



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL REVIEW COUNCIL

December 19, 2018

PUBLIC CENSURE

**In Re: Complaint of John Chaponis, filed June 20, 2018 against
the Honorable George Levine, Judge Trial Referee**

On this date, December 19, 2018, the Honorable George Levine, Judge Trial Referee, has acknowledged and agreed that there is sufficient evidence to sustain and prove the Judicial Review Council's Findings of Probable Cause regarding violations of the Judicial Code of Conduct and Connecticut General Statutes section 51-51(a), based on the investigation and probable cause hearing into the allegations of misconduct set forth in the complaint of John Chaponis.

Further, Honorable George Levine, Judge Trial Referee, acknowledges that the violations as set forth below warrant affirmative action by the Judicial Review Council in the form of a public censure.

Specifically, Honorable George Levine, Judge Trial Referee, acknowledges that the evidence before the Judicial Review Council is sufficient to prove that he has committed the following violations:

- (1) A violation of Rule 1.2 of the Judicial Code of Conduct and General Statutes section 51-51i(a)(1), by acting in a manner that reflected adversely on his temperament and on his appearance of impartiality;
- (2) A violation of Rule 2.2 of the Judicial Code of Conduct and General Statutes section 51-51i(a)(1), by exhibiting a lack of impartiality toward a litigant, and a lack of appropriate judicial temperament;
- (3) A violation of Rule 2.6(b) of the Judicial Code of Conduct and General Statutes section 51-51i(a)(1), by using intimidating language, with the goal of compelling a settlement; and

(4) A violation of Rule 2.8(b) of the Judicial Code of Conduct and General Statutes section 51-51i(a)(8), in that by speaking and acting in a manner that was undignified and discourteous, and that expressed exasperation and impatience.

The Honorable George Levine, Judge Trial Referee, has waived his right to litigate the Council's findings at a public hearing. Instead, through counsel the Honorable George Levine, Judge Trial Referee, has indicated a willingness to accept that his conduct, as set forth in the findings above, was not in accordance with the ethical standards for Connecticut Judges and Judge Trial Referees.

Accordingly, the Honorable George Levine, Judge Trial Referee, is hereby publicly censured for the violations as set forth above. The Judicial Review Council directs the Honorable George Levine, Judge Trial Referee, to conduct himself in the future in accordance with the requirements of the Judicial Code of Conduct and the relevant Connecticut General Statutes, so as to prevent any recurrences of unethical conduct.

The Judicial Review Council has determined that this public censure constitutes adequate discipline in this matter. No further action is warranted at this time.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark D. Phillips', written over a horizontal line.

Mark D. Phillips
Chairman, Judicial Review Council