

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA

INQUIRY CONCERNING A JUDGE No. 05-05

RE: JAMES R. ADAMS

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**STIPULATION**

In this disciplinary proceeding, the Investigative Panel of the Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission (the AJQC<sup>®</sup>) and the circuit Court James R. Adams (AJudge Adams<sup>®</sup>) present the following stipulation to this court pursuant to Article V, Section 12 of the Florida Constitution and Rule 6(j) of the JQC-s Rules as amended.

1. Under Rule 6(j), the Investigative panel Amay reach an agreement with a judge on discipline or disability, and such stipulation shall be transmitted directly to the Supreme Court, to accept, reject of modify in whole or in part.<sup>®</sup>
2. A Notice of Investigation was served on Judge Adams on July 13, 2005. A hearing before the Investigative Panel was held in Orlando, Florida on August 12, 2005, at which Judge Adams appeared and testified.
3. Judge Adams admits the allegations of the Notice of Formal Charges. The violations charged arise from and relate to Judge Adams= relationship with a lawyer who appeared before him in a number of cases. Judge Adams admits that he granted a number of continuances at the request of the lawyer with whom he had a romantic relationship, thereby causing his impartiality to be brought into question. He also admits that the granted dismissals in several traffic cases during this time.

4. After an extensive review of the record, including the court docket and other documentary evidence and the August 12, 2005 transcript, the Investigative Panel respectfully submits that the interests of justice and sound judicial administration are best served by entering into this Stipulation and the Findings and Recommendations which accompany the Stipulation.
5. Judge Adams accepts full responsibility for the conduct set forth above, admits it should not have occurred and regrets and apologizes for such conduct. Such conduct gave the appearance of impropriety. The Investigative Panel in reaching this agreement notes that Judge Adams' record as a judge is previously unblemished, he is active in his community, and the relationship, although inappropriate, was short-lived extending from late September 2004 to mid-November 2004.
6. The Investigative Panel and Judge Adams have reached an agreement on what both believe is an appropriate discipline under the circumstances which is a public reprimand before this court.
7. The JQC and Judge Adams acknowledge and understand that this Stipulation and attached Findings and Recommendations of Discipline are subject to the review and approval of this Court. The JQC and Judge Adams acknowledge and understand that this Stipulation and Findings and Recommendations may be rejected by this Court and, in that event, this matter may be returned to the Hearing Panel for formal plenary hearing. In such event, the JQC and Judge Adams agree that neither the statements in

this Stipulation or the Findings and Recommendations, nor any of the negotiations thereto, are admissible for any purpose in the final plenary hearing. The admissions herein are made exclusively for the purpose of resolving this JQC proceeding. The parties agree that this Stipulation is not admissible for any other matter, proceeding or purpose.

8. The JQC and Judge Adams agree that oral argument before this Court is not necessary in light of the record, the nature of the charges and the contents of this Stipulation and Findings and Recommendations of Discipline, unless this Court orders otherwise. As noted above, Judge Adams knowingly and voluntarily waives his right to any further hearings or other proceedings if this Stipulation is accepted.

DATED this 7th day of February, 2006.

\_\_\_\_\_  
JAMES R. ADAMS  
Respondent

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Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

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JUDGE JAMES R. WOLF  
Chairman  
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