

## THE TENNESSEE BOARD OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT

511 Union Street  
Suite 600  
Nashville, TN 37219

April 5, 2013

Michael W. Catalano, Clerk  
100 Supreme Court Building  
401 Seventh Avenue, North  
Nashville, TN 37219-1407  
615-253-1470

### MEMBERS OF THE TENNESSEE BOARD OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Chris Craft  
Chairperson

Timothy R. Discenza  
Disciplinary Counsel

Patrick J. McHale  
Assistant Disciplinary Counsel

Jeffrey S. Bivins  
Miles Burdine  
Angelita B. Dalton  
Timothy L. Easter  
Joe F. Fowlkes  
Tas Gardner  
J. Ronald Hickman  
Chris A. Hodges  
Holly Kirby  
Thomas W. Lawless  
Christy R. Little  
Larry J. Logan  
J. Michael Sharp  
Dwight E. Stokes  
David Wedekind

## FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

The Honorable John K. Wilson  
Circuit Court Judge  
Third Judicial District  
101 South Main Street, Suite 401  
P.O. Box 625  
Greeneville, Tennessee 37744

RE: Internal Complaint in the Tennessee Court of the  
Judiciary—now the Board of Judicial Conduct

Case # 12-4950  
Case # 12-4953

This letter shall serve as a Public Censure in Case # 12-4950 and a Public Reprimand in Case # 12-4953 pursuant to your agreement with an investigative panel of the Board of Judicial Conduct.

### Case 12-4950

In this case you hereby receive a Public Censure for the following matters:

1. Your conduct during your attendance at a deposition held December 27, 2011, which was intemperate, argumentative, disruptive and not in conformity with acceptable judicial conduct.
2. Your failure to adhere to and abide by a resolution previously reached in the Court of the Judiciary following complaints filed against you in the Court of the Judiciary, Nos. 96-244 and 97-549. In those matters, you received a partially

2. Your failure to adhere to and abide by a resolution previously reached in the Court of the Judiciary following complaints filed against you in the Court of the Judiciary, Nos. 96-244 and 97-549. In those matters, you received a partially deferred discipline agreement, a private admonishment and were required to refrain from certain conduct in the future. Specifically, Agreed Discipline included the warning that you shall “cease and desist from any injudicious treatment...” directed at or to a particular law firm. You have failed to adhere to and abide by that Agreed Discipline.

3. Your failure to abide by your deferred discipline agreement covered in item #2, above, resulted in the Tennessee Supreme Court’s decision of *Bean v. Bailey*, 280 S.W. 3d 798 (Tenn. 2009), in which the Court held that because of the animosity which you continued to exhibit to the attorney that was named in the Agreed Discipline, the case was required to be transferred to another judge.

4. Your failure to follow either the letter or the spirit of the Supreme Court determination in *Bean v. Bailey* following its issuance, continuing into early 2012 with respect to recusal in certain matters and cases in your court.

Case 12-4943

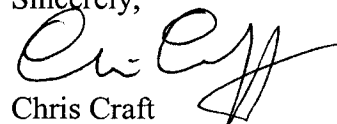
In this matter, you hereby receive a Public Reprimand due to an improper *ex parte* hearing and improper *ex parte* relief granted with respect to a petition to modify a permanent parenting plan filed by the attorney for a litigant.

Your actions in the above matter constituted a violation of Canon 1 as it existed at the time of the incidents described above, which requires that “A Judge Shall Uphold the Integrity and Independence of the Judiciary;” Canon 2A, stating that “A judge shall respect and comply with the law\* and shall act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary;” Canon 3 stating that “A Judge Shall Perform the Duties of Judicial Office Impartially and Diligently,” and Canon 3 B (7) stating that “A judge shall not initiate, permit, or consider *ex parte* communications, or consider other communications made to the judge outside the presence of the parties concerning a pending or impending proceeding...”

Your conduct in addition violated the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated Section 17-5-301(g)(2) in that this conduct “detrimentally affects the integrity of the judiciary.”

Accordingly, this letter constitutes both a Public Censure and a Public Reprimand for your actions in the above situations.

Sincerely,



Chris Craft  
Board Chair

CC/bep

cc: Board Members