



IN THE ALABAMA COURT OF THE JUDICIARY

IN THE MATTER OF: *
*
DOUGLAS L. PATTERSON *
DISTRICT JUDGE, * CASE NO.55
LIMESTONE COUNTY, AL *

MOTION TO EXPEDITE SETTING OF TRIAL

COMES NOW the Judicial Inquiry Commission ("the Commission") and moves this Honorable Court to set this matter for trial as expeditiously as possible and in conformity with Rules 3 and 8 of the Rules of Procedure for the Alabama Court of the Judiciary. The purpose of this motion is to have this Complaint adjudicated as expeditiously as possible, while giving Judge Patterson a minimum of 30 days' notice of that trial. In support of its Motion, the Commission states as follows:

1. As stated in and attached to the Complaint, on December 11, 2019, Judge Patterson was indicted in the Circuit Court of Limestone County in a three-count indictment.

2. As a result of the indictment, Judge Patterson was temporarily suspended without loss of pay pursuant to the Constitution of Alabama, Article IV, § 159.¹

¹ "A judge shall be disqualified from acting as a judge, without loss of salary, while there is pending (1) an

3. In addition, as stated in and attached to the Complaint, on December 17, 2019, Judge Patterson signed an incriminating letter wherein he admitted to stealing from elderly clients and stealing funds belonging to the people of Limestone County.

4. Judge Patterson further admitted to his unethical conduct by stating in that letter, "Let me take this occasion to say some things to you, and others, of **my unethical, criminal and reprehensible conduct.**" (Emphasis added.)

5. As required by Rule 8, "The Court shall fix a date for hearing upon the complaint as expeditiously as possible." The Commission understands and respects the time requirements mandated by Rules 3 and 8, i.e., that Judge Patterson has 30 days to file a responsive pleading and shall receive notice of the date, time, and place of hearing not less than 30 days prior to the date upon which the hearing is set. Ala. R. P. Ct. of Jud. Rules 3 and 8.

6. Since Judge Patterson has unequivocally admitted to unethical and criminal conduct and is currently suspended of

indictment or an information charging him in the United States with a crime punishable as a felony under a state or federal law, or (2) a complaint against him filed by the judicial inquiry commission with the court of the judiciary." Ala. Const. Art. IV, § 159.

his judicial duties with pay, the Commission requests an expeditious trial setting so that the trial can be held as soon as possible (with a minimum of 30 days' notice). Id.

7. All parties involved in the proceedings, the judiciary, and the public will greatly benefit from the expeditious resolution of this matter.

WHEREFORE, premises considered, the Commission respectfully requests that this Honorable Court expeditiously set this matter for trial, to be held as expeditiously as possible.

RESPECTFULLY submitted this 15th day of January, 2020.

/s/ Elizabeth C. Bern
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have, on this 15th day of January, 2020, electronically filed the foregoing with the Court of the Judiciary, and that I have further served a copy upon the following parties by placing same in the United States Mail, postage prepaid and properly addressed as follows:

Douglas Lee Patterson
District Judge, Limestone County
1220 Market Street West
Athens, AL 35611-4779

/s/ Elizabeth C. Bern
OF COUNSEL