



**BEFORE THE STATE COMMISSION
ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

CJC Nos. 18-0038

PUBLIC REPRIMAND

**HONORABLE MARK RILEY
FORMER COUNTY JUDGE
PARKER COUNTY, TEXAS**

During its meeting on February 6-7, 2019, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct concluded a review of the allegations against the Honorable Mark Riley, former County Judge of Parker County, Texas. Judge Riley was advised by letter of the allegations and given an opportunity to respond to Commission's concerns, but failed to provide a written response to the allegations. After considering the evidence before it, the Commission entered the following Findings and Conclusion:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. At all times relevant hereto, the Honorable Mark Riley was the County Judge of Parker County, Texas.
2. The Commission received a confidential complaint alleging that Judge Riley hired a woman with whom he was engaged in a sexual relationship ("Jane Doe")¹ over more qualified applicants in a "quid pro quo arrangement."
3. The confidential complaint alleged that Jane Doe received preferential treatment during her employment as a result of her relationship with the judge in the form of unmerited raises and promotions.
4. The Commission's review of Jane Doe's employment records supports Complainant's allegations.
5. On December 19, 2017, an article appeared on the website of the Weatherford Democrat regarding Complainant's allegations against Judge Riley. The article cites seven current

¹ The Commission refers to this woman anonymously to protect her privacy.

and former Parker County employees who confirmed that Judge Riley was engaged in a sexual relationship with Jane Doe, and that “he treated her preferentially” from the time she was hired.

6. During its investigation, Commission Staff spoke to a number of Parker County employees who confirmed Complainant’s allegations against Judge Riley.
7. Per its usual practice, Commission staff sent Judge Riley a set of written inquiries regarding this matter. Despite numerous opportunities to do so, Judge Riley has never responded to those inquiries.

RELEVANT STANDARDS

1. Article V, §1-a(6)A of the Texas Constitution provides, in relevant part, that a judge shall not engage in “willful or persistent conduct that is clearly inconsistent with the proper performance of his duties or casts public discredit upon the judiciary or administration of justice.”
2. Texas Government Code Section 33.001(b)(5) defines “wilful or persistent conduct that is clearly inconsistent with the proper performance of a judge’s duties” to include “failure to cooperate with the commission.”

CONCLUSION


The Commission concludes from the facts and evidence presented that by engaging in a sexual relationship with his employee, and affording her preferential treatment in the form of raises and promotions as a result of this relationship, Judge Riley engaged in willful and persistent conduct that cast public discredit on the judiciary in violation of Article V, §1-a(6)A of the Texas Constitution.

In view of the conduct described above that violated Article V, §1-a(6)A of the Texas Constitution, it is the Commission’s decision to issue a **PUBLIC REPRIMAND** to the Honorable Mark Riley, former Parker County Judge, Weatherford, Parker County, Texas. The Commission finds that Judge Riley’s failure to cooperate with its investigation is an enhancing factor in making this determination.

Pursuant to the authority contained in Article V, §1-a (8) of the Texas Constitution, it is ordered that the actions described above be made the subject of a **PUBLIC REPRIMAND**.

The Commission has taken this action in a continuing effort to protect public confidence in the judicial system and to assist the state’s judiciary in its efforts to embody the principles and values set forth in the Texas Constitution and the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct.

Issued this the 20th day of February, 2019.



Honorable Catherine Wylie, Chair
State Commission on Judicial Conduct