



**BEFORE THE STATE COMMISSION  
ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

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**CJC No. 17-0117-CC**

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**PUBLIC WARNING  
AND  
ORDER OF ADDITIONAL EDUCATION**

**HONORABLE JEREMY WARREN  
COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 3 & PROBATE COURT  
ANGLETON, BRAZORIA COUNTY, TEXAS**

During its meeting on October 2-4, 2017, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct concluded a review of allegations against the Honorable Jeremy Warren, Judge of the County Court at Law No. 3 and Probate Court, Angleton, Brazoria County, Texas. Judge Warren was advised by letter of the Commission's concerns and provided written responses. After considering the evidence before it, the Commission entered the following Findings and Conclusion:

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. At all times relevant hereto, the Honorable Jeremy Warren was Judge of the County Court at Law No. 3 and Probate Court in Angleton, Brazoria County, Texas.
2. Judge Warren serves as a coach for his 12-year-old son's baseball team.
3. On or about September 25-26, 2016, Judge Warren attended his son's baseball tournament at Baseball USA in Houston, Texas.
4. At the end of his son's game, Judge Warren verbally accosted the umpire. During their exchange, which was recorded on video, the judge can be heard telling the umpire that he "sucks" and that he "will never umpire again...ever." The judge can also be heard calling the umpire an "asshole," a "racist," a "bastard," and a "liar." During their exchange, the judge told the umpire "bring it...Angleton, Texas, County Court Number Three...you suck!"

5. On the evening of October 6, 2016, Judge Warren self-reported the incident to the Commission after he was contacted by a local TV reporter who informed the judge that she had obtained a recording of the judge's exchange with the umpire.
6. A portion of the video recording was played on the local news that evening. Judge Warren was interviewed as part of the story, and was quoted as saying:
  - "I regret that I heckled [the umpire], but I regret that he threatened me and called me a liar too."
  - "When I asked the umpire why the runner was out, he explained to me the runner took a malicious swing at the catcher, like he tried to hit him."
  - "I told the boys they should never see an adult act like that. I didn't set a good example for them."
7. The TV station also published an excerpt from an email from tournament director Steve Olsen to Judge Warren regarding the incident:
 

My decision for calling the game for the H-TownThunder was based on the information I was given by you and the umpire. You came to me and told me your base runner took a swing at the catcher coming home and the umpire called him out. The umpire said the same thing. There is no protest on a judgement [sic] call. The video shows a different outcome which is unfortunate and happens in the game of Baseball when you are dealing with the human nature of the game. The UIC said that umpire would not be calling anymore [sic] games at Baseball USA.
8. In his response, Judge Warren acknowledged that the video recording "is a true and accurate depiction" of his exchange with the umpire.
9. The judge stated that "the encounter and [his] conduct did not cast discredit on the judiciary or the administration of justice. Nothing has changed in the way [he] conduct[s] business or court. [He] has always been fair and will continue to be."

### **Relevant Standards**

1. Canon 2B of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct states, in pertinent part, that "A judge shall not lend the prestige of judicial office to advance the private interests of the judge or others..."
2. Article V, Section 1-a(6)A of the Texas Constitution provides, in relevant part, that a judge can be sanctioned for "willful or persistent conduct that is clearly inconsistent with the proper performance of his duties or casts public discredit upon the judiciary or administration of justice."

### **CONCLUSION**

The Commission concludes based on the facts and evidence before it that Judge Warren's behavior towards the umpire cast public discredit upon the judiciary and the administration of justice. The Commission further concludes that Judge Warren inappropriately and unnecessarily injected his judicial position into the dispute for his own private interest. The Commission concludes that Judge Warren's conduct, as described above, constituted a willful violation of Canon 2B of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct and Article V, Section 1-a(6)A of the Texas Constitution.

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In condemnation of the conduct described above that violated Canon 2B of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct and Article V, Section 1-a(6)A of the Texas Constitution, recited above, it is the Commission's decision to issue a **PUBLIC WARNING AND ORDER OF ADDITIONAL EDUCATION** to the Honorable Jeremy Warren, Judge of the County Court at Law No. 3 and Probate Court, in Angleton, Brazoria County, Texas.

Pursuant to this Order, Judge Warren must obtain **two hours** of instruction with a mentor, in addition to his required judicial education for Fiscal Year 2018. In particular, the Commission desires that Judge Warren receive this additional education in the areas of (a) judicial demeanor and (b) racial sensitivity.


Judge Warren shall complete the additional **two hours** of instruction recited within **sixty days** from the date of written notification of the assignment of a mentor. It is Judge Warren's responsibility to contact the assigned mentor and schedule the additional education.

Upon the completion of the **two hours** of education described herein, Judge Warren shall sign and return the Respondent Judge Survey indicating compliance with this Order. Failure to complete, or report the completion of, the required additional education in a timely manner may result in further Commission action.

Pursuant to the authority contained in Article V, §1-a(8) of the Texas Constitution, it is ordered that the actions described above be made the subject of a **PUBLIC WARNING AND ORDER OF ADDITIONAL EDUCATION** by the Commission.

The Commission has taken this action in a continuing effort to protect the public confidence in the judicial system and to assist the state's judiciary in its efforts to embody the principles and values set forth in the Texas Constitution and the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct.

Issued this the 10<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2017.

  
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Honorable Valerie Ertz, Chair  
State Commission on Judicial Conduct