



BEFORE THE STATE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

CJC No. 06-0338-MU

PUBLIC REPRIMAND

**HONORABLE TIFFANY L. LEWIS
FORMER MUNICIPAL JUDGE
DALLAS, DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS**

During its meeting on August 10, 2006, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct concluded a review of the allegations against the Honorable Tiffany L. Lewis, former Municipal Court Judge for the City of Dallas, Dallas County, Texas. Judge Lewis was advised by letter of the Commission's concerns, but failed to respond. Judge Lewis was offered an opportunity to appear before the Commission and give testimony at the August 10, 2006 meeting, but failed to respond or appear. After considering the evidence before it, the Commission entered the following Findings and Conclusions.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. At all times relevant hereto, the Honorable Tiffany L. Lewis was a Municipal Court Judge for the City of Dallas, Dallas County, Texas.
2. On or about December 12, 2005, the Court of Criminal Appeals reported that Judge Lewis failed to obtain the required judicial education for fiscal year 2005 (September 1, 2004 through August 31, 2005).
3. On or about February 2, 2006, the Commission received the affidavit of Hope Lochridge, Executive Director for the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center (TMCEC), in which she stated that during fiscal year 2005, Judge Lewis completed 0 hours out of the 12 hours of judicial education required of a municipal court judge. Judge Lewis did not request, nor was she granted a waiver from this requirement.

4. On or about February 28, 2006, Judge Lewis was asked to respond to the allegation that she had failed to obtain the required judicial education for fiscal year 2005. Judge Lewis failed to respond to the Commission's inquiry.
5. Judge Lewis' term of office expired on May 31, 2006. She was not reappointed for another term.
6. On or about June 16, 2006, the Commission determined that as a former judge, Judge Lewis was no longer eligible to obtain judicial education through the TMCEC, making it virtually impossible for her to comply with the requirements set forth in the Texas Rules of Judicial Education.
7. On or about June 27, 2006, the Commission offered to resolve the complaint against Judge Lewis through either an agreed sanction or a voluntary resignation agreement. In the alternative, Judge Lewis was offered the opportunity to appear before the Commission to provide testimony and evidence in defense of the charge against her. Judge Lewis failed to respond to the Commission's offer and failed to appear before the Commission at its August 10, 2006 meeting.

RELEVANT STANDARDS

1. Article V, Section 1-a(6)A of the Texas Constitution provides that any Texas judge may be disciplined for 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. Canon 3B(2) of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct states, in pertinent part: "A judge shall maintain professional competence in [the law]."

CONCLUSION

The Commission concludes from the facts and evidence presented that by failing to obtain her judicial education requirements in fiscal year 2005, Judge Lewis failed to maintain professional competence in the law, in violation of Canon 3B(2) of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct. Such failure on the part of Judge Lewis constituted willful or persistent conduct that is clearly inconsistent with proper performance of her duties or casts public discredit upon the judiciary or administration of justice, in violation of Article V, §1-a(6)A of the Texas Constitution.

In condemnation of the above-recited conduct that violated Canon 3B(2) of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct and Article V, §1-a(6)A of the Texas Constitution, it is the Commission's decision to issue a **PUBLIC REPRIMAND** to the Honorable Tiffany L. Lewis, former Municipal Court Judge for the City of Dallas, Dallas County, Texas.

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

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 _____day of August, 2006.

Honorable Monica A. Gonzalez, Chair
State Commission on Judicial Conduct