



**BEFORE THE STATE COMMISSION
ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

CJC No. 23-0149

**PUBLIC ADMONITION
AND
ORDER OF ADDITIONAL EDUCATION**

**HONORABLE TOMAS RAMIREZ III
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PCT. 4
DEVINE, MEDINA COUNTY, TEXAS**

During its meeting on April 5-6, 2023, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct concluded a review of the allegations against the Honorable Tomas Ramirez III, Justice of the Peace, Precinct 4, in Devine, Medina County, Texas. Judge Ramirez was advised by letter of the Commission's concerns and provided a written response. On June 8, 2023, Judge Ramirez appeared before the Commission and provided testimony about this matter.

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 Tomas Ramirez III, was a Justice of the Peace, Precinct 4, in Devine, Medina County, Texas.
2. Judge Ramirez maintains a website advertising his private legal services.
3. On his law firm's website, Judge Ramirez also advertises his position as a justice of the peace and displays a picture of himself wearing his judicial robe.
4. Under the "Justice of the Peace" tab on his website, Judge Ramirez provides a link through which individuals can, among other things, pay their citations in his court.

5. In his sworn written responses to the Commission's inquiries about these matters, Judge Ramirez described the website advertising both his private legal practice and his judicial position as "informational" for any person interested in "learning more about him" and that he included content about his position as a Justice of the Peace simply to keep people informed of his activities.
6. During his appearance before the Commission, Judge Ramirez testified he included information about his judicial position on the website hoping to curtail the number of phone calls he was receiving about cases pending in his court.
7. In his testimony, Judge Ramirez acknowledged that including a "Justice of the Peace" tab on a website advertising his private legal services could have an impact on his law practice.

RELEVANT STANDARDS

1. Canon 2B of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct provides that a judge shall not lend the prestige of judicial office to advance the private interests of the judge.

CONCLUSION

Based on the record before it and the factual findings recited above, the Texas State Commission on Judicial Conduct has determined the Honorable Tomas Ramirez III, Justice of the Peace, Precinct 4, in Devine, Medina County, Texas, should be publicly admonished and ordered to obtain additional education for lending the prestige of his judicial office to advance his own private interests by maintaining a website advertising both his private legal services and his position as a justice of the peace, on which he displayed a picture of himself wearing his judicial robe, in violation of Canon 2B of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct.

Pursuant to this Order, Judge Ramirez must obtain **two (2) hours** of continuing legal education, in addition to his required judicial education for Fiscal Year 2023. In particular, the Commission desires that Judge Ramirez receive this additional education in the area of avoiding conduct regarding lending the prestige of his judicial office. Pursuant to the authority contained in Section 33.036 of the Texas Government Code, the Commission authorizes the disclosure of certain information relating to this matter to the Texas Justice Court Training Center to the extent necessary to enable that entity to assign the appropriate mentor for Judge Ramirez.

Judge Ramirez shall complete the additional **two (2) hours** of mentor instruction recited above within **60 days** from the date of written notification from the Commission of the assignment of a mentor. Upon receiving such notice, it is Judge Ramirez's responsibility to contact the assigned mentor and schedule the additional education.

The Commission has taken this action pursuant to the authority conferred it in Article V, Section 1-a(8) of the Texas Constitution in a continuing effort to protect the public and promote public confidence in the judicial system.

Issued this the 21 day of June, 2023.



Gary Steel
Chairman, State Commission on Judicial Conduct