

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.

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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 27th day of March, 2020.

BEDELL, DITTMAR, DeVAULT, PILLANS & COXE
Professional Association

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Special Counsel for Judicial Qualifications Commission

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 27th 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:

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Hearing Panel Chair
Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission
Third District Court of Appeal
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