

II. Charges

Count I

APPOINTING SON

4. Judge Chaney violated the following provisions of the Alabama Canons of Judicial Ethics by appointing his son as an attorney in over 200 cases:

Canon 1: A judge should uphold the integrity and independence of the judiciary.

Canon 2: A judge should avoid impropriety . . . in all his activities.

Canon 2A: A judge should respect and comply with the law.

[A judge] should conduct himself at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary.

Canon 2B: A judge . . . should avoid conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice which brings the judicial office into disrepute.

Canon 2C: A judge should not allow his family . . . relationships to influence his judicial conduct or judgment.

Canon 3B(4): A judge should not make unnecessary appointments.

[A judge] should exercise his power of appointment . . . avoiding nepotism . . .

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¹ Alabama Canons of Judicial Ethics Canon 3B(4) Commentary provides, "*Consent by the parties to an appointment . . .*

Count II

IMPROPERLY TAKING JUDICIAL ACTION AND HEARING SON'S CASES

5. Judge Chaney violated the following provisions of the Alabama Canons of Judicial Ethics by taking legal action, i.e., hearing motions, entering orders, and granting fee declarations, on cases wherein his son was an attorney:

- Canon 1: A judge should uphold the integrity and independence of the judiciary.
- Canon 2: A judge should avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety in all his activities.
- Canon 2A: A judge should respect and comply with the law.

[A judge] should conduct himself at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary.

- Canon 2B: A judge . . . should avoid conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice which brings the judicial office into disrepute.
- Canon 2C: A judge should not allow his family . . . relationships to influence his judicial conduct or judgment.

does not relieve the judge of the obligation prescribed by this subsection." Ala. Canon Jud. Eth. 3B(4).

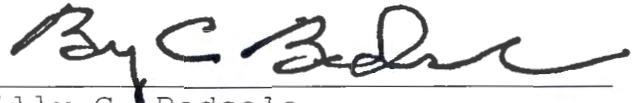
Count III

PATTERN AND PRACTICE OF APPOINTING SON AND
TAKING JUDICIAL ACTION IN SON'S CASES

6. Judge Chaney violated the provisions of the Alabama Judicial Canons of Ethics, set out in paragraphs 4 and 5, by establishing a pattern and practice of appointing his son and also of taking judicial action in proceedings wherein his son was counsel.

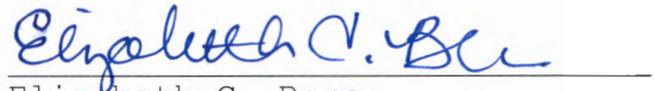
Done this 7th day of February, 2020.

THE JUDICIAL INQUIRY COMMISSION



Billy C. Bedsole
Chairman

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION



Elizabeth C. Bern
Attorney for the Commission