



**BEFORE THE STATE COMMISSION  
ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

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**CJC Nos. 14-0398-MU; 14-0643-MU; 14-0720-MU**

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**PUBLIC ADMONITION**

**HONORABLE MADOLYN C. JOHNSON  
FORMER MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE  
VALLEY MILLS, BOSQUE COUNTY, TEXAS**

During its meeting on April 8-9, 2015, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct concluded a review of allegations against the Honorable Madolyn C. Johnson, Former Municipal Court Judge for the City of Valley Mills, Bosque County, Texas. Judge Johnson 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 Madolyn C. Johnson was Municipal Court Judge for the City of Valley Mills in Bosque County, Texas.<sup>1</sup>
2. In December 2013, a citizen went to the Valley Mills Municipal Court to inquire into the status of a citation that had allegedly been filed in Judge Johnson's court. The citizen was the alleged victim in the case.
3. After a verbal altercation, Judge Johnson refused to provide the citizen with any information about the case. In denying access to the court records, Judge Johnson erroneously relied on an opinion or ruling from the Texas Attorney General's Office that did not apply to the citizen's request.
4. In January 2014, Judge Johnson was observed by several witnesses engaging in a shouting match with a woman whom the judge had stopped outside City Hall.

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<sup>1</sup> Judge Johnson was placed on paid administrative leave by the City of Valley Mills, and later resigned from the bench in August 2014.

According to the witnesses, it appeared that Judge Johnson was upset with the woman for criticizing the judge's handling of the December 2013 incident described above regarding a citizen's request for court records.

5. In February 2014, a local reporter went to the Valley Mills Municipal Court to inquire into the status of a citation that was filed in Judge Johnson's court. The reporter was the alleged victim in the case.
6. Judge Johnson again denied access to the requested court records. In denying the request, Judge Johnson again erroneously relied on an opinion or ruling from the Texas Attorney General's Office that did not apply to the reporter's request.
7. In October 2014, a law firm hired by the City of Valley Mills issued a report regarding an audit of Judge Johnson's municipal court.
8. The report detailed chronic and systemic problems with the court, including fiscal mismanagement; failure to hold pre-trial, bench or jury trials; failure to process complaints; failure to render final written judgments; and a total absence of record-keeping and management.

### **RELEVANT STANDARDS**

1. Canon 2A of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct provides, in pertinent part, "A judge shall comply with the law ..."
2. Canon 3B(2) of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct provides, in pertinent part, "A judge ... shall maintain professional competence in [the law.]"

### **CONCLUSION**

The Commission concludes based on the facts and evidence before it that Judge Johnson failed to comply with the law and demonstrated a lack of professional competence in the law by (a) failing to timely execute the business of the court; (b) failing to hold jury or bench trials; (c) failing to reduce her rulings to final, written, appealable judgments; (d) failing to maintain proper records; (e) failing to conduct proper fiscal management; and (f) failing to provide public documents and information to citizens regarding cases that were filed in the judge's court. The Commission concludes that Judge Johnson's conduct, as described above, constituted willful and/or persistent violations of Canons 2A and 3B(2) of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct.

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In condemnation of the conduct described above that violated Canons 2A and 3B(2) of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct, it is the Commission's decision to issue a **PUBLIC ADMONITION** to the Honorable Madolyn C. Johnson, Former Municipal Court Judge for the City of Valley Mills, Bosque County, Texas.

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 ADMONITION** 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 14th day of May, 2015.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

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Hon. Steven L. Seider, Chair  
State Commission on Judicial Conduct