

FILED

BEFORE THE JUDICIAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

SEP 4 2007

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

T.W.

**JUDICIAL STANDARDS
COMMISSION**

**IN RE:)
INQUIRY CONCERNING A JUDGE, NO. 06-244,) PUBLIC REPRIMAND
VICTORIA LANE ROEMER, Respondent)**

Respondent, Victoria Lane Roemer, was at all times referred to herein as a judge of the General Court of Justice, District Court Division, Judicial District Twenty One 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.

On September 6, 2006 respondent presided over the matter of Norman Carter and Sophy Carter, Plaintiffs v. Jamie Hill AKA (Frank Hill) and Stacy Hill, Defendants, Forsyth County file no. 06CVD5808. The matter before the court was an appeal from a magistrate's judgment in a summary ejectment action.

Upon the conclusion of the presentation of evidence, rather than entering a monetary judgment against the defendants, respondent unlawfully found the defendants to be in civil contempt due to defendants' inability to pay \$2,480.00 as awarded by the court, and ordered the defendants confined to the Forsyth County Detention Center until the \$2,480.00 was paid.

This matter came to the attention of the Judicial Standards Commission by a written complaint filed with the Commission by Attorney Hazel Mack-Hilliard. A formal investigation was ordered by the Commission and conducted by the State Bureau of Investigation.

Respondent's actions described above evidence a negligent 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), and failure to be faithful to the law and maintain professional competence in it (Canon 3A(1)). 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 she will not repeat such conduct in the future, mindful of the potential threat any repetition of her conduct poses to public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary and to the administration of justice.

Respondent agrees she will promptly read and familiarize herself with the Code of Judicial Conduct.

Respondent has been represented by counsel, Attorney David B. Freedman, during this proceeding. Respondent affirms she has consulted with said counsel prior to acceptance of this Public Reprimand.

Respondent further agrees that she 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, Victoria Lane Roemer, on the 26th day of July, 2007.

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

I, Victoria Lane Roemer, hereby accept the terms contained in this Public Reprimand this the 29 day of August, 2007.

Victoria Lane Roemer
Victoria Lane Roemer

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 12(a) of the Rules of the Judicial Standards Commission, the North Carolina Judicial Standards Commission, hereby orders that respondent, Victoria Lane Roemer, 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 4th day of September, 2007.

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