

**THE TENNESSEE  
BOARD OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

511 Union Street  
Suite 600  
Nashville, TN 37219

June 30, 2015

James M. Hivner, Clerk  
100 Supreme Court Building  
401 Seventh Avenue, North  
Nashville, TN 37219-1407  
615-253-1470

**MEMBERS OF THE TENNESSEE  
BOARD OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

**FOR PUBLIC RELEASE**

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David Wedekind

The Honorable Reese Holley  
202 South Main Street  
Dickson, Tennessee 37055

RE: Complaint of Dawn Kavanagh and Jake Lockert  
File No. B14-5938

Dear Judge Holley:

This shall serve as a letter of public reprimand pursuant to your agreement with the investigative panel of this Board.

This reprimand relates to certain practices that were followed by you in the past in connection with your duties as the Municipal Judge of Dickson Tennessee having General Sessions jurisdiction over state criminal cases occurring in that municipality. The particular matters related to this reprimand were as follows:

1. That you required defendants to perform public service work in order to be granted the right to have appointed counsel.
2. That as a requirement of probation or to obtain appointed counsel, you allowed some defendants to make donations of items to certain charities specified by you.
3. That you sentenced defendants to jail time for contempt if they did not complete public service work required for the appointment of counsel. That you denied appointed counsel, or revoked the bonds of individuals who had made a bond if they request appointed counsel, without regard for their personal financial means.

4. That you ordered cash only bonds in violation of established law.
5. That you required the waiver of the constitutional right to counsel and a jury trial in order to grant certain defendants a continuance.
6. That in certain cases you refused the request of defendants for appointed counsel, without conducting an indigency hearing.

During the course of the investigation, and in meeting with Disciplinary Counsel, you have been fully cooperative and candid concerning the facts of this complaint. You indicated that although you initially were of the opinion that you were following established law in these areas, that after consultation with Disciplinary Counsel and your independent research, you realized that you were in error in these practices, and have agreed to cease and desist in them. You have also agreed to a Cease and Desist Order entered by the Board of Judicial Conduct concerning these matters, and have met with the District Public Defender to coordinate and improve procedures in your Court.

Your procedures followed in connection with this matter were violations of Canon 1, Rules 1.1 and 1.2 which provide in pertinent part:

***CANON 1 — A JUDGE SHALL UPHOLD AND PROMOTE THE INDEPENDENCE, INTEGRITY, AND IMPARTIALITY OF THE JUDICIARY, AND SHALL AVOID IMPROPRIETY AND THE APPEARANCE OF IMPROPRIETY.***

***RULE 1.1 Compliance with the Law***

*A judge shall comply with the law, including the Code of Judicial Conduct.*

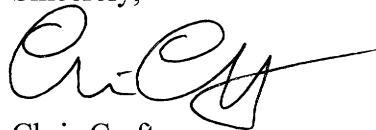
***RULE 1.2 Promoting Confidence in the Judiciary***

*A judge shall act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary, and shall avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety.*

Your conduct in addition violated the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated Section 17-5-301(g)(2) in that *“this conduct detrimentally affected the integrity of the Judiciary.”*

Accordingly, this letter constitutes a Public Reprimand for your actions in the above case.

Sincerely,



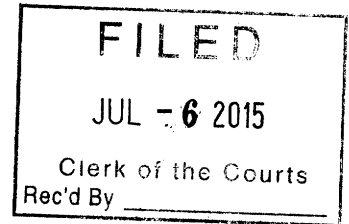
Chris Craft  
Board Chair

**IN THE TENNESSEE BOARD OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

**AGREED CEASE AND DESIST ORDER**

**IN RE: THE HONORABLE REESE HOLLEY**

**File No. B14-5938**



In accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated § 17-5-301(f)(2) the Board of Judicial Conduct and The Honorable Reese Holley, Municipal Judge for the City of Dickson Tennessee, have entered into an agreed upon Cease and Desist Order as follows:


IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Judge Reese Holley, Municipal Judge for the City of Dickson Tennessee is to cease and desist as follows:

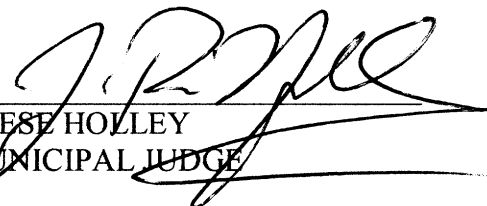
1. He shall not require defendants to perform public service work in order to be granted the right to have appointed counsel.
2. He shall not as a requirement of probation or to obtain appointed counsel, allow defendants to make donations of items to certain charities specified by him.
3. He shall not sentence defendants to jail time for contempt for failing to complete public service work previously ordered for the appointment of appointed counsel.
4. He shall not deny appointed counsel to individuals who have made a bond if they request appointed counsel, without regard for their personal financial means. He shall not revoke the bonds of individuals who had made a bond solely because they request appointed counsel
5. He shall not order cash only bonds in violation of established law.
6. He shall not require the waiver of the constitutional right to counsel and a jury trial in order to grant a defendants request for a continuance.
7. He shall not refuse the request of defendants for appointed counsel, without conducting an indigency hearing.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this order is hereby entered by the Board Chair of the Tennessee Board of Judicial Conduct by agreement.

THIS 30<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2015

APPROVED FOR ENTRY:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Craft  
Board Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
REESE HOLLEY  
MUNICIPAL JUDGE

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
THOMAS MINK  
ATTORNEY FOR JUDGE REESE HOLLEY

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
TIMOTHY R. DISCENZA  
DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL