

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
JUDICIAL CONDUCT COMMISSION**

**IN RE THE MATTER OF:**

**SANDRA L. MCLAUGHLIN, DISTRICT COURT JUDGE  
30<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**

**AGREED ORDER PUBLIC REPRIMAND**

Sandra L. McLaughlin is a District Court Judge for Kentucky's 30<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit consisting of Jefferson County. Judge McLaughlin has waived formal proceedings and has agreed to this disposition.

The Commission received information during a preliminary investigation that Judge McLaughlin maintains a social media account on Facebook which is entitled "Judge Sandra McLaughlin." On August 3, 2017, Judge McLaughlin shared a news story on this account regarding Jefferson District Court Case No. 17-F-009237, with the comment: "This murder suspect was RELEASED FROM JAIL just hours after killing a man and confessing to police."

The Commission concludes that Judge McLaughlin's conduct violated SCR 4.020(1)(b)(i) by engaging in misconduct in office. The Commission further concludes that Judge McLaughlin violated SCR 4.300 and the relevant portions of the following Canons of the Code of Judicial Conduct:

**Canon 1** which requires judges to maintain high standards of conduct and uphold the integrity and independence of the Judiciary.

**Canon 2A** which requires judges to 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 3B(9)** which prohibits judges from making public comments on matters pending in any court which might reasonably be expected to affect its outcome or impair its fairness.

Based on the foregoing conduct, Judge McLaughlin is hereby publicly reprimanded.

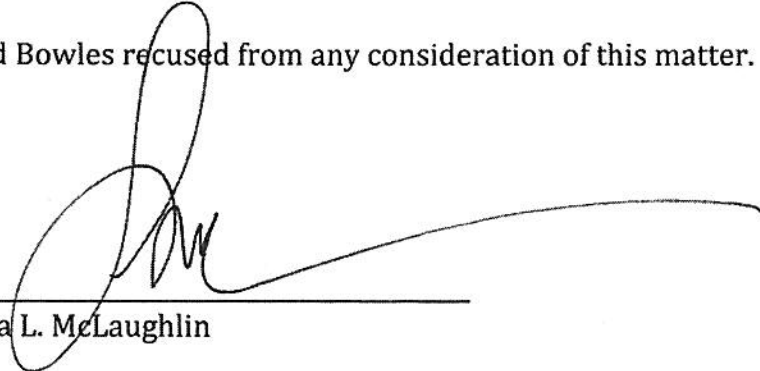
In making the disposition in this Order, the Commission duly considered that Judge McLaughlin fully cooperated in the matter.


Date: 6/12/18

  
STEPHEN D. WOLNITZEK, CHAIR

Judge David Bowles recused from any consideration of this matter.

Agreed to:

  
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Hon. Sandra L. McLaughlin

  
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Brian Butler, Esq.  
Counsel for Judge McLaughlin