

ADMINISTRATOR'S COMPLAINT

In the Matter of: **William A. Wetzel**
 Judge of the Court of Claims
 Acting Justice of the Supreme Court
 New York County

Complaint # 2005/N-522

Statutory Authorization

This complaint is filed at the direction of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct in compliance with Section 44, subdivision 2, of the Judiciary Law and is intended to serve as the basis for an investigation. In accordance with Section 44, subdivision 3, in the event that the above-named judge is required to appear before the Commission or any of its members or staff, this complaint will be served at the time the judge is notified in writing of the required appearance.

This complaint is not an accusatory instrument. It provides a basis to commence an investigation. Thus, a judge under investigation may be required to reply to other allegations in addition to those set forth below.

Complaint

It is alleged that prior to the September 2005 primary for the Democratic nomination for District Attorney of New York County, in which Leslie Crocker Snyder opposed the incumbent, Robert M. Morgenthau, Judge Wetzel:

told numerous Assistant District Attorneys and others that they should support Snyder in her campaign against Morgenthau;

said that he would be Chief Assistant District Attorney if Snyder were elected;

said that bureau chiefs were not adequately training young ADAs and were leaving them "out to dry," and that training programs for young ADAs would improve if Snyder were elected;

said that when he became Chief Assistant to Snyder, many current senior ADAs would be fired because they were "sucking the budget";

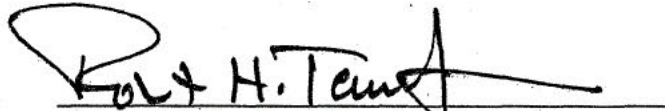
denigrated a particular bureau chief, [REDACTED], in words or substance, as having no social skills, being out of touch with reality, impossible to talk to and mired in the past;

personally handed out to lawyers, reporters and others, copies of an opinion by Acting Supreme Court Justice Michael Ambrecht that sharply criticized Morgenthau's office in a case involving Snyder and the law firm she joined after leaving the bench; and

communicated with Judge Ambrecht before that decision was rendered and directly or indirectly encouraged Ambrecht to be critical of Morgenthau's office, for the presumed benefit of the Snyder campaign.

New York, New York

Date Signed: October 3, 2005



Robert H. Tembeckjian, Administrator

Authorized on September 30, 2005