Commission's rules and policies are available on our website:
<http://cjc.ny.gov/Legal.Authorities/legal.authorities.htm>.

Very truly yours,

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

By: 

Joseph W. Belluck, Esq.
Chair

Re: File No. 2020/R-0302

The Law Office of Richard C. Roxin PLLC
70 South Main Street
Suite 260
Canandaigua, NY 14424

(585) 842-5677

Sent via US mail and via email to [REDACTED]

August 6, 2021

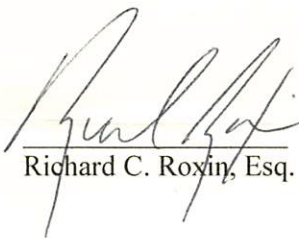
New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct
Attention: Hon. Joseph Belluck
61 Broadway
Suite 1200
New York, NY 10006

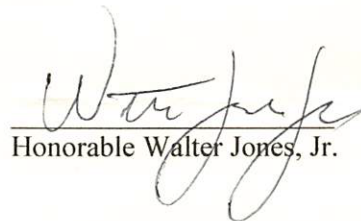
Re: Matter of the Honorable Walter Jones, Jr./File No. 2020/R-0302

Dear Judge Belluck,

This letter acknowledges receipt by Judge Jones and myself of the letter of dismissal and caution issued by the Commission on Judicial Conduct on August 5, 2021. Judge Jones accepts the Commission's findings.

Respectfully,


Richard C. Roxin, Esq.


Honorable Walter Jones, Jr.

RECEIVED

AUG - 9 2021

NYS COMMISSION ON
JUDICIAL CONDUCT NYC



NEW YORK STATE
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

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ROBERT H. TEMBECKJIAN
ADMINISTRATOR & COUNSEL

CONFIDENTIAL

March 14, 2024

Via Certified Priority Mail Tracking#: 9402809105156066183741

Via Email: [REDACTED]

Honorable Walter W. Jones
Justice of the Canandaigua Town Court
Canandaigua Town Court
5440 Routes 5 & 20 West
Canandaigua, New York 14424

LETTER OF DISMISSAL AND CAUTION

Dear Judge Jones:

The Commission on Judicial Conduct has completed its investigation of a complaint alleging that the examination of your court accounts by the New York State Unified Court System Internal Audit Services for the audit period from March 1, 2021, through August 31, 2021, revealed your neglect of certain administrative and adjudicative responsibilities, resulting in an unexplained surplus of \$18,614 in fines and fees. Upon considering the results of the investigation, including your response to the allegations, the Commission has determined not to institute formal charges.

In accordance with Section 7000.3(c) of the Commission's Operating Procedures and Rules, the Commission has dismissed the complaint with this letter of dismissal and caution.

*Honorable Walter W. Jones**March 14, 2024**Page 2*

You are cautioned to adhere to Section 100.1 of the Rules Governing Judicial Conduct (“Rules”), which requires a judge to observe high standards of conduct so that the integrity and independence of the judiciary will be preserved; Section 100.2(A) of the Rules, which requires a judge to respect and comply with the law and to act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary; and Sections 100.3(B)(1) and 100.3(C)(1) of the Rules, which require a judge to be faithful to and professionally competent in the law, and to discharge judicial and administrative responsibilities diligently.

Your acknowledged administrative inefficiencies and adjudicative tardiness was inconsistent with the above-cited mandates and *inter alia* resulted in the accumulation of more than of \$18,000 in court funds that were not remitted to the Town of Canandaigua or reported to the Justice Court Fund in a timely manner as required by Section 10 of the Town Law and Section 1803 of the Uniform Justice Court Act. In cautioning rather than charging you with misconduct, the Commission took into account that no court funds were missing, and that you took remedial action to improve the management of the court’s finances as a result of the audit and the Commission’s inquiry.

In accordance with the Commission’s policy, you may either accept this letter of dismissal and caution or request a formal disciplinary hearing. If you choose to accept this letter of dismissal and caution, no further action will be taken. If you request a hearing, the Commission may authorize a Formal Written Complaint against you pursuant to Judiciary Law Section 44, subdivision 4, and designate a referee to hear and report findings of fact and conclusions of law. If a hearing is held, the Commission may then decide to dismiss the Complaint, issue a letter of caution to you, or file a determination pursuant to Judiciary Law Section 44, subdivision 7, that you be publicly admonished, publicly censured, or removed from office.

The letter of dismissal and caution is a confidential disposition of the current complaint but may be used in a future disciplinary proceeding pursuant to Section 7000.4 of the Commission’s Operating Procedures and Rules (22 NYCRR §7000.4).

Honorable Walter W. Jones

March 14, 2024

Page 3

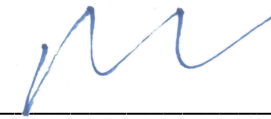
Please advise the Commission in writing no later than 10 days after your receipt of this letter if you choose not to accept this letter of dismissal and caution and wish to have a hearing on formal charges. If we do not hear from you requesting a formal hearing within 10 days, the letter shall be final.

The Commission's rules and policies are available on our website:
<http://cjc.ny.gov/Legal.Authorities/legal.authorities.htm>.

Very truly yours,

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

By: _____



Joseph W. Belluck, Esq.
Chair

Re: File No. 2020/R-0090