

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT AND ETHICS
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March 2, 2015

Kerstin Connolly, Chairman
Commission on Judicial Conduct and Ethics
501 Running W Drive
Gillette, WY 82718

Re: In the Matter of Circuit Court Magistrate/Municipal Court Judge,
Ruth Neely, Pinedale, Sublette County, Ninth Judicial District
CJCE 2014-27 Referral for Formal Proceedings - Own Motion Investigation

Dear Kerstin:

In accordance with Rule 7(g) of the *Rules Governing the Commission on Judicial Conduct and Ethics*, the Investigatory Panel is referring the file in this matter to an Adjudicatory Panel for institution of formal proceedings. The Adjudicatory Panel members at this time are:

Mel Orchard, Presiding Officer and Hearing Officer
Barbara Dilts
Hon. Wendy Bartlett

This matter came before the Commission on its own motion and based on a newspaper article published in the Sublette Examiner. The matter was assigned to an Investigatory Panel on December 22, 2014. The Investigatory Panel unanimously voted to send an inquiry to Judge Neely, providing a copy of the article to the judge. Upon receipt of Judge Neely's

answer to its inquiry, the Investigatory Panel conferred by conference call on February 18, 2015, and found reasonable cause to believe judicial misconduct occurred based on evidence of a violation of the canons of the Wyoming Code of Judicial Conduct. The Investigatory Panel determined the conduct of Judge Neely constitutes judicial misconduct by violation of the following canons of the Wyoming Code of Judicial Conduct:

Canon 1. A Judge Shall Uphold the Integrity and Independence of the Judiciary.

Rule 1.1. Compliance with the Law.

Rule 1.2. Promoting Confidence in the Judiciary.

Canon 2. A judge shall perform the duties of judicial office impartially, competently, and diligently.

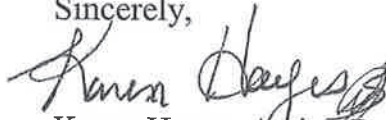
Rule 2.2. Impartiality and Fairness.

Rule 2.3. Bias, Prejudice and Harassment.

The Investigatory Panel voted unanimously to refer the matter to an Adjudicatory Panel for formal proceedings. Pat Dixon, Casper, was retained by the Investigatory Panel as disciplinary counsel to prepare and prosecute formal charges in connection with this investigation.

Disciplinary counsel will prepare a written Notice of Commencement of Formal Proceedings in this matter.

Sincerely,



Karen Hayes, Acting Presiding Officer
Investigatory Panel

cc: Investigatory Panel
Adjudicatory Panel
Disciplinary Counsel