

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA

CASE NO. SC03-833

INQUIRY CONCERNING A JUDGE NO. 02-370

RE: JUDGE CARVEN D. ANGEL

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF DISCIPLINE

The Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission (the “JQC”), served a Notice of Investigation on Circuit Court Judge Carven D. Angel (“Judge Angel”) pursuant to Rule 6(b) of Rules of the JQC based on information received regarding Judge Angel’s conduct during his 2002 re-election campaign. The JQC served and filed a Notice of Formal Charges on May 23, 2003.

The JQC has now entered into a Stipulation with Judge Angel in which he admits that during the course of his successful 2002 re-election campaign he (and members of his immediate family acting on his behalf) attended and spoke at partisan political gatherings to which his opponent was not invited, attended and campaigned at partisan political meetings, and publicly represented himself and held himself out as a member of a political party. This conduct violated Fla. Stat. § 105.071(1) and Canons 7A(1)(d), 7C(3) and 7A(3)(c). The specific charges are set forth in the Stipulation submitted herewith.

Judge Angel has admitted the foregoing, accepts full responsibility, and acknowledges that such conduct should not have occurred. It appears that Judge Angel erroneously but genuinely believed that such campaign conduct was permissible

under controlling federal constitutional law. Judge Angel now recognizes that his understanding was incorrect, but insists he acted honestly and in good faith.

The JQC has concluded that there is nothing in the record which causes it to question Judge Angel's honesty or good faith. Further, there no allegations of improper conduct in office Judge Angel has capably served as a judge in Marion County for 31 years (27 years on the Circuit Court bench and 4 years as a County Court judge). Accordingly, the Commission therefore finds and recommends that the interests of justice, the public welfare and sound judicial administration will be well served by a public reprimand of Judge Angel.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard C. McFarlain
Chair, Florida Judicial Qualifications
Commission
305 South Gadsden Street
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and

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Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY a true and correct copy of has been furnished by Facsimile and U.S. Mail to **Edwin C. Cluster, Esquire**, 21 NE First Avenue, Post Office Box 1148, Ocala, FL 34478, and to The Honorable Carven D. Angel, Marion County Circuit Court, Post Office Box 993, Ocala, FL 34478-0993, via facsimile on August _____, 2003.

Attorney