



THE TENNESSEE COURT OF THE JUDICIARY

511 Union Street
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Nashville, TN 37219

JUDGES OF THE TENNESSEE
COURT OF THE JUDICIARY

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June 15, 2012

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

FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

The Honorable Sheridan Randolph
P.O. Box 1035
Cleveland, Tennessee 37364

RE: Complaint
File No. 12-4849

Dear Judge Randolph:

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

This reprimand relates to your action as the General Sessions Judge of Bradley County, Tennessee, on September 26, 2011, in conducting a hearing and setting release conditions for a defendant who was arrested in connection with a warrant issued as a result of an affidavit of complaint which you had personally signed as a victim of the crime.

At some time between August 30, 2011, and September 6, 2011, your office in Cleveland, Tennessee, was burglarized and a number of valuable items, including a firearm, were taken. On the evening of September 23, 2011, you were advised by another person that a certain individual was involved in the burglary, and you and another person signed an affidavit of complaint causing a warrant to be issued for the individual that you had been told was involved in the burglary. This individual was arrested on September 24, 2011, and held in the Bradley County jail. On

September 26, 2011, you had this individual brought before you in your court, heard statements made by him concerning the burglary, and ordered him released on his recognizance.

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 held the hearing and realized that it was error for you to do so.

Your participation in a matter in which you were the victim of the crime is a violation of Canon 3E(1)(d)(iv) 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:

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....

(iv) is to the judge's knowledge likely to be a material witness in the proceeding.

The holding of this hearing 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,



Chris Craft
Presiding Judge

CC/bep