

**BEFORE THE  
STATE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

---

**IN RE: JUDGE MICHAEL L. SKINNER  
MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE  
GRAND PRAIRIE, DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS  
(CJC No. 03-0249-MU)**

---

**VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT TO RESIGN FROM  
JUDICIAL OFFICE IN LIEU OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

This Agreement is being entered into by the undersigned parties pursuant to §§33.001(b) and 33.032(h) of the Texas Government Code.

**WHEREAS** on November 22, 2002, a complaint was filed with the State Commission on Judicial Conduct (hereinafter the "Commission") containing allegations of judicial misconduct against Judge Michael L. Skinner, Municipal Court Judge for the City of Grand Prairie, Dallas County, Texas, regarding his failure to comply with mandatory judicial educational requirements for fiscal year 2002.

**WHEREAS** on or about December 20, 2002, in connection with the above-referenced matter, the Commission received an affidavit (hereinafter the "December 20 2002 Sworn Complaint") from Hope Lochridge, the Executive Director of the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center, confirming the allegations of misconduct raised in the original complaint (a true and correct copy of the December 20, 2002 Sworn Complaint is attached hereto as Exhibit A), and

**WHEREAS** on or about February 24, 2003, the Commission notified Judge Skinner that a suspension hearing would be held on April 10, 2003 at the Commission offices in Austin, Texas, and

**WHEREAS** on or about March 28, 2003, Judge Skinner notified the Commission that he would attend the suspension hearing, and

**WHEREAS** the Commission has not recommended to the Supreme Court of Texas that Judge Skinner be suspended, pursuant to Article 5, §1-a(6)A of the Texas Constitution and Rule 15(b) of the Procedural Rules for the Removal or Retirement of Judges, and

**WHEREAS** no Notice of Formal Proceedings has been filed by the Examiner against Judge Skinner in connection with the above-referenced matter, and

**WHEREAS** no Findings of Fact or Conclusions of Law have been made in connection with the above-referenced matter, and

**WHEREAS** the parties agree that the allegations of judicial misconduct, if found to be true, would result in further disciplinary action against Judge Skinner, and

**WHEREAS** the parties to this Agreement are desirous of resolving these matters without the time and expense of further disciplinary proceedings.

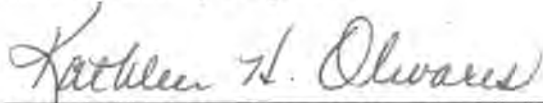
**IT IS THEREFORE AGREED** that Judge Skinner, upon the signing of this Agreement, shall resign his judicial office in lieu of disciplinary action by the Commission, pursuant to §§33.001(b) and 33.032(h) of the Texas Government Code. The Commission agrees that it shall pursue no further disciplinary proceedings against Judge Skinner in connection with the above-referenced matter.

**IT IS FURTHER AGREED** that, upon the Commission's approval of this Agreement, Judge Skinner shall not be disqualified from future judicial service; sitting or serving as a judge in the State of Texas in the future; or standing for election or appointment to judicial office in the State of Texas.

**IT IS FURTHER AGREED** that the Commission may enforce this Agreement through any legal process necessary, including injunctive relief; that Travis County, Texas, shall be the proper venue for any dispute between the parties or proceeding relating to this Agreement; and that Judge Skinner, individually, shall bear the expense, cost, and any reasonable and necessary attorneys' fees in the event any dispute arising under this Agreement is decided against him by any court or tribunal.

**AGREED TO AND ACCEPTED** upon its execution by the parties.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JUDGE MICHAEL L SKINNER

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
KATHLEEN H. OLIVARES, Chair  
State Commission on Judicial Conduct

Date: 4/3/03

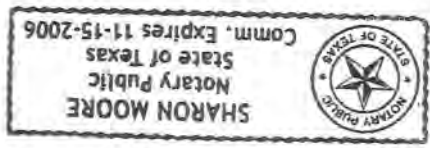
Date: April 23, 2003

**VERIFICATION**

State of Texas                   §  
  §  
County of DALLAS           §

**BEFORE ME**, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared MICHAEL L SKINNER, who by me being first duly sworn, on his oath deposed and said that the above "Voluntary Agreement to Resign from Judicial Office in Lieu of Disciplinary Action" is a true and correct recitation of the facts and accurately reflects his understanding of the terms and conditions of, and voluntary consent to enter into, such Agreement.

**SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME**, on this the 3rd day of April, 2003.



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
NOTARY PUBLIC, IN AND FOR THE  
STATE OF TEXAS

**EXHIBIT A**

AFFIDAVIT OF HOPE LOCHRIDGE

STATE OF TEXAS §  
  §  
COUNTY OF TRAVIS §

BEFORE ME, the undersigned notary public, personally appeared Hope Lochridge and upon her oath duly sworn testified as follows:

"I am over the age of 18, have never been convicted of a felony and have personal knowledge of all facts stated herein.

I am the Executive Director for the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center. As part of my duties, I ensure judges' compliance with judicial education requirements under the Rules of Judicial Education promulgated by the Court of Criminal Appeals of Texas, a copy of which is incorporated by reference and made a part of this affidavit.

Judge Michael L. Skinner, Municipal Court Judge of Grand Prairie, Dallas County, Texas, is not in compliance with Rule 4a(2) of the Rules of Judicial Education for fiscal year ~~2001~~. 2002. *HL*

Judge Michael L. Skinner completed 0 hours out of the 12 required hours of education for fiscal year ~~2001~~. 2002. *HL*

Judge Michael L. Skinner was not granted a waiver or other permission to relieve him of his educational requirements for fiscal year ~~2001~~. " 2002. *HL*

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

*Hope Lochridge*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Hope Lochridge  
Executive Director, Texas Municipal Courts Education Center

SWORN AND SUBSCRIBED TO BEFORE ME, on this the 20<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2002.

*Lidia G. Ball*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public, State of Texas

000008

EXHIBIT *CJC-1*

