

**BEFORE THE JUDICIAL STANDARDS COMMISSION**

**AUG 14 2007**

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

T.W.  
**JUDICIAL STANDARDS  
COMMISSION**

**IN RE: )  
INQUIRY CONCERNING A JUDGE, NO. 06-233, ) PUBLIC REPRIMAND  
HAROLD THOMAS JARRELL, JR., Respondent )**

Respondent, Harold Thomas Jarrell, Jr., was at all times referred to herein a judge of the General Court of Justice, District Court Division, Judicial District Eighteen and, as such was subject to the Canons of the North Carolina Code of Judicial Conduct, the laws of the State of North Carolina, and the provisions of the oath of office for a district court judge as set forth in the North Carolina General Statutes, Chapter 11.

Sometime on or about August 23, 2006 two automobiles belonging to the estate of Joseph Parker Jarrell, were stolen from behind a building located on Surratt Drive, Archdale, North Carolina. Joseph Parker Jarrell was respondent's uncle.

Upon learning of the theft of the vehicles, respondent conducted an investigation into the incident. On or about August 26, 2006, respondent met with Officer Jeffrey Harold Allred of the Archdale Police Department and provided information and documentation obtained during respondent's investigation to Officer Allred. Respondent also gave Officer Allred a business card for the respondent's judicial office with a note respondent had written on the back of the business card requesting a \$25,000.00 cash bond and signed "Tom Jarrell". Respondent instructed Officer Allred to give the business card to the magistrate on duty with instructions to call respondent if the magistrate had any questions.

Officer Allred prepared Warrants for Arrest against Henry Thomas Horn and delivered said warrants along with respondent's business card to Randolph County Magistrate Angela

Dawn Lassiter. Officer Allred explained the history of the case to Magistrate Lassiter, who subsequently issued the warrants for Horn. Prior to leaving at the end of her shift, Magistrate Lassiter handed respondent's business card to Randolph County Magistrate John Anthony Glass and explained the situation to him.

Horn was arrested and brought before Magistrate Glass on or about August 27, 2006. Magistrate Glass prepared a Conditions of Release and Release Order setting a \$25,000.00 secured bond with a notation in the Additional Information box that read, "BOND SET BY JUDGE JARRELL (CASH ONLY)". Magistrate Glass stapled the respondent's business card to the court's copy of the Conditions of Release and Release Order.

This matter came to the attention of the Judicial Standards Commission by a written complaint filed with the Commission by Andrew W. Davis. A formal investigation was ordered by the Commission and conducted by the State Bureau of Investigation. Respondent assisted fully with the investigation.

Respondent misused the power of his judicial office by using his official position and influence to suggest a bond in a matter in which he had personal knowledge and a personal interest. The fact that the matter arose in a different judicial district and that respondent would not preside over the case does not mitigate the misconduct. Though respondent contended that he acted in his personal capacity, his use of his official business card evidences his intent to use his judicial position to influence a case in which he had a personal interest.

Respondent's actions described above evidence a disregard of the principles of conduct embodied in the North Carolina Code of Judicial Conduct, including failure to personally observe appropriate standards of conduct to ensure that the integrity and independence of the

judiciary shall be preserved (Canon 1), failure to respect and comply with the law and to act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary (Canon 2A), using the prestige of his office to advance the private interests of his uncle's estate (Canon 2B), and initiating *ex parte* communication in a pending proceeding (Canon 3A(4)). Respondent's actions constitute conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice that brings the judicial office into disrepute (N.C. Const. art IV, § 17 and N.C.G.S. § 7A-376(a)).

Respondent agrees that he will not repeat such conduct in the future, mindful of the potential threat any repetition of his conduct poses to public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary and to the administration of justice.

Respondent agrees he will promptly read and familiarize himself with the Code of Judicial Conduct.

Respondent has been represented by counsel, Attorney Wade M. Smith, during this proceeding. Respondent affirms he has consulted with said counsel prior to acceptance of this Public Reprimand.

Respondent further agrees that he will not retaliate against any person known or suspected to have cooperated with the Commission, or otherwise associated with this matter.

The undersigned Executive Director of the Judicial Standards Commission certifies that he has caused a copy of this Public Reprimand to be served upon respondent, and that respondent has 20 days within which to accept the Public Reprimand or to reject it and demand, in writing, that disciplinary proceedings be instituted in accordance with Rule 12 of the Rules of the Judicial Standards Commission.

Served upon respondent, Harold Thomas Jarrell, Jr., by personal delivery to his counsel of record, Denise Walker, Esq., on the 23 day of July, 2007.

By: Paul R. Ross  
Paul R. Ross, Executive Director  
Judicial Standards Commission

I, Harold Thomas Jarrell, Jr., hereby accept the terms contained in this Public Reprimand this the 6<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2007.

Harold Thomas Jarrell, Jr.  
Harold Thomas Jarrell, Jr.

**ORDER OF PUBLIC REPRIMAND**

Now therefore, pursuant to the Constitution of North Carolina, Article IV, Section 17, the procedures prescribed by the North Carolina General Assembly in the North Carolina General Statutes, Chapter 7A, Article 30, and Rule 11(b) ~~12(a)~~ of the Rules of the Judicial Standards Commission, the North Carolina Judicial Standards Commission, hereby orders that respondent, Harold Thomas Jarrell, Jr., be and is hereby PUBLICLY REPRIMANDED for the above set forth violations of the Code of Judicial Conduct. Respondent shall not engage in such conduct in the future and shall fulfill all of the terms of the Public Reprimand as set forth herein.

Dated this the 14<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2007.

John C. Martin  
John C. Martin, Chairman  
Judicial Standards Commission