

**WEST VIRGINIA  
JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION COMMISSION  
ANNUAL REPORT - 2016**



Pursuant to Rule 1.11(3) of the Rules of Judicial Disciplinary Procedure, the West Virginia Judicial Investigation Commission respectfully submits this Annual Report for its activities during the period of January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2016.

## ADMONISHMENTS

**In the Matter of Magistrate Linda J.R. Viderman, Magistrate of Brooke County:** Respondent was admonished in Complaint Nos. 07-2016 and 74-2016 for violating Rules 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.2, 2.4(B), 2.4(C), 2.9(A)(1)(a) and 2.9(A)(1)(b), 2.11 and 3.1(B) of the Code of Judicial Conduct for posting her granddaughter's criminal bond in one county and acting as the indemnitor of her granddaughter's criminal bond in another county, by having ex parte communication about her granddaughter's case with the presiding magistrate and by accepting the bail bondsman's offer to forego the 10% bond fee in her granddaughter's case as a "professional courtesy."

**In the Matter of Dennis J. Willett, former Candidate for Judge of the 26<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit:** Respondent was admonished for violating Rule 2.16(A) of the Code of Judicial Conduct in Complaint No. 59-2016 for failing to timely reply to the Commission's request for information concerning the complaint.

**In the Matter of Brenda Campbell, Senior Status Magistrate:** Respondent was admonished in Complaint No. 72-2016 for violating Rules 1.2, 1.3, 2.16(A) and 4.1(A)(3) of the Code of Judicial Conduct for publicly endorsing a circuit judge candidate, for failing to cooperate in the ethics investigation, and for a lack of candor in her eventual reply to the complaint.

**In the Matter of Cynthia Broce-Kelley, Magistrate of Pocahontas County:** Respondent was admonished in Complaint No. 80-2016 for violating Rules 1.1, 1.2, 2.1 and 2.5(A) of the Code of Judicial Conduct for failing to arraign a criminal defendant who was brought to the courthouse while she was still on-call duty there.

## JIC COMPLAINTS TO STATEMENT OF CHARGES

**In the Matter of Edward R. Kohout, Esquire Candidate for Judge of the 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Supreme Court Nos. 15-1190 & JIC Complaint No. 89-2015:** On September 10, 2015, the Judicial Investigation Commission received a complaint against Respondent alleging that he personally solicited campaign contributions and engaged in conduct unbecoming a judicial candidate in violation of the former Code of Judicial Conduct. After a thorough investigation in which the Commission also learned that