

CERTIFIED  
REGISTERED MAIL

IN THE TENNESSEE COURT OF THE JUDICIARY

IN RE: THE HONORABLE JAMES TAYLOR  
JUVENILE COURT JUDGE  
HAWKINS COUNTY, TENNESSEE

2011 MAY -4 PM 12:44

APPELLATE COURT CLERK  
NASHVILLE

Docket No. M2011-00706-CJ-CJ-CJ

ANSWER

COMES NOW the Hon. James Taylor, and files this Answer to the Formal Charges filed on March 29, 2011, and shows as follows:

1. Judge Taylor lacks sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations of paragraph 1 of the Formal Charges in that Judge Taylor does not have personal knowledge of those allegations.
2. Judge Taylor admits the allegations in paragraph 2 of the Formal Charges, insomuch that Judge Taylor has been the Judge of the Juvenile Court of Hawkins County since September 1, 2006.
3. Judge Taylor denies the allegations in paragraph 3 of the Formal Charges. More specifically, Judge Taylor was in attendance at a June 2010 Hawkins County Commission meeting, sitting in the audience with the general public, when a County Commissioner asked Judge Taylor to comment on a letter that had been received that same day by the County from an organization objecting to the legality of a Foundations of American Law and Government Display. This item was not on the agenda, nor did Judge Taylor know that it was going

to be discussed or questions posed. It is admitted that Judge Taylor answered the question, but the question and answer involved the issue of whether such a Display is allowed under current law, and was not the issue of whether or not the display should be erected. Therefore, Judge Taylor did not make an appearance before the County Commission to “gain approval” for the Display. Furthermore, the Display, as discussed during that time, was proposed to be erected in the lobby of the Justice Center, being the same lobby that serves the Hawkins County Juvenile Court. As such, the comments made by Judge Taylor at the County Commission meeting did concern the law, the legal system, and the administration of justice, all as contemplated and allowed by the Code of Judicial Conduct. Furthermore, the comments made by Judge Taylor at the County Commission meeting did involve, very deeply, Judge Taylor’s interests, as contemplated and allowed by the Code of Judicial Conduct. Judge Taylor did not solicit funds from any source or person, but Judge Taylor was invited, without any solicitation by Judge Taylor, by two separate churches to speak regarding the Display where funds were generated for the Display, and Judge Taylor’s private law office mailing address was listed in one newspaper article where donations could be mailed.

4. Judge Taylor admits the allegations in paragraph 4 of the Formal Charges, insomuch that Judge Taylor has been the Judge of the Juvenile Court of Hawkins County since September 1, 2006.

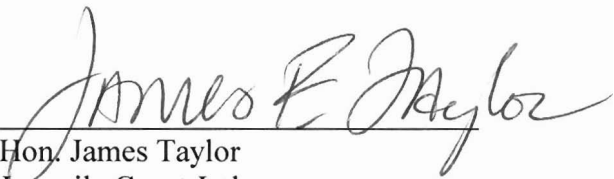
5. Judge Taylor denies the allegations in paragraph 5 of the Formal Charges, and denies that his conduct constitutes multiple violations of the Code of Judicial Conduct, and denies that he should be subjected to sanctions.
6. Judge Taylor denies the allegations in paragraph 6 of the Formal Charges, and denies that his conduct constitutes multiple violations of the Code of Judicial Conduct, and denies that he should be subjected to sanctions.
7. Judge Taylor admits the allegations in paragraph 7 in part, and denies the allegations in part. More specifically, Judge Taylor admits that he was found in contempt of court by the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals for the untimely filing of a brief, but Judge Taylor avers that the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals also ruled that “for good cause shown”, the brief was allowed to be filed. However, this issue was solely related to Judge Taylor’s private practice of law and did not involve the Hawkins County Juvenile Court. Furthermore, Judge Taylor denies that he was found in contempt in 2006.
8. Judge Taylor admits the allegations in paragraph 8 of the Formal Charges, insomuch that Judge Taylor has been the Judge of the Juvenile Court of Hawkins County since September 1, 2006.
9. Judge Taylor denies the allegations in paragraph 9 of the Formal Charges, and denies that his conduct constitutes multiple violations of the Code of Judicial Conduct, and denies that he should be subjected to sanctions.

10. Judge Taylor admits the allegations in paragraph 10 in part, and denies the allegations in part insomuch that a written response was made to Disciplinary Counsel on February 21, 2011.
11. Judge Taylor admits the allegations in paragraph 11 in part, and denies the allegations in part insomuch that a written response was made to Disciplinary Counsel on February 21, 2011.
12. Judge Taylor admits the allegations in paragraph 12 of the Formal Charges, insomuch that Judge Taylor has been the Judge of the Juvenile Court of Hawkins County since September 1, 2006.
13. Judge Taylor admits the allegations in paragraph 13 of the Formal Charges, insomuch that Judge Taylor has been the Judge of the Juvenile Court of Hawkins County since September 1, 2006.
14. Judge Taylor denies the allegations in paragraph 14 of the Formal Charges, and denies that his conduct constitutes multiple violations of the Code of Judicial Conduct, and denies that he should be subjected to sanctions.

WHEREFORE, JUDGE TAYLOR RESPECTFULLY FURTHER STATES:

1. Judge Taylor states that his conduct was proper at all times, and that he has not violated the Code of Judicial Conduct, and that he should not be subjected to sanctions.
2. Judge Taylor further cites the Code of Judicial Conduct that states “complete separation of a judge from extra-judicial activities is neither possible nor wise; a judge should not become isolated from the community in which the judge lives”. *Commentary, Cannon 4(A)*.

This the 2nd day of May 2011.

  
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Hon. James Taylor  
Juvenile Court Judge  
Hawkins County, Tennessee  
PO BOX 157  
Rogersville, TN 37857

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, James Taylor, hereby certify that I have served a true and exact copy of the foregoing, on the following individual(s), via United States mail, postage prepaid, addressed as follows:

Timothy Discenza  
The Tennessee Court of the Judiciary  
P.O. Box 3088  
Memphis, TN 38173

THIS the 2nd day of May 2011

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JAMES TAYLOR