



**BEFORE THE STATE COMMISSION
ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

CJC Nos. 20-0393, 20-0622 & 20-1565

PUBLIC ADMONITION

**HONORABLE WILLIAM SHANE NOLEN
FORMER ASSOCIATE JUDGE, 323RD DISTRICT COURT
FORT WORTH, TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS**

During its meeting on March 11, 2022, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct concluded a review of the allegations against the Honorable William Shane Nolen, Former Associate Judge, 323rd District Court, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas. Judge Nolen was advised by letter of the Commission's concerns and provided written responses to the Commission's questions.

BACKGROUND

The complaints in CJC Nos. 20-0393 and 20-0622 arise out of Judge Nolen's termination as an Associate Judge for the 323rd District Court in Tarrant County, Texas. Judge Nolen was a party to a suit brought by the Department of Family and Protective Services in Denton County, Texas concerning one of his children. It was alleged that during that lawsuit, Judge Nolen was uncooperative with the court and violated the court's Temporary Orders. As a result of that alleged violation of a court order, Judge Nolen was terminated from his position as an Associate Judge in Tarrant County.

The complaint in CJC No. 20-1565 was initiated by the Commission to investigate a published news report that Judge Nolen participated in an after-hours "poker party" in the Tarrant County Juvenile Justice Center in violation of county and city ordinances and policies.

After considering the evidence before it, the Commission enters the following Findings and Conclusion:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. At all relevant times, the Honorable William Shane Nolen was Former Associate Judge, 323rd District Court, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas.

2. During its investigation of these complaints, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct (the "Commission") sent Letters of Inquiry to Judge Nolen concerning the allegations in the filed complaints and the news report of potential misconduct.
3. Although Judge Nolen responded to the Commission's initial letter of inquiry, the response was incomplete, apparently because of a fax machine malfunction. Although Commission staff asked Judge Nolen to resend his response, he did not.
4. The responses Judge Nolen did provide were incomplete or unresponsive to the questions asked.
5. Judge Nolen failed to respond to the Commission's second Letter of Inquiry concerning CJC Nos. 20-0393 and 20-0622 mailed January 21, 2022.
6. Judge Nolen failed to respond to the Commission's Letter of Inquiry concerning CJC No. 20-1565 mailed January 6, 2022.

RELEVANT STANDARDS

1. Article V, Section 1-a(6)A of the Texas Constitution provides, in relevant part, that a judge shall not engage in "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."
2. Tex. Gov't Code §33.001(b) provides, in part, "For purposes of Section 1-a, Article V, Texas Constitution, 'willful or persistent conduct that is clearly inconsistent with the proper performance of a judge's duties' includes: (5) failure to cooperate with the commission."

CONCLUSION

Based upon the record before it and the factual findings recited above, the Texas State Commission on Judicial Conduct has determined that the Honorable William Shane Nolen, Former Associate Judge, 323rd District Court, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas, should be publicly admonished for failing to cooperate with the Commission's investigation of these complaints. Judge Nolen's conduct in these respects violated Art. V, Sec. 1-a(6)A of the Texas Constitution.

The Commission has taken this action pursuant to the authority conferred it in Article V, §1-a(8) of the Texas Constitution in a continuing effort to promote confidence in and high standards for the judiciary.

Issued this the 7 day of April, 2022.



David Schenck
Chairman, State Commission on Judicial Conduct