



DOCKET NO. 12-0001
SPECIAL COURT OF REVIEW
IN RE HONORABLE J. KENT ADAMS

DECISION

The Texas Supreme Court appointed this Special Court of Review to conduct a trial de novo of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct's public sanction against the Honorable J. Kent Adams.¹ *See* TEX. GOV'T CODE ANN. § 33.034 (West 2004) (providing procedure for appealing Commission sanctions). The Special Court of Review called this matter to trial on May 21, 2012. The State Commission on Judicial Conduct appeared through its attorneys of record and announced ready for trial. Judge Adams appeared in person and through his attorneys of record and also announced ready for trial.

The Special Court of Review heard evidence in this matter from May 21 through May 22, 2012. After hearing and considering the evidence, reviewing the parties' pleadings and post-trial briefs, and considering the arguments of counsel, the Special Court of Review issues the following decision in disposition of Judge Adams's appeal:

¹ The Special Court of Review panel consists of The Honorable James Worthen, Chief Justice of the Twelfth Court of Appeals; The Honorable Rogelio Valdez, Chief Justice of the Thirteenth Court of Appeals; and The Honorable Jeff Rose, Justice of the Third Court of Appeals.

The Commission presented evidence proving, by a preponderance of the evidence, the factual allegations in support of Charges I and II asserted by the Commission. Accordingly, the Special Court of Review finds that Judge Adams failed to maintain order and decorum in his courtroom and failed to be patient, dignified, and courteous in conducting his court's business in violation of Article V, section 1-a(6)A of the Texas Constitution, section 33.001(b) of the Texas Government Code, and Canons 3B(3) and (4) of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct.

The Commission failed to present evidence proving, by a preponderance of the evidence, the factual allegations in support of Charges III and IV asserted by the Commission. Accordingly, the Special Court of Review finds that the Commission did not meet its burden of showing that Judge Adams failed to perform his duties without bias or prejudice or that Judge Adams manifested a bias or prejudice based on race, sex, national origin, or socioeconomic status in violation of Article V, section 1-a(6)A of the Texas Constitution, section 33.001(b) of the Texas Government Code, and Canons 3B(5) and (6) of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct.

Therefore, this Special Court of Review publicly admonishes Judge Adams to maintain order and decorum in his courtroom and to be patient, dignified, and courteous to litigants, jurors, witnesses, lawyers, and others with whom the judge deals in an official capacity. We specifically admonish Judge Adams to refer to individuals appearing in his courtroom using only their names or titles as appropriate and to refrain from inappropriately referring to parts of a person's body or appearance when addressing individuals in his courtroom, unless of course that reference is appropriate and necessary under the circumstances. Future violations of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct by Judge Adams could result in additional discipline, but we are confident that Judge Adams will comply with the orders of this Special Court of Review.

SPECIAL COURT OF REVIEW