

# Press Release

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### PUBLIC REPRIMAND ISSUED TO DISTRICT COURT JUDGE JAMES M. CAMPBELL

The Minnesota Board on Judicial Standards has imposed a public reprimand on Second District Court Judge James M. Campbell. The discipline was administered after the Board determined there was sufficient cause to conclude that Judge Campbell failed to implement previously agreed upon sentence arrangements without giving counsel representing the State of Minnesota an opportunity to be heard and failed to act in a patient, dignified and courteous manner toward all participants in court proceedings.

These acts were in violation of the *Minnesota Code on Judicial Conduct*, *Canons 1, 2A, 3A(4), 3A(7), and 4A* and the *Rules of the Board on Judicial Standards ("R.Bd.Jud.Stds.")*, *Rules 4(a) (5) and 4(a)(6)*, providing as follows:

#### *Canon 1*

#### *A Judge Should Uphold the Integrity and Independence of the Judiciary*

*An independent and honorable judiciary is indispensable to justice in our society. A judge should participate in establishing, maintaining and enforcing standards of conduct, and personally observe those standards in order to preserve the integrity and independence of the judiciary. The provisions of this Code should be construed and applied to further that objective.*

**Canon 2**

***A Judge Shall Avoid Impropriety and the Appearance of Impropriety in All of the Judge's Activities***

- A. *A judge shall respect and comply with the law and act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary.*

**Canon 3**

***A Judge Should Perform the Duties of the Office Impartially and Diligently***

A. ***Administrative Responsibilities***

*(4) A judge shall be patient, dignified and courteous to litigants, jurors, witnesses, lawyers and others dealt with in an official capacity . . .*

*(7) A judge shall accord to every person who has a legal interest in a proceeding, or person's lawyer, the right to be heard according to law. A judge shall not initiate, permit or consider ex parte communications, or consider other communications made to the judge outside the presence of the parties concerning a pending or impending proceeding . . .*

**Canon 4**

***A Judge Shall Conduct All Extra-Judicial Activities so as to Minimize the Risk of Conflict With Judicial Obligations***

A. ***Extra-judicial Activities in General.*** *A judge shall conduct all extra-judicial activities so that they do not:*

- 1) cast reasonable doubt on the judge's capacity to act impartially as a judge;*
- 2) demean the judicial office; or*
- 3) interfere with the proper performance of judicial duties.*

***RULE 4. GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE***

***(a) Grounds for Discipline Shall Include:***

*(5) Conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice that brings the judicial office into disrepute, including, but not limited to, discrimination against or harassment of persons on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, and national origin, sex, marital status, sexual preference, disability or age.*

*(6) Conduct that constitutes a violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct or Professional Responsibility.*