

**BEFORE THE JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION COMMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA**

**IN THE MATTER OF:  
MAGISTRATE GREGORY LIND ADAMS  
MAGISTRATE FOR WETZEL COUNTY**

**COMPLAINT NO. 156-03**

This matter is before the Judicial Investigation Commission upon a complaint filed on September 4, 2003, setting forth certain allegations against Magistrate Gregory Lind Adams, Magistrate for Wetzel County. The complaint alleged, among other things, that Magistrate Adams had been working as a private investigator/process server since April 2003. He had been serving process in a number of cases for an attorney.

Upon receipt of the complaint an investigation was conducted pursuant to the Rules of Judicial Disciplinary Procedure. The investigation revealed that at the time the complaint was filed, Magistrate Adams was licensed as a private investigator or process server. It further found that Magistrate Adams had served process for an attorney on several occasions. The Magistrate further heard cases in which defendants were represented by the attorney for whom he had served process.

The complaint and the investigation of this matter were reviewed by the Judicial Investigation Commission at its meeting on March 5, 2004, and it was determined that probable cause does exist that Magistrate Gregory Lind Adams, Magistrate for Wetzel County violated Canon 1 and Canon 2 of the Code of Judicial Conduct. These sections of the Code of Judicial Conduct state in relevant part:

Canon 1. A judge shall uphold the integrity and independence of the judiciary.

A. An independent and honorable judiciary is indispensable to justice in our society. A judge should participate in establishing, maintaining, and enforcing

high standards of conduct, and shall personally observe those standards so that the integrity and independence of the judiciary will be preserved. The provisions of this Code are to be construed and applied and further that objective.

Canon 2. A judge shall avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety in all of the judge's activities.

A. A judge shall respect and comply with the law, shall avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety in all of the judge's activities, and shall act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary.

It was further determined that formal discipline was not appropriate under the circumstances. The Judicial Investigation Commission determined that pursuant to Rule 2.7(c) of the Rules of Judicial Disciplinary Procedure that a written admonishment would be given to Magistrate Gregory Lind Adams.

It is therefore the decision of the Judicial Investigation Commission that Magistrate Gregory Lind Adams be and he hereby is admonished for this conduct as fully set forth in the matters as asserted here in the complaint filed in this matter on September 4, 2003.

March 18,  
2004

*Fred L. Fox, II*

Fred L. Fox, II, Chairperson  
Judicial Investigation Commission

Date