



**BEFORE THE STATE COMMISSION
ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

CJC No. 21-0637

PUBLIC REPRIMAND

**HONORABLE ORLANDO JIMENEZ
PROGRESO MUNICIPAL COURT
PROGRESO, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS**

During its meeting on October 4, 2023, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct concluded a review of the allegations against the Honorable Orlando Jimenez, Progreso Municipal Court, in Progreso, Hidalgo County, Texas. Judge Jimenez was advised by letter of the Commission's concerns and did not provide a written response. On December 6, 2023, Judge Jimenez appeared before the Commission and gave testimony regarding this matter.

After considering the evidence before it, the Commission enters the following findings and conclusions:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. At all times relevant hereto, the Honorable Orlando Jimenez, was a judge of the Progreso Municipal Court, in Progreso, Hidalgo County, Texas.
2. On January 14, 2021, Bianca Villareal filed a complaint against Judge Jimenez regarding a hold on her driver's license based on a traffic citation she received in 2009.
3. On June 27, 2023, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct (the "Commission") mailed a Letter of Inquiry to Judge Jimenez at the Progreso Municipal Court in Progreso, Texas. Judge Jimenez had until July 12, 2023 to respond to the Letter of Inquiry.
4. When the June 27th Letter of Inquiry was received by the Court, Raul Garcia, the Progreso City Clerk, stated he gave the letter to Judge Jimenez and Judge Jimenez opened the letter, looked it over and told him to forward it to the Progreso City Attorney.

5. On July 11, 2023, Judge Jimenez asked Mr. Garcia to email the Commission to ask for an extension of time to respond to the June 27th Letter of Inquiry because he had a death in the family. The Commission granted the extension and gave Judge Jimenez until July 25, 2023 to respond to the Letter of Inquiry. However, Judge Jimenez failed to respond.
6. On August 28, 2023, Staff emailed Judge Jimenez regarding his responses to the June 27th Letter of Inquiry. Judge Jimenez did not respond to the email nor the June 27th Letter of Inquiry.
7. On October 10, 2023, the Commission sent the tentative sanction to Judge Jimenez via certified mail to the Progreso Municipal Court and via email to the email address used when Judge Jimenez asked for an extension of time to respond to the June 27th Letter of Inquiry. He was given until October 20, 2023 to respond. Judge Jimenez did not respond.
8. On October 31, 2023, the Commission called Judge Jimenez at the Progreso Municipal Court but was informed that Judge Jimenez was at his law firm office in Edinburg. After being provided with the law firm's phone number, the Commission called Judge Jimenez at his law firm's phone number and left him a message. Judge Jimenez returned the call and after explaining to him the present situation involving this complaint, Judge Jimenez decided to have an informal appearance in front of the Commission.
9. On December 6, 2023, Judge Jimenez appeared before the Commission and testified that he was not aware the Commission sent him the June 27th Letter of Inquiry and only became aware of this complaint during the October 31, 2023 telephone conversation.
10. Judge Jimenez testified Mr. Garcia, on his own accord, sent the July 11th email requesting an extension to respond to the Commission and that he did not ask him to send it. Further, Judge Jimenez testified Mr. Garcia did tell him a complaint against the city had been received and that he told Mr. Garcia to send it to the city attorney.
11. The Commission found Judge Jimenez's testimony at his informal appearance to be disingenuous.

RELEVANT STANDARDS

1. Section 33.001(b)(5) of the Texas Government Code provides, "For the purposes of Section 1-a, Article V, Texas Constitution, 'willful or persistent conduct that is clearly inconsistent with the proper performance of a judge's duties' includes: ... (5) failure to cooperate with the commission; ..."
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 "is clearly inconsistent with the proper performance of his duties or casts public discredit upon the judiciary or administration of justice."

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 Orlando Jimenez, Judge of the Progreso Municipal Court, in Progreso, Hidalgo County, Texas, should be publicly reprimanded for his failure to cooperate with the Commission's investigation when he failed to respond to the Commission's Letter of Inquiry and other Commission's correspondences. Judge Jimenez's failure in this respect constituted willful or persistent conduct that is clearly inconsistent with the proper performance of his duties and cast public

discredit upon the judiciary or the administration of justice, in violation of Section 33.001(b)(5) of the Texas Government Code and Article V, Section 1-a(6)A of the Texas Constitution.

The Commission has taken this action pursuant to the authority conferred it in Article V, Section 1-a(8) of the Texas Constitution in a continuing effort to protect the public and promote public confidence in the judicial system.

Issued this the 20 day of December, 2023.



Gary Steel
Chairman, State Commission on Judicial Conduct