

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Reiko Callner, Executive Director
Commission on Judicial Conduct
P.O. Box 1817
Olympia WA 98507
Telephone: (360) 753-4585
rcallner@cjc.state.wa.us

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JUDICIAL CONDUCT COMMISSION FILES STATEMENT OF CHARGES AGAINST CLARK COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE JOHN WULLE

On February 10, 2012, the Commission on Judicial Conduct found probable cause that the Code of Judicial Conduct had been violated and approved a Statement of Charges against Clark County Superior Court Judge John Wulle. The Statement of Charges in this matter is a public document available at the Commission's web site, <http://www.cjc.state.wa.us>.

Judge Wulle is charged with violating Canon 1 (Rules 1.1 and 1.2) and Canon 2 (Rule 2.8) of the 2011 Code of Judicial Conduct, and/or violating Canons 1, 2(A), 3(A)(2) and 3(A)(3) of the 1995 Code of Judicial Conduct. It is charged that Respondent has failed to maintain order and decorum in proceedings over which he has presided and has engaged in a pattern or practice of discourteous, impatient and undignified behavior. It is alleged that he demonstrated such conduct in a case concerning a protective order, a criminal case, and two juvenile matters. (Because the conduct in question took place before and after January 1, 2011, the effective date of the new Code, both Codes are cited in this Statement of Charges.)

Canon 1 of the 1995 Code of Judicial Conduct requires "Judges shall uphold the integrity and independence of the judiciary." Canon 2 provides "Judges should avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety in all their activities." Canon 3(A)(2) requires that "Judges should maintain order and decorum in proceedings before them." Canon 3(A)(3) requires that judges be patient, dignified and courteous to witnesses and others with whom judges deal in their professional capacity. Rule 1.1 of the 2011 Code requires that "A judge shall comply with the law, including the Code of Judicial Conduct. Rule 1.2 requires that "A judge shall act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary, and shall avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety." Rule 2.8 requires that (A) "A judge shall require order and decorum in proceedings

before the court,” and (B) A judge shall be patient, dignified, and courteous to litigants...and others with whom the judge deals in an official capacity....”

Judge Wulle is required to file an answer with the Commission within twenty-one days, unless the time to respond is extended by the Commission. Upon receipt of the answer, the Commission shall schedule a public hearing.

The Washington Commission on Judicial Conduct is an independent agency of the judicial branch of government created under the Washington Constitution to assure the integrity and independence of the judiciary. Its eleven members are appointed by the Governor, judicial associations, and the Washington State Bar Association.

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