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CHELAN CO DISTRICT COURT

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COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

BEFORE THE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT
OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

In re the Matter of Hon. Thomas C. Warren Judge, Chelan District Court 350 Orondo, 4th Floor P.O. Box 2182 Wenatchee, WA 98807-2182	NO. 95-2015-F-55 STIPULATION AND AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO WAC 292-12-020(6) AND ORDER OF REPRIMAND

The Commission on Judicial Conduct ("Commission") and the Honorable Thomas C. Warren ("Respondent"), Judge of the Chelan County District Court, do hereby stipulate and agree as provided herein.

The Commission is represented in these proceedings by David D. Hoff, Commission counsel, and the Honorable Thomas C. Warren represented himself.

STIPULATION

1. Respondent has been a District Court Judge for Chelan County District Court since 1986. In that capacity he presided over numerous hearings and trials. During a number of proceedings between June 1992 and October 1994, he made

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inappropriate comments from the bench. Most of these comments were directed to defendants at arraignment appearing before the Court without counsel. For example:

- On June 10, 1992, during a hearing in State v. Ramos, he stated: "I want to tell you, Mr. Ramos, that it's bullshit. This thing was sentenced on July 9, 1991. You've had 11 months and you have not paid a single dime to this man. You've screwed him. . . ."
- On June 11, 1992, during a hearing in State v. Gonzalez, he stated: "Then why would you do it here in our city, in our city. . . ? You are not an animal, you are not a dog out there, you're a human being. In this country you use bathrooms. And if you can't use bathrooms, you go back to Morales."
- On June 11, 1992, during a hearing in City v. McComber, he stated: ". . . come on, all you're doing is making her look like an idiot here. . . . All I want to do is chew butt on Mr. Wybenga at the moment."
- On April 14, 1994, in a hearing in City v. Kennedy, he made the following comment about an attorney to his client: "Well, you might want to shop around."
- On September 23, 1994, in a warrant fine hearing in State v. Flores, he made the following comment about the Defendant's wife: "Now, if, Mr. Flores, she didn't

post the money, deciding that she had some other good lookin' guy she'd rather spend the time with, ah, if it wasn't posted you could certainly post it now."

- On September 26, 1994, after the Court called Garcia, Ponce and Sanchez, the Respondent stated: "You know, you'd think we were living in Mexico."
- On September 26, 1994, during a sentencing inquiry in State v. Morales-Hildalgo, he stated: "You're not going to be able to send any more money back to Mexico, huh? Well, you know, that's too bad, because we don't here in Chelan County have to pay for your family in Mexico or wherever you're from. . . . Maybe they should start sending money back from Mexico so you can pay your fine. . . ."
- On October 10, 1994, during a hearing in State v. Gonzalez, he stated: "You could've hired a limousine to drive you and your friend around all night long for the amount that this ticket is going to cost you; maybe even airplane tickets to Mexico. . . ."
- On October 10, 1994, in State v. Sanders, during a discussion with a defendant concerning his FTAs and warrants, the Respondent stated: "All you've done to these courts is say, "screw you, judge" every time down the line, including ours from back in 1991. . . ."

2. The Respondent's comments, viewed together, reflect a pattern of inappropriate, insensitive, and/or offensive comments.

FINDING

3. The Commission has determined that Respondent's pattern of making inappropriate and insensitive comments, and using profanity, was a breach of decorum and had the effect of eroding public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary. Accordingly, Respondent's conduct violated of Canons 1, 2(A), 3(A)(2) and 3(A)(3) of the Code of Judicial Conduct.

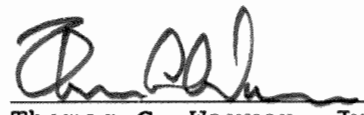
AGREEMENT

4. Respondent accepts the Commission's determination that his conduct, as described above, constitutes violations of the Code of Judicial Conduct and Respondent agrees not to engage in such conduct in the future.

5. Respondent does hereby agree to accept a reprimand as described in RCW 2.64.055(b) and RCW 2.64.010(6).

6. Respondent agrees to attend the next available offering of a cultural diversity program sponsored by the Minority and Justice Commission or other equivalent program, if approved in advance by the Chair of the Commission. Documentation of attendance shall be filed with the Commission within 30 days of attendance.

DATED this 14th day of July, 1995.



Thomas C. Warren, Judge

ORDER OF REPRIMAND

Based upon the Stipulation and Agreement herein, the Commission hereby orders, and Respondent is hereby reprimanded for violating Canons 1, 2(A), 3(A)(2) and 3(A)(3) of the Code of Judicial Conduct.

DATED this 13th day of October, 1995.

Ruth Schroeder, Chair
Commission on Judicial Conduct

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