



**BEFORE THE STATE COMMISSION  
ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

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**CJC Nos. 21-1557 & 22-0858**

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**PUBLIC ADMONITION  
AND  
ORDER OF ADDITIONAL EDUCATION**

**HONORABLE ISRAEL B. GARCIA, JR.  
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT 5, PLACE 1  
HOUSTON, HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS**

During its meeting on December 5-6, 2023, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct concluded a review of the allegations in these matter against the Honorable Israel B. Garcia, Jr., Justice of the Peace, Precinct 5, Place 1, in Houston, Harris County, Texas. Judge Garcia was advised by letter of the Commission's concerns and provided written responses. On December 6, 2023, Judge Garcia appeared before the Commission and gave testimony regarding these matters.

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 Israel B. Garcia, Jr. was the Justice of the Peace for Precinct 5, Place 1 in Houston, Harris County, Texas.
2. Judge Garcia advertised his performance of weddings, attempting to solicit paying customers for same.
3. Judge Garcia distributed cards advertising his wedding services that featured a picture of the judge in his judicial robes, as well as his judicial title and an image of the Texas flag.
4. Judge Garcia ran advertisements in Spanish-language newspapers, namely *La Prensa de Houston* and *La Buena Suerte*, that featured a photograph of Judge García on the bench in his robes beneath

the Harris County Seal, with the words “Bodas en Español” at the top, “Juez Israel B. García, Jr” and phone numbers at the bottom, and the image of his Justice of the Peace Seal superimposed over the image.

5. During his appearance before the Commission, Judge Garcia provided inconsistent and conflicting testimony regarding his efforts to advertise his wedding services.
6. Judge Garcia confirmed he distributed advertising cards as described above, representing to the Commission he no longer does so, but was unable to provide a clear, consistent answer as to how, where, and when these cards were distributed.
7. Judge Garcia confirmed he ran advertisements in two newspapers as described above, representing to the Commission that he no longer does so, but was unable to provide a clear, consistent answer regarding the length of time these advertisements appeared in the newspapers and what occurred with respect to same.
8. The Commission found Judge Garcia’s testimony overall to be contradictory and disingenuous.

### RELEVANT STANDARDS

Canon 2B of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct provides, in relevant part, “A judge shall not lend the prestige of his judicial office to advance the private interests of the judge or others[.]”

### 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 Israel B. Garcia, Jr., Justice of the Peace, Precinct 5, Place 1, in Houston, Harris County, Texas, should be publicly admonished and ordered to obtain additional education for lending the prestige of his judicial office to advance his private interests when he advertised his performance of wedding services using the regalia of his office, including using images of himself in his judicial robes sitting on the bench beneath the State seal, in violation of Canon 2B of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct.

Pursuant to this Order, Judge Garcia must obtain **three (3) hours** of instruction with a mentor, in addition to his required annual judicial education for Fiscal Year 2024. In particular, the Commission desires that Judge Garcia receives this additional education in the area of lending the prestige of judicial office to advance the judge’s private interests. 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 Garcia.

Judge Garcia shall complete the additional **three (3) hours** of instruction recited above within **60 days** from the date of written notification of the assignment of a mentor. Upon receiving such notice, it is Judge Garcia’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 20 day of December, 2023.

  
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Gary Steel  
Chairman, State Commission on Judicial Conduct