

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
JUDICIAL CONDUCT COMMISSION**

IN RE THE MATTER OF:

**ANN RUTTLE, DISTRICT COURT JUDGE
16TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, DIVISION 1**

AGREED ORDER OF SUSPENSION

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Ann Ruttle is a District Court Judge for Kentucky's 16th Judicial Circuit, Division 1, for Kenton County. After the commencement of formal proceedings, the parties reached an agreement to resolve the matter. Judge Ruttle has waived any further formal proceedings and has agreed to the entry of this Order.

During a preliminary investigation resulting from a complaint, the Commission received information concerning certain court proceedings the case of a Kenton District Court action styled *Commonwealth v. Comer*, 21-T-09354 and court appearances of September 23, 2001, and November 9, 2021 and other court records concerning that action. In that criminal action, Judge Ruttle denied appointment of counsel to a defendant in a criminal case at the defendant's initial court appearance without making the necessary review of the defendant's indigent status pursuant to KRS 31.120, et al. A review of felony arraignments reveals this is not an isolated incident.

The Commission concludes Judge Ruttle's conduct violated SCR 4.300, the Kentucky Code of Judicial Conduct, Canon 1, Rule 1.1, which requires a judge to comply with the law; Canon 1, Rule 1.2, which requires a judge to act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary, and to avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety; Canon 2, Rule 2.2, which requires a judge to uphold and apply the law and perform all duties of judicial office fairly and impartially; and Canon

2. Rule 2.8(B) which provides a judge shall be patient, dignified, and courteous to litigants, jurors, witnesses, lawyers, court staff, court officials, and others.

Therefore, in light of the foregoing conduct, Judge Ruttle is hereby suspended from her duties as District Court Judge without pay from May 5, 2023 through May 18, 2023. During the suspension, Judge Ruttle shall not use her judicial office at the Kenton County Judicial Center. Judge Ruttle shall also not use her secure courthouse access pass and shall turn in any access passes, keys, or credentials to court security while the suspension is in effect.

Judge Ruttle further agrees that in all future cases she will follow the requirements of KRS 31.120, et seq. and further shall comply with the Kentucky Code of Judicial Conduct, SCR 4.300, et. seq.

Date: 3/1/2023 R. Michael Sullivan
R. Michael Sullivan, Chair

Agreed to: [Signature]
Hon. Ann Ruttle, Judge

[Signature]
J.T. Gilbert, Counsel for Judge Ruttle

[Signature]
Bryan Beauman, Counsel for the Commission