

BEFORE THE COURT OF THE JUDICIARY  
OF THE STATE OF ALABAMA



In the matter of: )  
)  
M. John Steensland, Jr., Retired )  
)  
District Judge of Houston County, )  
)  
\_\_\_\_\_ )  
in the Twentieth Circuit of Alabama. )

Court of the Judiciary  
Case No. 39

**PETITION FOR RELIEF**

COMES NOW the Respondent, M. John Steensland, Jr., and pursuant to the *Rules of Procedure of the Judicial Inquiry Commission*, files this Petition for Relief, and further requests an Order staying this matter until Respondent can appropriately present this matter to the Alabama Supreme Court. As grounds therefore, Respondent states as follows:

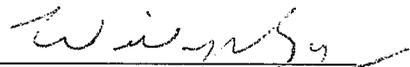
1. Respondent retired from the bench on May 7, 2010, and has been inactive since that time.
2. More than seven (7) months after Respondent retired, on December 14, 2010, that Alabama Judicial Inquiry Commission filed charges against Respondent.
3. The Alabama Judicial Inquiry Commission had no jurisdiction over Respondent on the date of the filing of the Complaint. *Johnson v. Board of Control of Ret. Sys. Of Ala.*, 740 So. 2d 999 (Ala. 1999); *see also Alabama Canons of Judicial Ethics D.(1)*.
4. The determination as to whether the Alabama Judicial Inquiry Commission has appropriate jurisdiction controls the disposition of this matter.
5. Respondent will be greatly prejudiced if he is forced to conduct trial of this matter before the Court of the Judiciary prior to the issue of jurisdiction being appropriately addressed with the Alabama Supreme Court.

6. Respondent requests the Court enter an Order staying the matter until Respondent can appropriately present the issue of jurisdiction to the Alabama Supreme Court.

WHEREFORE, for the foregoing reasons, Respondent requests that his Petition for Relief be GRANTED and further requests that this Court enter an Order staying this case until Respondent can appropriately present the issue of jurisdiction to the Alabama Supreme Court.

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Respectfully submitted,



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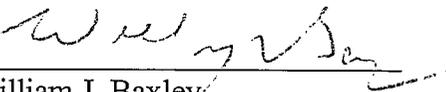
OF COUNSEL:

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on this the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of March, 2011, the foregoing pleading was served via HAND DELIVERY to the Clerk of the Court of the Judiciary and the following counsel of record:

Hon. Thomas E. Harrison  
Email: [teharisn@comcast.net](mailto:teharisn@comcast.net)  
~~Attorney for Judicial Inquiry Commission~~  
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Mobile, Alabama 36602

  
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William J. Baxley