

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
JUDICIAL CONDUCT COMMISSION**

IN RE THE MATTER OF:

**BRITTANY MCKENNA, DISTRICT JUDGE
12TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**

PUBLIC REPRIMAND

Brittany McKenna was a District Judge for Kentucky's 12th Judicial Circuit consisting of Henry, Oldham, and Trimble County until her resignation on April 2, 2026. The Commission conducted a preliminary investigation on two complaints alleging Judge McKenna engaged in an inappropriate, undisclosed relationship with a witness to a proceeding for which she was the presiding Judge. Judge McKenna has waived formal proceedings and has agreed to this disposition.

Judge McKenna conducted a preliminary hearing in September 2023 where the complaining witness, (the "Witness") was identified and listed on the docket sheet and identified on a subpoena within the casefile. During the hearing, the Witness testified. Unbeknownst to the Prosecutor, Judge McKenna and the Witness were, at the time of the hearing, engaged in a close personal relationship and had been for approximately two weeks. Despite her relationship with the Witness, Judge McKenna presided over the Hearing, heard the Witness's testimony, came to a determination about probable cause, and referred the case to the grand jury.

After the hearing concluded, Judge McKenna failed to disclose the nature of her relationship with the Witness. Instead, the nature of Judge McKenna's relationship with the Witness was only revealed when the Witness met with the Prosecutor to discuss certain discovery matters. Specifically, while preparing the case for trial, the Prosecutor met with the Witness to discuss the dash cam footage from the day of the vehicle collision. During their

meeting, the Witness informed the Prosecutor about his recent personal relationship with Judge McKenna.

Judge McKenna's failure to recuse herself or otherwise disclose the nature of her relationship with the witness demonstrates a lack of judicial decorum and a serious ethical breach, and undermines public confidence in the integrity, impartiality, and independence of the judiciary and creates the appearance of bias or impropriety which can undermine the legitimacy of judicial decisions. The Commission concludes that Judge McKenna's conduct violated SCR 4.090 by failing to disqualify herself from participating in a case in which she had a current, undisclosed close personal relationship with a material witness before her and SCR 4.3 by engaging in misconduct in office. The Commission further concludes that Judge McKenna violated the following Rules of the Code of Judicial Conduct:

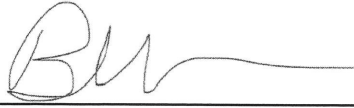
- **Rule 1.2**, which requires judges to act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary, and to avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety;
- **Rule 2.11**, which requires a judge's disqualification in any proceeding in which the judge's impartiality might be reasonably questioned;
- **Rule 2.2**, which requires judges to perform all duties of judicial office fairly and impartially.

Based on the foregoing conduct, Judge McKenna is hereby publicly reprimanded. In rendering its disposition, the Commission duly considered that Judge McKenna resigned, fully cooperated in the matter, agreed to this sanction, and has already implemented corrective measures to address the issues raised.

Date: August 18, 2026

Carroll M. Redford III
CARROLL M. REDFORD, III, CHAIR

Agreed to:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'BM', written over a horizontal line.

Brittany McKenna, Esq.