



**BEFORE THE  
STATE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

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**CJC No. 02-0343-MU**

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**PUBLIC ADMONITION**

**HONORABLE ELIHU DODIER  
ASSOCIATE MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE  
HOUSTON, HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS**

During its meeting in Austin, Texas, on October 10-11, 2002, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct concluded a review of allegations against the Honorable Elihu Dodier, Associate Municipal Court Judge for the City of Houston, Harris County, Texas. Judge Dodier was advised by letter of the Commission's concerns and provided a written response. Judge Dodier appeared before the Commission on May 9, 2002 and gave testimony. Following his appearance, the Commission recommended to the Supreme Court of Texas that Judge Dodier be suspended from office without pay. On June 5, 2002, the Supreme Court of Texas granted the Commission's request and suspended Judge Dodier from office without pay pending final resolution of the charges against him. After considering the evidence before it, the Commission entered the following Findings and Conclusions:

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. At all times relevant hereto, Judge Elihu Dodier was an Associate Municipal Court Judge for the City of Houston, Harris County, Texas.
2. Since May 9, 1975, Judge Dodier has also been an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Texas.
3. On or about August 17, 2001, the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center notified Judge Dodier that he had failed to obtain his required judicial education as a municipal judge during fiscal year 2001, which commenced on September 1,

2000 and ended on August 31, 2001. A waiver request form, along with instructions for its completion, was also provided to the judge at this time.

4. According to the March 11, 2002 sworn statement of Hope Lochridge, Executive Director for the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center, Judge Dodier failed to obtain his twelve (12) hours of required judicial education as a municipal judge during fiscal year 2001 and was not granted a waiver of his judicial education for fiscal year 2001 by the Municipal Courts Education Committee.
5. According to records received from the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center, on July 2-3, 2002, Judge Dodier attended a twelve-hour Judge's Program in El Paso, Texas, which brought him into compliance with the fiscal year 2001 judicial education requirement.
6. On January 17-18, 2002, Judge Dodier attended a twelve-hour Judge's Program in San Antonio, Texas, which brought him into compliance with the fiscal year 2002 judicial education requirement.

### **RELEVANT STANDARDS**

1. Canon 2A of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct states, "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 should be faithful to the law and shall maintain professional competence in it."
3. Rule 4(a)(1) of the Texas Rules of Judicial Education states that "[e]ach municipal court judge will, as an official duty, complete within one year after taking office, a minimum of 12 hours of instruction if a licensed attorney, or a minimum of 32 hours of instruction if not a licensed attorney, in the performance of the duties of office."

### **CONCLUSION**

The Commission finds that by failing to obtain the mandatory judicial education hours as a municipal judge, as required by Rule 4a of the Texas Rules of Judicial Education, Judge Dodier did not comply with the law in violation of Canon 2A of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct and did not maintain professional competence in the law in violation of Canon 3B(2) of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct.

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In condemnation of the above-described conduct 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 Judge Elihu Dodier, Associate Municipal Court Judge for the City of Houston, Harris County, Texas.

Pursuant to the authority contained in Article V, Section 1-a(8) of the Texas Constitution, it is ordered that the conduct 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 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 \_\_23\_\_ day of October, 2002

**ORIGINAL SIGNED BY**

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Honorable Kathleen Olivares, Chair  
State Commission on Judicial Conduct