



**BEFORE THE STATE COMMISSION  
ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

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**CJC No. 16-0770-CO**

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**PUBLIC WARNING**

**HONORABLE KENNETH BRYAN JEANES  
COUNTY JUDGE  
QUITMAN, WOOD COUNTY, TEXAS**

During its meeting on October 6, 2016, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct concluded a review of allegations against the Honorable Kenneth Bryan Jeanes, County Judge, Quitman, Wood County, Texas. Judge Jeanes was advised by letter of the Commission's concerns and provided written responses. After considering the evidence before it, the Commission entered the following Findings and Conclusion:

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. At all relevant times, the Honorable Kenneth Bryan Jeanes was the County Judge in Quitman, Wood County, Texas.
2. On or about April 28, 2016, Judge Jeanes was arrested on suspicion of driving while intoxicated ("DWI"), a Class B misdemeanor offense.
3. On or about August 23, 2016, Judge Jeanes pled guilty to the DWI offense and was sentenced to time served.
4. In connection with the DWI charge, Judge Jeanes did not use the prestige of his judicial office to influence either the arresting officer or the judge before whom he pled guilty.
5. Judge Jeanes cooperated with the Commission's investigation, expressed remorse for his actions, and was contrite in his responses to the Commission's inquiry.
6. Judge Jeanes' arrest and conviction for DWI received media attention casting public discredit upon the judiciary.

## RELEVANT STANDARDS

1. Canon 2A of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct states, in pertinent part: “A judge shall comply with the law.”
2. Article V, §1-a(6)A of the Texas Constitution provides that a judge may be disciplined for willful or persistent conduct that is clearly inconsistent with the proper performance of his duties or casts public discredit on the judiciary or on the administration of justice.

## CONCLUSION

The Commission concludes based on the facts and evidence before it that Judge Jeanes failed to comply with the law by driving while intoxicated, a criminal offense to which he later pled guilty. The Commission concludes that Judge Jeanes’ conduct constituted a willful violation of Canon 2A of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct. The Commission further concludes that the media attention surrounding the judge’s arrest and conviction for DWI cast public discredit not only upon Judge Jeanes, but on the judiciary as a whole, in violation of Article V, §1-a(6)A of the Texas Constitution.

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In condemnation of the conduct described above that violated Canon 2A of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct and Article V, §1-a(6)A of the Texas Constitution, it is the Commission’s decision to issue a **PUBLIC WARNING** to the Honorable Kenneth Bryan Jeanes, County Judge, Quitman, Wood County, Texas.

Pursuant to the authority contained in Article V, §1-a(8) of the Texas Constitution, it is ordered that the actions described above be made the subject of a **PUBLIC WARNING** by the Commission.

The Commission has taken this action in a continuing effort to protect public confidence in the judicial system and to assist the state’s judiciary in its efforts to embody the principles and values set forth in the Texas Constitution and the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct.

Issued this the 20<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2016.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

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Honorable Valerie E. Ertz, Chair  
State Commission on Judicial Conduct