

FILED

JUL 11 2022

ALABAMA COURT OF THE JUDICIARY
Nathan P. Wilson
Secretary

IN THE ALABAMA COURT OF THE JUDICIARY

IN THE MATTER OF

**JAMES T. PATTERSON
CIRCUIT JUDGE
MOBILE COUNTY, AL**

CASE NO. 62

ANSWER

Comes now James T. Patterson and for his answer to the complaint, generally denies all of the allegations and demands strict proof thereof.

Undersigned reserves the right to amend his answer as allowed by the rules of procedure.

AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

- I. As to allegations regarding whether the State has properly funded the judicial branch of government in a way the judicial system can serve to protect the public, undersigned avers that at the time of the incidents alleged in the complaint, he was of the belief that, based on his 5 months worth of research, based on review and discussion with other judges, and with several prominent attorneys, that his actions—while a novel legal theory—were within the bounds of the inherent authority of a state circuit judge. This was briefed to the Alabama Supreme Court in response to the Mandamus petition, and the arguments made there are incorporated herein by reference.
- II. As to allegations regarding my statements that the prison system is underfunded and that prisoners are at risk of violent sexual assault, undersigned avers that truth is my defense.
- III. To the extent any facts alleged in the complaint state conclusory allegations regarding the ultimate issues to be decided, undersigned avers that the ultimate issues are for the Court of the Judiciary to decide.
- IV. Undersigned incorporates by reference any Constitutional First Amendment rights to free speech a judge may have, as balanced against the State canons of judicial ethics. See e.g. Parker v. Judicial Inquiry Commission of the State of Alabama, United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama Case No. 16-442. Opinion of March 2, 2018.

Undersigned reserves the right to incorporate any other defenses as they become known.

Respectfully submitted this 7th day of July, 2022.



JAMES T. PATTERSON

Address redacted.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have served a copy of this pleading via U. S. Mail, First Class Postage pre-paid on the Judicial Inquiry Commission at P. O. Box 303400, Montgomery, AL 36130-3400 this 7th day of July, 2022.



JAMES T. PATTERSON