

February 26, 2008

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

The Honorable Lawrence R. Daniels

Re: CJD 2007-078 Daniels/Investigative Counsel

Dear Judge Daniels:

The Commission on Judicial Disabilities learned through its Investigative Counsel that you were arrested on October 14, 2007 on charges of driving under the influence of alcohol and related charges.. Investigative Counsel, pursuant to Maryland Rule 16-805(d) opened an inquiry regarding that arrest. Recently the Commission was advised that your case was tried before the District Court of Maryland and that the trial resulted in your being acquitted of all charges. The Commission recognizes that at the close of your trial you stated, in part:

I want to say that my actions on the night in question were irresponsible and I deeply regret them and I would like to apologize to you and to all of my colleagues in the Maryland judiciary, I would like to apologize to the people of the state of Maryland and I would certainly like to apologize to my wife and my four daughters for putting all of us in a courtroom with regard to these issues.

Subsequent to your trial, you provided the Commission with evidence that you have been evaluated by a certified alcohol evaluator and been educated about hazards of alcohol abuse. Based upon the evidence produced at your trial, your statement to the

District Court, and your discussions with the Commission's Investigative Counsel, the Commission believes there is evidence that your actions on October 14, 2007 were in violation of the Canons of Judicial Conduct.

The Commission has also concluded that your conduct on October 14, 2007 will be sufficiently addressed by the issuance of this Dismissal with a Warning letter. The Commission warns you against future such conduct and believes, based upon your statements and actions subsequent to the incident that this conduct will not be repeated.

You are hereby warned that the Commission believes that your conduct on October 14, 2007 violated the following Canons of Judicial Conduct:

CANON 1

Integrity and Independence of the Judiciary

An independent and honorable judiciary is indispensable to justice in our society. A judge should observe high standards of conduct so that the integrity and independence of the judiciary will be preserved. The provisions of this Code are to be construed and applied to further that objective.

CANON 2

Avoidance of Impropriety and the Appearance of Impropriety

A. A judge shall avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety. A judge shall respect and comply with the law and shall act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the impartiality and integrity of the judiciary.

The Commission, with your consent, pursuant to Maryland Rule 16-810 will publish this Dismissal with a Warning in the *Maryland Register* and shall consider this Dismissal with a Warning letter to be a public document.

The issuance of this letter with your consent closes the Commission's case.

Very truly yours,

Patrick L. Woodward, Chair
Commission on Judicial Disabilities

cc: Commission Members
Steven P. Lemmey

SPL:lz

CONSENT

Pursuant to Maryland Rule 16-807 and Maryland Rule 16-810

I, Lawrence R. Daniels, Judge of the Circuit Court for Baltimore County, hereby consent to the Commission on Judicial Disabilities issuing me a Dismissal with a Warning as the final disposition in CJD 2007-078 Daniels/Investigative Counsel. I hereby waive the thirty (30) day waiting period under Maryland Rule 16-807(b)(2) and understand that the Dismissal with a Warning will be issued immediately. I have also consented to the Dismissal with Warning letter being treated as a public document by the Commission and hereby give my consent to the Commission to publish the Dismissal with a Warning in the *Maryland Register* and treat this letter a public document in all other respects. I understand that all other aspects of the Commission's file in CJD 2007-078 shall remain confidential pursuant to Maryland Rule 16-810. I have been given an opportunity to review the evidence in this case and I sign this consent with a full understanding of the contents of the warning letter.

Judge Lawrence R. Daniels

Date