



**THE TENNESSEE
COURT OF THE JUDICIARY**

511 Union Street
Suite 600
Nashville, TN 37219

JUDGES OF THE TENNESSEE
COURT OF THE JUDICIARY

April 2, 2012

Michael W. Catalano, Clerk
100 Supreme Court Building
401 Seventh Avenue, North
Nashville, TN 37219-1407
615-253-1470

Chris Craft
Presiding Judge

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Jean A. Stanley
Dwight E. Stokes
D. Kelly Thomas, Jr.
Thomas T. Woodall

FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

The Honorable Jimmy C. Smith
2161 West Highway 21
Troy, Tennessee 38260

RE: Internal Complaint
File No. 11-4778

Dear Judge Smith:

This shall serve as a public letter of reprimand pursuant to your agreement with the investigative panel of this court.

This reprimand relates to your action as the General Sessions Judge of Obion County, Tennessee, in ordering the release on recognizance of your son after his arrest on October 15th, 2011, for DUI in Obion County, Tennessee.

Upon receiving notice of the complaint from the Disciplinary Counsel to the Tennessee Court of the Judiciary, you promptly responded and admitted that you had in fact set the conditions of release for your son, indicating that he had been arrested on a Saturday evening and that you ordered him released on Sunday. You further indicated that you had no intention of hearing the case against your son and had asked for a special judge to be appointed to hear the case.

Your participation as a judge in a matter that involves your son is a violation of Canon 3E(1)(d)(i) of the Code of Judicial Conduct as set forth in Rule 10 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Tennessee which provides in pertinent part:

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E. Disqualification

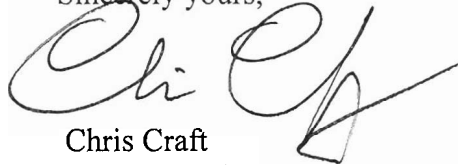
(1) A judge shall disqualify himself or herself in a proceeding in which the judge's impartiality might reasonably be questioned, including but not limited to instances where...

(d) the judge or the judge's spouse, or a person within the third degree of relationship to either of them....

(i) is a party to the proceeding.....

The entry of this order by you releasing your son after his arrest is also a violation of Canon 2A which requires that a " Judge shall respect and comply with the law and act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the Judiciary." Accordingly this letter constitutes a public reprimand for your actions.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Craft". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Chris Craft
Presiding Judge