

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
JUDICIAL CONDUCT COMMISSION**

ORDER OF PRIVATE REPRIMAND

The Commission issues this order of private reprimand to a judge for violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct, SCR 4.300, Canons 2D, 4A(1) and 5A(1)(c).

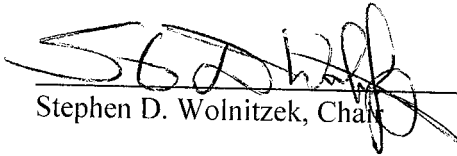
The judge “liked” the Facebook pages of some lawyers and of a candidate for judicial office. By “liking” the Facebook page of the lawyers, the judge violated Canon 2D’s prohibition against conveying the impression that others are in a special position to influence the judge. By “liking” the Facebook page of the candidate, the judge violated Canon 5A(1)(c) which prohibits a judge from publicly endorsing a candidate for public office.

The judge also posted on Facebook offensive comments concerning a lawyer who practiced in the judge’s court. By these public comments, the judge violated 4A(1) by engaging in extra-judicial activities which cast reasonable doubt on the judge’s capacity to act impartially as a judge.

The judge informed the Commission that the public “likes” of the Facebook pages in question were inadvertent because of the judge’s lack of familiarity with Facebook. The judge also informed the Commission that the comments about the lawyer were immediately regretted and removed, and assured the Commission that the judge would recuse from any case involving the lawyer, if requested. However, all judges must be sensitive that when they participate on social media, they violate the Code of Judicial Conduct if their actions are inappropriate for judges. Therefore, for the foregoing conduct the judge is hereby privately reprimanded.

In issuing this private reprimand, the Commission duly considered that the judge fully cooperated in the investigation and had no prior infractions.

Date: Dec 5, 2014


Stephen D. Wolnitzek, Chair