

FILED

MAR 18 2014

A. C. J. C.

IN THE MATTER OF

GERALD KEEGAN,
JUDGE OF THE MUNICIPAL COURT

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
JUDICIAL CONDUCT

DOCKET NO. ACJC 2013-093

STIPULATIONS

Tracie H. Gelbstein, Disciplinary Counsel, Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct ("Presenter"), and Municipal Court Judge Gerald Keegan ("Respondent"), through counsel, Clark L. Cornwell, III, Esq., hereby enter into the following stipulations:

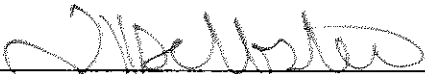
1. Respondent is a member of the Bar of the State of New Jersey, having been admitted to the practice of law in 1980.
2. Respondent has served as a part-time Judge of the Municipal Court for the City of Paterson since February 14, 2004, a position he continues to hold.
3. To date, Respondent has not been the subject of judicial discipline.
4. On February 1, 2011, Anthony T. Ardis ("Ardis"), the former Director of Management Services and Clerk to the Board of the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission ("PVSC"), was arrested and charged with official misconduct for using his power and influence as senior administrator at PVSC to have

subordinates perform personal home improvement projects while on agency time.

5. On June 29, 2011, the State Grand Jury indicted Ardis for official misconduct, conspiracy, and theft by unlawful taking of PVSC property in connection with his conduct while employed at PVSC.
6. The arrest and indictment of Ardis were publicized in local and regional news releases, some of which included a photograph of Ardis.
7. The criminal charges against Ardis were pending in the Criminal Division in the Passaic County vicinage while Respondent served as a municipal court judge in that same county.
8. Respondent and Ardis have been friends since approximately 1985.
9. Respondent and Ardis were associated with a group of men that gathered for Mass every Thursday evening.
10. Respondent, Ardis, Judge Raymond Reddin and a few other members of the group routinely met for dinner at local restaurants prior to attending Mass.
11. Between 2008 and September 2012, Respondent was unable to attend the Thursday night dinners due to health complications.


12. Commencing September 6, 2012, Respondent rejoined Ardis and others for Thursday night dinners.
13. On Thursday, September 13, 2012, Respondent joined Ardis, Judge Raymond Reddin, and three other men at Francesco's Restaurant for dinner.
14. Meanwhile, on that same evening, a local Republican organization was hosting a dinner upstairs at Francesco's.
15. A restaurant patron attending the event witnessed Ardis socializing with Judge Raymond Reddin, Peter Murphy, and another individual with whom the patron was unfamiliar.
16. The patron witnessed the men sit down at an outdoor table for dinner that was separate from the upstairs event.
17. The patron learned from Francesco's staff that the third man he witnessed eating dinner with Ardis was Respondent, whom the patron subsequently learned was the current or former municipal court judge of Paterson.
18. Francesco's staff never referred to Respondent as "judge" or "your honor."
19. Respondent continued to dine with Ardis and others on Thursday evenings at local restaurants until learning of the complaint from the Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct in the Spring of 2013, at which time Respondent voluntarily ceased attending the Thursday night dinners with Ardis.

20. At all times relevant to this matter, Respondent was aware that Ardis was under indictment for criminal offenses pending in Passaic County.



TRACIE H. GELBSTEIN, ESQ.
Presenter

DATED: March 18, 2014



CLARK L. CORNWELL, III, ESQ.
Counsel for Respondent

DATED: March 16, 2014