

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
JUDICIAL CONDUCT COMMISSION**

IN RE THE MATTER OF:

**JUDY VANCE MURPHY, CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE
29TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**

AGREED ORDER OF SUSPENSION

Judy Vance Murphy is Circuit Judge for Kentucky's 29th Judicial Circuit consisting of Adair and Casey Counties. Judge Murphy has waived formal proceedings and has agreed to the entry of this Order.

During a preliminary investigation, the Commission received information that Judge Murphy engaged in the following conduct: In September 2023, Judge Murphy leveraged her influence as a member of the judiciary in handling a personal matter that involved her daughter's boyfriend and his mother. Between August 28, 2017 and March 8, 2021, Judge Murphy also inappropriately engaged in discussions about ongoing cases with individuals not involved in those cases, thereby threatening the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary. During that same period, Judge Murphy was observed using her smart phone from the bench during court proceedings for non-court related matters, which resulted in a claim of periods of **inattention to judicial matters** and the appearance of impropriety. Additionally, in July 2024, Judge Murphy also inappropriately leveraged her judicial influence for personal gain by requesting that a suspended attorney sign an affidavit stating the attorney did not view Judge Murphy as vindictive.

Judge Murphy acknowledges all the alleged conduct to be true and accurate.

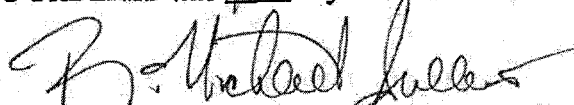
The Commission therefore concludes that Judge Murphy's conduct violates SCR 4.300, and the following provisions of the Code of Judicial Conduct: **Rule 1.2**, which requires

judicial officers to act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary; **Rule 2.4**, which prohibits a judge from permitting family, social, political, financial, or other interests or relationships to influence the judge's judicial conduct or judgment; **Rule 2.8**, which requires a judge to be patient, dignified, and courteous to litigants, jurors, witnesses, lawyers, court staff, court officials, and others with whom the judge deals in an official capacity; and **Rule 2.9**, which prohibits a judge from initiating, permitting, or considering *ex parte* communications, or from considering other communications made to the judge outside the presence of the parties or their lawyers, concerning a pending or impending matter.

Therefore, in light of Judge Murphy's acknowledged conduct, she is hereby suspended from her duties without pay for a period of fourteen (14) consecutive days beginning midnight November 11, 2024 and ending midnight November 25, 2024. During the suspension, Judge Murphy shall not use her judicial office at the Casey County Judicial Center, nor any other judicial offices she may have in other courthouses. Judge Murphy shall also forbear from using her secure courthouse access pass and shall turn in any access passes, keys, or credentials to court security while the suspension is in effect.

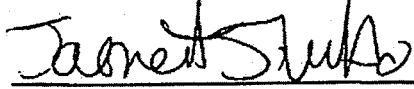
Further, Judge Murphy shall immediately recuse herself from all proceedings involving the suspended attorney. She shall not preside over, issue rulings, or participate in any capacity in matters involving or pertaining to the suspended attorney.

SO ORDERED this 9th day of November, 2024.



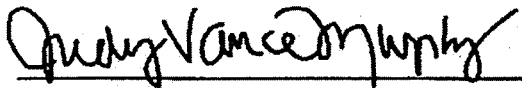
R. MICHAEL SULLIVAN, CHAIR

Have Seen and Agreed:

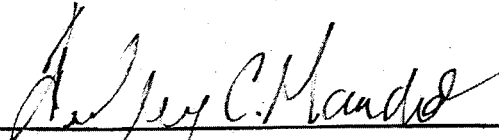


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