

**BEFORE THE FLORIDA
JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION**

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

SC19-_____

NOTICE OF FORMAL CHARGES

TO: Hon. Vegina T. Hawkins
Circuit Judge, 17th Judicial Circuit
201 S.E. 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 June 11, 2019, at approximately 10:30 A.M., you instigated a physical confrontation with a court employee. You sought out the confrontation by interrupting the employee's work in another courtroom, and summoning him into a secure hallway. As he walked through the door, you placed your hands around the neck of the employee and shook him. Your actions were captured on a courthouse security camera.

RECEIVED, 07/18/2019 11:06:29 AM, Clerk, Supreme Court

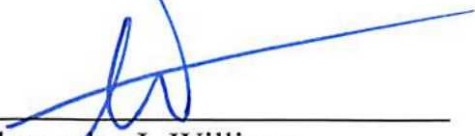
2. The genesis of the conflict with the employee appears to have been your displeasure with the fact that he did not have your 2:00 P.M. afternoon docket available for you that morning.

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 upon 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 General Counsel for the Judicial Qualifications Commission.

Dated: this 18th day of July, 2019.

**THE INVESTIGATIVE PANEL OF
THE JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS
COMMISSION**




Alexander J. Williams
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Notice of Formal Charges has been furnished by electronic service, on this the 18th day of July, 2019, to the following:

Hon. Vegina T. Hawkins
Circuit Judge, 17th Judicial Circuit
201 S.E. 6th Street
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

C/o J. David Bogenschutz, Esq.
jdblaw0515@aol.com
Attorney for Judge Hawkins



Alexander J. Williams
GENERAL COUNSEL