

**BEFORE THE FLORIDA
JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION**

INQUIRY CONCERNING A JUDGE,
THE HONORABLE ROBIN LEMONIDIS
JQC NO. 2019-101 & 2019-175

SC19-_____

NOTICE OF FORMAL CHARGES

TO: Hon. Robin Lemonidis
Titusville Courthouse
506 S. Palm Ave.
Titusville, FL 32796-3501

The Investigative Panel of the Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission, at its meeting on May 24, 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 on the following formal charges:

1. While presiding over the felony criminal trial and sentencing of State of Florida v. Skyler Francis, (Brevard County Case No. 2016-CF-12745) you repeatedly displayed intemperate, discourteous, and impatient behavior when addressing individuals in your courtroom, including the defendant and his counsel. Examples of this inappropriate behavior include:
 - a. Repeatedly and angrily, interrupting the defense counsel while he was addressing the jury and questioning witnesses, to scold and

berate him for addressing his client by his first name.

- b. In scolding the defense counsel, you repeatedly banged your gavel while glaring at the attorney.
 - c. At one point, during a side-bar, you threaten to hold the defense counsel in contempt for forgetting to use his client's last name.
 - d. You also used an inappropriate and intemperate demeanor while addressing witnesses.
- 2. Much of this inappropriate and intemperate conduct occurred while proceedings were underway, and while the jury was present in the jury box.
 - 3. Most alarming is that much of this inappropriate conduct occurred after you were informed at the beginning of the second day of the trial that potential jurors were overheard commenting about your perceived dislike of the defendant and his attorney.
 - 4. While presiding over a March 21, 2019 sentencing in (State of Florida v. Anthony Welch, Brevard County Case No. 2000-CF-44691) you made undignified and inappropriate statements that undermined the dignity, integrity, and impartiality of your position.

Your actions constitute inappropriate conduct in violation Canons 1, 2A, 3B(4), and 3B(5) of the Florida Code of Judicial Conduct.

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, and the Executive Director of the Commission.

Dated: this 1st day of August, 2019.

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




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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 1st day of August, 2019, to the following:

Hon. Robin Lemonidis
Titusville Courthouse
506 S. Palm Ave.
Titusville, FL 32796-3501

C/o Warren Lindsey, Esq
Lindsey & Ferry, PA
COUNSEL FOR JUDGE ROBIN LEMONIDIS



Alexander J. Williams
GENERAL COUNSEL