

BEFORE THE FLORIDA
JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION

INQUIRY CONCERNING A JUDGE,
THE HONORABLE VEGINA T. HAWKINS
JQC No. 2019-351

SC19-1193

UNOPPOSED MOTION TO AMEND NOTICE OF FORMAL CHARGES

The Judicial Qualifications Commission (“JQC”), hereby moves the Hearing Panel to allow amendments to the Notice of Formal Charges, and in support thereof states:

1. Undersigned Special Counsel for the JQC seeks to amend the Notice of Formal Charges to more clearly detail the alleged misconduct.
2. The JQC does not seek to add any additional accusations of misconduct.
3. Rule 16, Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission, authorizes the Hearing Panel to allow or require amendments to the Notice of Formal Charges.
4. Counsel has conferred with counsel for Respondent, he does not oppose the relief sought.
5. The proposed Amended Notice of Formal Charges is attached as Exhibit A.

WHEREFORE, the JQC respectfully moves the Hearing Panel to allow an amendment of the Notice of Formal Charges.

BEDELL, DITTMAR, DeVAULT, PILLANS & COXE
Professional Association

By: /s/Henry M. Coxe III

Henry M. Coxe III

Florida Bar No. 0155193

E-mail: hmc@bedellfirm.com

Brian T. Coughlin

Florida Bar No. 0713732

E-mail: btc@bedellfirm.com

101 East Adams Street

Jacksonville, Florida 32202

Telephone: (904) 353-0211

Special Counsel for Judicial Qualifications Commission

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 20th day of March, 2020, a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been electronically filed with the Clerk of the Court by utilizing the Florida Courts E-Filing Portal, which will send a notice of electronic filing to:

Honorable Kevin Emas
Hearing Panel Chair
Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission
Third District Court of Appeal
2001 SW 117th Avenue
Miami, Florida 33175
emask@flcourts.org

Alexander J. Williams, General Counsel
Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission
P.O. Box 14106
Tallahassee, Florida 32317
awilliams@floridajqc.com

Lauri Waldman Ross, Esquire
Counsel to the Hearing Panel
of the Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission
Ross & Girten
9130 S. Dadeland Blvd., Suite 1701
Miami, Florida 33156
RossGirten@Laurilaw.com

J. David Bogenschutz, Esquire
J. David Bogenschutz & Associates, P.A.
633 SE 3rd Avenue, Suite 202
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33301
david@bogenschutzpa.com

s/Henry M. Coxe III
Attorney

EXHIBIT A

BEFORE THE FLORIDA
JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION

INQUIRY CONCERNING A JUDGE,
THE HONORABLE VEGINA T. HAWKINS
JQC No. 2019-351

SC19-1193

AMENDED NOTICE OF FORMAL CHARGES

**TO: Honorable Vegina T. Hawkins
Circuit Judge, 17th Judicial Circuit
201 SE 6th Street
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301**

The Investigative Panel of the Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission, at its meeting on July 12, 2019, by a vote of the majority of its members, pursuant to Rule 6(f) of the Rules of the Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission and Article V, Section 12(b) of the Constitution of the State of Florida, finds that probable cause exists for formal proceedings to be instituted against you. Probable cause exists as to the following formal charges:

1. On the morning of June 11, 2019, you interrupted a court employee's work in another courtroom and summoned him into a secure hallway. As the employee walked into the hallway, you placed your hands on or near his neck and shook him. Your actions were captured on a courthouse security camera.

2. The incident occurred because you were displeased over having not yet received the documentation to prepare for your afternoon docket.

Your actions constitute inappropriate conduct that violate Canons 1, 2A, and 3B(4) of the Florida Code of Judicial Conduct, and demonstrate a present unfitness to serve.

You are hereby notified of your right to file a written answer to these charges within twenty (20) days of service of this notice on you. The original of your response and all subsequent pleadings must be filed with the Clerk of the Florida Supreme Court, in accordance with the Court's requirements. Copies of your response should be served on the undersigned Special Counsel for the Judicial Qualifications Commission.

Dated this _____ day of March, 2020.

BEDELL, DITTMAR, DeVAULT, PILLANS & COXE
Professional Association

By: _____

Henry M. Coxe III
Florida Bar No. 0155193
E-mail: hmc@bedellfirm.com
Brian T. Coughlin
Florida Bar No. 0713732
E-mail: btc@bedellfirm.com
101 East Adams Street
Jacksonville, Florida 32202
Telephone: (904) 353-0211

Special Counsel for Judicial Qualifications Commission

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this _____ day of March, 2020, a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been electronically filed with the Clerk of the Court by utilizing the Florida Courts E-Filing Portal, which will send a notice of electronic filing to:

Honorable Kevin Emas
Hearing Panel Chair
Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission
Third District Court of Appeal
2001 SW 117th Avenue
Miami, Florida 33175
emask@flcourts.org

Alexander J. Williams, General Counsel
Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission
P.O. Box 14106
Tallahassee, Florida 32317
awilliams@floridajqc.com

Lauri Waldman Ross, Esquire
Counsel to the Hearing Panel
of the Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission
Ross & Girten
9130 S. Dadeland Blvd., Suite 1701
Miami, Florida 33156
RossGirten@Laurilaw.com

J. David Bogenschutz, Esquire
J. David Bogenschutz & Associates, P.A.
633 SE 3rd Avenue, Suite 202
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33301
david@bogenschutzpa.com

Attorney