

Press Release

Contact: David Paull, Executive Secretary

Phone: (651) 296-3999

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PUBLIC REPRIMAND ISSUED TO TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGE DONALD J. VENNE

The Minnesota Board on Judicial Standards (Board) has issued a public reprimand to Tenth Judicial District Judge Donald J. Venne. The public reprimand was issued to Judge Venne for his failure to file personal state tax returns for years 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006. The failure to file a tax return pursuant to Minnesota state law constitutes a gross misdemeanor. Judge Venne pleaded guilty to these offenses on or about June 22, 2009.

Judge Venne's failure to file personal state tax returns was contrary to the *Minnesota Code on Judicial Conduct, Canon 1, Rule 1.1* and *Canon 1, Rule 1.2*, 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 and Promote the Independence, Integrity and Impartiality of the Judiciary, and Shall Avoid Impropriety and the Appearance of Impropriety.

Rule 1.1 *Compliance with the Law*

A judge shall comply with the law, including the Code of Judicial Conduct.

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Rule 1.2 *Promoting Confidence in the Judiciary*

A judge shall act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary, and shall avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety.

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

(a) Grounds for Discipline or Other Action Shall Include:

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