

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TWO PUBLIC REPRIMANDS ISSUED TO FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGE THOMAS M. MURPHY

The Minnesota Board on Judicial Standards (Board) has issued two public reprimands to First Judicial District Judge Thomas M. Murphy. The first reprimand was administered to Judge Murphy for admitting to driving an automobile while under the influence of alcohol on December 23, 2002. The second reprimand was issued after the Board determined there was sufficient cause to conclude that Judge Murphy initially refused to submit to the standard booking procedure in Dakota County in connection with the driving charge, in violation of Minnesota law. The Board concluded that these actions were contrary to the *Minnesota Code on Judicial Conduct, Canons 1, 2A and 2B*, as well as the *Rules of the Board on Judicial Standards, ("R.Bd.Jud.Std.")*, *Rules 4(a) (5) and (6)*, as set forth below:

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.*
- B. *A judge shall not allow family, social, political or other relationships to influence judicial conduct or judgment. A judge shall not lend the prestige of the office to advance the private interests of the judge or others; nor shall a judge convey or permit other to convey the impression that they are in a special position to influence the judge.*

***Rule 4, Rules of the Board on Judicial Standards
Grounds for Discipline***

(a) Grounds for Discipline Shall Include:

- (5) Conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice that brings the judicial office in to disrepute. . .*
- (6) Conduct that constitutes a violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct or Professional Responsibility.*