



FILED

AUG 9 2012

**JUDICIAL STANDARDS
COMMISSION**

**BEFORE THE
JUDICIAL STANDARDS COMMISSION**

INQUIRY NO. 11-252

PUBLIC REPRIMAND

**LONNIE WAYNE CARRAWAY
DISTRICT COURT JUDGE
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 8**

Upon its own motion, the Judicial Standards Commission ordered a formal investigation into reports that Judge Lonnie Wayne Carraway had been arrested and charged with Driving While Impaired, and gave notice to Judge Carraway as required by Rule 9(d) of the Rules of the Judicial Standards Commission. The investigation was conducted by the Commission's investigator, who rendered an investigative report to the Commission. The Commission has completed its review of the investigative report, including information provided by Judge Carraway, and has caused this Public Reprimand to be personally served upon Judge Carraway pursuant to Rule 11(b). In accordance with such Rule, the judge must, within 20 days of the date of service, either accept the Public Reprimand or reject it and demand, in writing, that disciplinary proceedings be instituted in accordance with Rule 12 of the Rules of the Judicial Standards Commission.

Findings of Fact

1. Lonnie Wayne Carraway was at all times referred to herein a judge of the General Court of Justice, District Court Division, Judicial District Eight 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.
2. On November 23, 2011, Judge Carraway was involved in a single car accident near the

intersection of Charlie Waters Road and Four Way Loop Road near Hookerton, North Carolina. Judge Carraway's vehicle was located in a ditch on the right-hand side of Charlie Waters Road and the respondent appeared to the investigating officer to be under the influence of an impairing substance. During the investigation Judge Carraway consented to the submission of a sample of his blood for analysis by the State Bureau of Investigation. The analysis of Judge Carraway's blood revealed his blood alcohol level to be 0.00, but confirmed the presence of the substances Amitriptyline and Zolpidem (Schedule IV). Judge Carraway was charged with a misdemeanor of driving while under the influence of an impairing substance.

3. On February 24, 2012, Judge Carraway entered a plea of guilty to impaired driving, in violation of North Carolina General Statute §20-138.1, and was found guilty and convicted of that charge. Judge Carraway was sentenced to a suspended 60 day sentence and placed on twelve months of unsupervised probation, ordered to obtain a substance abuse assessment and complete any recommended education or treatment, pay a \$100.00 fine, courts costs and community service fee, to complete twenty four hours of community service, and comply with other conditions of probation. Judge Carraway has paid all court ordered financial obligations, completed the court ordered substance abuse assessment and recommended education/treatment, and has completed the court ordered community service.
4. Judge Carraway promptly answered all questions and provided any information requested by the Commission as part of its investigation into this matter.

Conclusions

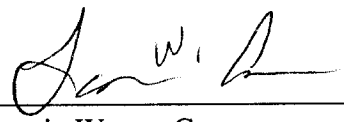
Judge Carraway's actions that led to the conviction described above evidences a serious disregard for the principles of personal conduct embodied in the North Carolina Code of Judicial Conduct, including, failure to personally observe appropriate standards of conduct to ensure that the integrity and independence of the judiciary shall be preserved (Canon 1), and 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 2). Respondent's actions also 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)).

Corrective Action and Acceptance of Terms

1. Judge Carraway 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.

2. Judge Carraway agrees he will promptly read and familiarize himself with the Code of Judicial Conduct.
3. Judge Carraway 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.
4. Judge Carraway acknowledges that the Commission has caused a copy of this Public Reprimand to be served upon him, and that he had 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.
5. Judge Carraway affirms he has consulted with, or had the opportunity to consult with, counsel prior to acceptance of this Public Reprimand.

I, Lonnie Wayne Carraway, hereby accept the terms contained in this Public Reprimand this the 24 day of July, 2012.



Lonnie Wayne Carraway

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) of the Rules of the Judicial Standards Commission, the North Carolina Judicial Standards Commission hereby orders that Lonnie Wayne Carraway, be and is hereby PUBLICLY REPRIMANDED for the above set forth violations of the Code of Judicial Conduct. Judge Carraway shall not engage in such conduct in the future and shall fulfill all of the terms of this Public Reprimand as set forth herein.

Dated this the 9th day of August, 2012.



John C. Martin, Chairman
Judicial Standards Commission