



**BEFORE THE STATE COMMISSION
ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

CJC Nos. 17-1488, 17-1489, 17-1490 AND 17-1523

PUBLIC REPRIMAND

**HONORABLE GUY WILLIAMS
148TH DISTRICT COURT
CORPUS CHRISTI, NUECES COUNTY, TEXAS**

During its meeting on December 7, 2018, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct concluded a review of the allegations against the Honorable Guy Williams, 148th District Court, in Corpus Christi, Nueces County, Texas. Judge Williams was advised by letter of the Commission's concerns and provided a written response. On December 7, 2018, Judge Williams appeared through counsel. After considering the evidence before it, the Commission entered the following Findings and Conclusion:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. At all times relevant hereto, the Honorable Guy Williams was Judge of the 148th District Court, in Corpus Christi, Nueces County, Texas.

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2. Complainant District Judge Sandra Watts complained that Judge Williams touched her without her consent at a social function honoring a Municipal Court judge at the Havana Club on August 9, 2017. She noted the offensive touching occurred while the judges and elected officials were taking a group photo.
3. Specifically, Judge Watts stated that Judge Williams "put his left arm around me with his hand reaching around my waist and across the left portion of the midriff and pulled me toward him." She added "as his hand left the front of my waist, his open hand slid from my waist down the side of my body to my buttock and across my butt area. His hand was firm and pressing on my body as it moved."

4. Judge Watts stated she told Judge Williams to stop “and he smiled and laughed and then reached down and literally grabbed and squeezed my butt.” She recalled telling him again to stop and “he smiled and continued to feel over my buttock area and squeezed my butt again.”
5. Soon after the picture was taken, Judge Watts stated that Judge Williams sent her a text message with the group picture and the words “nice body for a 70 year old.”
6. Judge Watts stated Judge Williams’ conduct left her “stunned.”
7. In his response to the Letter of Inquiry, Judge Williams denied touching Judge Watts during the event, but admitted sending her the text message. He stated “we are close to the same age so I figured it was a compliment.”

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8. Complainant Nueces County District Clerk Anne Lorentzen stated that Judge Williams inappropriately touched her at the social function at the Havana Club on August 9, 2017. She noted “many attorneys, city officials, county officials and their staff” attended the party.
9. Specifically, Ms. Lorentzen recalled that Judge Williams literally pulled the woman sitting next to her “out of her seat,” so he could sit beside her. Ms. Lorentzen stated that “as he sat down beside me, he ran his hand down my right side from underneath my breast, down my waist and around my bottom.” Ms. Lorentzen added she was so shocked she “just looked at him...and he grinned back at me.”
10. Ms. Lorentzen stated she moved over “so he couldn’t touch me again,” made light conversation about cell phones and “got up to go get another drink just to get away from him.” After they took a group picture, she decided to go home.
11. In his response to the Letter of Inquiry, Judge Williams admitted he sat next to Ms. Lorentzen “at some point,” but denied touching or grinning at her.
12. Judge Williams confirmed that he saw Ms. Lorentzen the following Monday and told her “I heard she was one of my victims.” In retrospect, the judge regretted saying anything, but added that she should have come to him if “she felt offended.”

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13. Complainant Nueces County District Clerk Chief Deputy Lilia Ann Gutierrez reported that Judge Williams inappropriately touched her at the Havana Club on August 9, 2017. She described the partygoers as “a lot of people that are affiliated with All District, County and Municipal Courts.”
14. Specifically, Ms. Gutierrez stated one of her friends asked to take a “selfie” with her. While they were taking the picture, Ms. Gutierrez recalled she felt like someone “nudged me on my arm and then a rub [sic] on my right breast.” When she looked up, she saw Judge Williams rubbing his left elbow on her breast. Ms. Gutierrez immediately put her right arm up to defend herself and told him, “What are you F---- doing, Stop it! And he just smiled.”
15. Ms. Gutierrez recalled she was “just shocked that Judge Williams would do this to me.”

16. Later in the evening, Ms. Gutierrez stated she was showing the same friend a video of her granddaughter when “Judge Williams placed [his] hand on my lower back and touched my buttocks.” She recalled telling him “Stop F---- touching me” and “once again he just smiled and turned his face the other way.”
17. Ms. Gutierrez stated Judge Williams’ conduct made her very upset. She recalled crying “because I felt humiliated and violated. All I could think about was what gave him the right to do this to me.”
18. Judge Williams denied Ms. Gutierrez’s accusations.
19. Judge Williams confirmed having one tequila drink at the Havana Club.

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20. A confidential complainant reported that Judge Williams was rude to attorneys and defendants. As part of the investigation, Commission obtained statements Judge Williams made on the record in two separate family violence cases.
21. On October 8, 2014, Judge Williams made the following two statements to the family violence victim in the *Insil Anderson* case:

Let me just say for the record that I know the prosecution doesn’t really care what the victim wants.

The prosecution doesn’t really care what the victim wants... I want to make that clear on the record just in case anybody has any question about what Guy Williams feels about what the District Attorney’s Office manipulates and uses victims as to their advantage.
22. Judge Williams stated the quotes were “taken out of the historical context of the Nueces County District Attorney’s ethical and legal duties.” He alleged that his addressing his concern that prosecutors with the District Attorney’s office intentionally withheld evidence in violation of the Michael Morton Act.
23. On May 7, 2015, Judge Williams made the following two statements to the family violence victim in the *Steven Velasquez* case:

It’s up to the District Attorney’s Office to dismiss this case or to prosecute this case. And the District Attorney’s Office is apparently moving forward against your wishes, against the victim’s wishes, again, because – again, I’m getting tired of the District Attorney’s Office using the victims as their own tools in my Court...

They don’t really care what the victim says and I keep repeating myself so I’m sorry the District Attorney’s Office doesn’t really care about your wishes.
24. Judge Williams stated the quotes did not “accurately reflect the context.” He alleged that his statements were referring to his belief that District Attorney’s prosecutors were violating their ethical duty to provide the defendant with all the “mitigating and exculpatory” statements made by victims, including recantations.

RELEVANT STANDARDS

1. Canon 2A of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct states: “A judge shall comply with the law and should act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary.”
2. Canon 3B(4) of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct states, in relevant part: “A judge shall be patient, dignified, and courteous to litigants, jurors, witnesses, lawyers and others with whom the judge deals in an official capacity.”
3. Canon 3B(5) of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct states: “A judge shall perform judicial duties without bias or prejudice.”
4. Article V, §1-a(6)A of the Texas Constitution provides that a judge may be disciplined for “willful or persistent violation of rules promulgated by the Supreme Court of Texas, incompetence in performing the duties of the office, willful violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct, or willful or persistent conduct that is clearly inconsistent with the proper performance of his duties or casts public discredit upon the judiciary or administration of justice.”

CONCLUSION

After considering the facts and evidence before it, the Commission concludes that Judge Williams failed to follow the law, and failed to be patient, dignified and courteous to individuals with whom he deals in an official capacity, when he inappropriately touched Judge Sandra Watts, District Clerk Anne Lorentzen, and District Clerk Chief Deputy Lilia Ann Gutierrez, in violation of Canons 2A and 3B(4). He also failed to be dignified and courteous to Judge Sandra Watts when he sent her an offensive text message in violation of Canon 3B(4).

Judge Williams’ conduct toward Judge Sandra Watts, Anne Lorentzen and Lilia Ann Gutierrez also cast public cast public discredit upon the judiciary and the administration of justice in violation of Article V, §1-a(6)A of the Texas Constitution.

In addition, Judge Williams failed to treat the assistant district attorneys in the *Anderson* and *Vasquez* cases with patience, dignity and courtesy, and he exhibited prejudice against the assistant district attorneys when he made disparaging comments about the Nueces County District Attorney’s Office in court, in violation of Canons 3B(4) and 3B(5). His statements also cast public cast public discredit upon the judiciary and administration of justice in violation of Article V, §1-a(6)A of the Texas Constitution.


Judge Williams’ willful and persistent conduct in both the *Anderson* and *Vasquez* cases is clearly inconsistent with the proper performance of his duties, in violation of Article V, §1-a(6)A of the Texas Constitution.

In condemnation of the conduct violative of Canons 2A, 3B(4), and 3B(5) of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct and the Texas Constitution recited above, it is the Commission’s decision to issue a **PUBLIC REPRIMAND** to Guy Williams, 148th District Court Judge, Corpus Christi, Nueces 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 REPRIMAND** by the Commission.

The Commission has taken this action with the intent of assisting Judge Williams in his continued judicial service, as well as 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 14th day of December, 2018.


Justice Douglas S. Lang, Chair
State Commission on Judicial Conduct