



**BEFORE THE STATE COMMISSION
ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

CJC No. 22-0153

PUBLIC REPRIMAND

**HONORABLE LYNETTE MONTEMAYOR
ESCOBARES MUNICIPAL COURT
ESCOBARES, STARR COUNTY, TEXAS**

During its meeting on December 5-6, 2023, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct concluded a review of the allegations against the Honorable Lynette Montemayor, Escobares Municipal Court, in Escobares, Starr County, Texas. Judge Montemayor was advised by letter of the Commission's concerns and did not provide 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 Lynette Montemayor, was a judge of the Escobares Municipal Court, in Escobares, Starr County, Texas.
2. On September 30, 2021, Judge Montemayor was indicted by the Grand Jury of Starr County for the charge of false name, false information, and forgery¹ which is a 3rd degree felony.
3. According to the indictment, Judge Montemayor "did then and there knowingly provide false information on the Starr County Affidavit of Fact form, namely that Sonia T. Diaz swore to and subscribed before Lynette Montemayor, a Notary Public of the State of Texas," on May 25, 2021.
4. Judge Montemayor's indictment was reported in the press.
5. On or about January 19, 2023, Judge Montemayor's husband, Lauro Octavio Ramirez, entered into a plea agreement which dropped the charges against Judge Montemayor.

¹ Tex. Transp. Code § 501.155.

6. On July 5, 2023, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct mailed a Letter of Inquiry to Judge Montemayor to her home address. She was given until July 21, 2023 to respond. Judge Montemayor did not respond.
7. On September 11, 2023, the Commission called Judge Montemayor at her home phone number regarding the July 5th Letter of Inquiry. Judge Montemayor stated she had not received the Letter of Inquiry. After Judge Montemayor provided her email address, the Commission emailed the July 5th Letter of Inquiry to her and gave her until September 25, 2023 to respond. Judge Montemayor did not respond.

RELEVANT STANDARDS

1. Section 33.001(b)(5) of the Texas Government Code provides, “For the purposes of Section 1-a, Article V, Texas Constitution, ‘willful or persistent conduct that is clearly inconsistent with the proper performance of a judge’s duties’ includes: ... (5) failure to cooperate with the commission; ...”.
2. 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...”

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 Lynette Montemayor, Judge of the Escobares Municipal Court, in Escobares, Starr County, Texas, should be publicly reprimanded for her failure to cooperate with the Commission’s investigation when she failed to respond to the Commission’s Letter of Inquiry. Judge Montemayor’s failure in this respect constituted willful or persistent conduct that is clearly inconsistent with the proper performance of her duties and cast public discredit upon the judiciary or the administration of justice, in violation of Section 33.001(b)(5) of the Texas Government Code 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(8) of the Texas Constitution in a continuing effort to protect the public and promote public confidence in the judicial system.

Issued this the 7th day of February, 2024.



Gary Steel
Chairman, State Commission on Judicial Conduct