

## **BOARD INITIATES MENTORSHIP PROGRAM**

In the past, the Board on Judicial Standards on occasion designated one or more Board members to meet with a judge who received discipline. The Board rarely appointed mentors. In 2014, however, the Board appointed mentors in three cases. Two of the cases involved public reprimands, and one involved a private admonition.

The Board's focus is not to simply discipline a judge who has committed misconduct but also, if it appears the judge needs assistance in addressing the causes of the misconduct, to attempt to provide that assistance.

The current program involves the continuing participation of both a designated Board member and a mentor. The mentor is a judge or retired judge selected by the mentee judge and the Board. The mentor observes the mentee judge in court, meets with the judge, and offers guidance and support.

After the mentorships have been completed, the Board will ask both the mentors and the mentees for their reactions and suggestions. At this point, it appears that the mentorship program is working well.

9/9/2014