



**BEFORE THE STATE COMMISSION  
ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

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**CJC No. 23-0168**

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**PUBLIC REPRIMAND**

**HONORABLE CLYDE BLACK  
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PCT. 1  
CROCKETT, HOUSTON COUNTY, TEXAS**

During its meeting on February 1-3, 2023, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct concluded a review of the allegations against the Honorable Clyde Black, Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1, Crockett, Houston County, Texas. Judge Black was advised by letter of the Commission's concerns and provided a written response.

After considering the evidence before it, the Commission enters the following findings and conclusions:

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. At all times relevant hereto, the Honorable Clyde Black, was a Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1, in Crockett, Houston County, Texas.
2. Judge Black was required to take 20 hours of judicial education every Academic Year as a justice of the peace.
3. Judge Black did not complete his 20 hours of judicial education for the 2020-2021 Academic Year.
4. Judge Black did not complete his 20 hours of judicial education for the 2021-2022 Academic Year.
5. Judge Black did seek and was granted a waiver for his educational requirements for the 2020-2021 Academic Year with the condition he would complete the 19 hours of judicial education he did not complete in that Academic Year in addition to the required judicial education for the 2021-2022 Academic Years.

6. Regarding the 2020-2021 Academic Year, Judge Black believed he completed his required course remotely, but did not recall the dates or the courses.
7. Regarding the 2021-2022 Academic Year, Judge Black believed he completed his required courses when he attended the November 2021 TJCTC Course in Galveston, Texas. However, Judge Black did not provide any proof of his attendance.

### RELEVANT STANDARDS

1. Canon 2A of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct provides that a judge shall comply with the law and should act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary.
2. Canon 3B(2) of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct states, in pertinent part: “A judge...shall maintain professional competence in [the law].”
3. Article V, Section 1-a(6)A of the Texas Constitution provides, in relevant part, that a judge shall not engage in “willful or persistent conduct” that “is clearly inconsistent with the proper performance of his duties or casts public discredit upon the judiciary...”
4. Rule 3a(2) of the Rule of Judicial Education provides, in relevant parts, “Each Justice of the Peace will, as an official duty: ... in each fiscal year thereafter, complete 20 hours of instruction approved by a justice court education committee in the performance of the duties of office.”
5. Rule 9b of the Rule of Judicial Education provides: “After the end of each grant year, the Register will report to the applicable Education Committee the name of any judge or judicial officer who had not accumulated the minimum hours of education for that year, including such judges who are leaving office and do not plan to run for another term.”

### CONCLUSION

Based on the record before it and the factual findings recited above, the Texas State Commission on Judicial Conduct has determined that the Honorable Clyde Black, Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1, Crockett, Houston County, Texas, should be publicly reprimanded for his failure to complete his judicial education for the 2020 -2021 & 2021-2022 Academic Years. Judge Black’s failure in these respects constituted willful failures to comply with the law and to maintain professional competence in the law, and willful conduct that is clearly inconsistent with the proper performance of his duties and cast public discredit upon the judiciary or the administration of justice, in violation of Canons 2A and 3B(2) of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct, and Article V, Section 1-a(6)A of the Texas Constitution.

The Commission has taken this action pursuant to the authority conferred it in Article V, Section 1-a of the Texas Constitution in a continuing effort to protect the public and promote public confidence in the judicial system.

Issued this the 2 day of March, 2023.

  
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Gary Steel  
Chairman, State Commission on Judicial Conduct