



**BEFORE THE STATE COMMISSION  
ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

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**CJC No. 20-0611**

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**PUBLIC ADMONITION**

**HONORABLE KRYSTAL STAROWITZ  
FORMER MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE  
PROGRESO, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS**

During its meeting on October 26-29, 2021, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct concluded a review of the allegations against the Honorable Krystal Starowitz, Former Judge of the Progreso Municipal Court, Progreso, Hidalgo County, Texas. Judge Starowitz was advised by letter of the Commission's concerns and provided a written response. After considering the evidence before it, the Commission enters the following findings of fact and conclusions:

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. At all times relevant hereto, the Honorable Krystal Starowitz, was Judge of the Progreso Municipal Court, Progreso, Hidalgo County, Texas.
2. After a call from the public, on November 1, 2019, Mission, Texas Police found Judge Starowitz sitting in a car in a convenience store parking lot. Judge Starowitz told the police officer she was a lawyer and a judge and was on her way to Houston, Texas for a mediation.
3. Judge Starowitz admitted she had been using "whippets" (nitrous oxide cartridges) and produced several to the officer.
4. Upon searching Judge Starowitz's automobile, officers recovered multiple nitrous oxide cartridges and a burned marijuana cigar. Judge Starowitz was arrested at the scene and taken into custody.
5. Judge Starowitz was charged with a Class B misdemeanor, use of an abusable volatile chemical, related to the nitrous oxide cartridges.
6. In her criminal case, Judge Starowitz agreed to a formal, two-year Pre-Trial Diversion Program supervised by the Hidalgo County Community Supervision & Corrections

Department. Judge Starowitz successfully completed the program, and the criminal case was dismissed.

7. Judge Starowitz resigned as judge of the Progreso Municipal Court in October 2019.
8. The judge's arrest and prosecution were the subject of local news coverage.

### **RELEVANT STANDARDS**


1. Canon 2A of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct states, "A judge shall comply with the law and should act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary."
2. Article V, Section 1-a(6)A of the Texas Constitution provides, in relevant part, that a judge shall not engage in "willful or persistent conduct that...casts public discredit upon the judiciary..."

### **CONCLUSION**

Based on the record before it and the factual findings recited above, the Texas State Commission on Judicial Conduct has determined that the Honorable Krystal Starowitz, Former Judge of the Progreso Municipal Court, Progreso, Hidalgo County, Texas should be publicly admonished for her conduct on November 1, 2019, which led to her arrest and criminal charges of use of an abusable volatile chemical, as such conduct demonstrated a failure to comply with the law and constituted willful conduct that cast public discredit upon the judiciary in violation of Article V, Section 1-a(6) of the Texas Constitution.

The Commission has taken this action pursuant to the authority conferred it in Article V, §1-a of the Texas Constitution in a continuing effort to protect the public and promote public confidence in the judicial system.

Issued this the 8 day of December, 2021.

  
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David Schenck  
Chair, State Commission on Judicial Conduct