



THE TENNESSEE COURT OF THE JUDICIARY

511 Union Street
Suite 600
Nashville, TN 37243-067

JUDGES OF THE TENNESSEE
COURT OF THE JUDICIARY

Don R. Ash
Presiding Judge

J.S. (Steve) Daniel
Disciplinary Counsel

Chris Craft
David M. Cook
Angelita Blackshear Dalton
Jane Latimer
Christy R. Little
Paul Neely
Pamela L. Reeves
Kathy McMahan
Mary Martin Schaffner
Gregory D. Smith
Steve Stafford
Jean A. Stanley
Dwight E. Stokes
D. Michael Swiney
Bernie Weinman
Thomas T. Woodall

PUBLIC LETTER REPRIMAND

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

Judge Charles Rich
106 East Depot Street
Shelbyville, Tennessee 37162

RE: Complaint of Rhonda S. Jones against Judge Charles Rich
FILE NO. 07-3293
DATE: October 10, 2008

FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

Dear Judge Rich,

Pursuant to your agreement with the Investigative Panel of this Court, I am issuing a public letter of reprimand based upon your actions in Juvenile Court dealing with Ms. Rhonda Jones. In various rulings on her cases, you failed to make findings of fact as required by 28 (f)(2) of the Tennessee Rules of Juvenile Procedure and on multiple occasions, attorneys representing Ms. Jones asked for these findings of fact in order to appeal your decisions. Your refusal to make such findings of fact delayed Ms. Jones' ability to appeal and resulted in an untimely resolution of her cases, thereby directly violating Rule 28 (f)(2) of the Tennessee Rules of Juvenile Procedure and Canon 2A which obligates you as a judge to know and follow the law. Your actions causing the delay of an appeal violated Cannon 3B (8).

Next, after recusing yourself from Ms. Jones' cases, you signed two orders relating to her December 2007 matters. In July 2008, you signed another order authorizing her attachment and incarceration for failure to pay child support. This conduct is a violation of Canon 3E (1)(a).

The conduct described above is detrimental to the administration of justice and brings the Judiciary into public disrepute under the provisions of Tenn. Code Ann. §17-5-302(e). Accordingly, this

constitutes a public reprimand for your actions. In the future, you are to follow explicitly the adopted rules of juvenile procedure and once you are disqualified from a case as a result of your recusal, you are prohibited from taking additional actions in those matters.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Don R. Ash", written in a cursive style.

Don R. Ash
Presiding Judge
Court of the Judiciary

cc: Investigative Panel
Disciplinary Counsel