

FILED

JUL - 8 2020

COURT OF THE JUDICIARY
Rebecca C. Oates
Secretary

IN THE ALABAMA COURT OF THE JUDICIARY

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOUGLAS L. PATTERSON
FORMER DISTRICT JUDGE,
LIMESTONE COUNTY, AL

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CASE NO.55

JUDICIAL INQUIRY COMMISSION'S NOTICE CONCERNING
JUDGE PATTERSON'S RESIGNATION NOTICE

COMES NOW, the Judicial Inquiry Commission ("Commission"), and hereby notifies this Honorable Court of the following:

1. This filing is in response to former Judge Patterson's Notice of Resignation, filed on July 7, 2020, notifying this Court of his submission of resignation, effective July 3, 2020, to Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Tom Parker. (Mr. Patterson's resignation letter was attached to his notice filed with this Court.)

2. In Steensland v. Ala. Judicial Inquiry Commission, 87 So. 3d 535 (Ala. 2012), the Alabama Supreme Court ruled that a judge's retirement during pending investigation by the Judicial Inquiry Commission of complaints filed against the judge does not deprive the Commission of jurisdiction to investigate and prosecute or deprive the Court of Judiciary of jurisdiction to adjudicate the charges in the complaint. Accordingly, Mr. Patterson's resignation from the office of

district judge of Limestone County does not deprive the Commission of jurisdiction to prosecute the Complaint filed against Mr. Patterson or deprive this Court of jurisdiction of adjudicating those charged violations of the Canons of Judicial Ethics that occurred while he held the office.

3. In numerous prior proceedings before the Court, in which the charged judge resigned, the Court dismissed the complaint only upon the Commission's motion to dismiss, e.g., In the matter of Enfinger, COJ No. 17; In the matter of Langley, COJ No. 23; In the matter of Woodard, COJ No. 31; In the matter of Thomas, COJ No. 35. See also In the matter of Caldwell, COJ No. 8, in which the Court adjudicated the charges although the judge had retired, effective four days prior to the trial.

4. The Commission will consider this latest filing by Mr. Patterson in its regularly convened meeting on Thursday, July 16, 2020, and will file an appropriate response to this Court no later than Friday, July 17, 2020.

RESPECTFULLY submitted this the 8th day of July, 2020.

/s/ Elizabeth C. Bern

Elizabeth C. Bern

/s/ Jenny Garrett

Jenny Garrett

/s/ Rosa H. Davis

Rosa H. Davis

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have, on this 8th day of July, 2020, electronically filed the foregoing with the Court of the Judiciary, and that I have further served a copy upon the following by placing same in the United States Mail, postage prepaid and properly addressed and/or via email as follows:

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/s/ Elizabeth C. Bern

OF COUNSEL