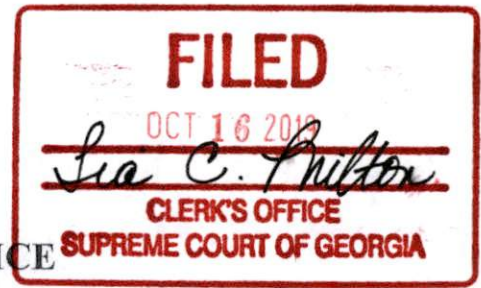


**JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION  
STATE OF GEORGIA**

*In re:* Indictment of Judge Kathryn  
Schrader



**RULE 15 SUSPENSION NOTICE**

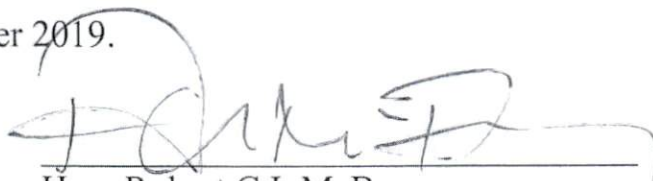
On 18 September 2019, a grand jury in Gwinnett County returned a true bill charging Gwinnett County Superior Court Judge Kathryn Schrader and her three co-defendants with three counts of computer trespass (O.C.G.A. § 16-9-93(b)). Upon receiving a certified copy of this indictment from the prosecuting authority and waiting the requisite fourteen days (plus an additional several days at the request of Judge Schrader so that she could submit materials for the Hearing Panel's consideration), the Hearing Panel of the Judicial Qualifications Commission (JQC) reviewed the indictment and conferred pursuant to JQC Rule 15(A).

Rule 15(A)(1) instructs that the Hearing Panel "shall" suspend a judge if "the indictment relates to and adversely affects the administration of the office of [the] indicted judge and ... the rights and interests of the public are adversely affected thereby." The indictment under consideration arises from allegations that Judge Schrader decided -- without consulting or informing her colleagues, court administration, or County officials -- to allow an outside third party to have access to (*i.e.*, trespass upon) the Court's (and thus the County's) network. Plainly this relates to the administration of the Judge's office. The Panel further finds that Judge

Schrader's personal decision to allow an outside third party to gain access to the County's network -- with its many subsequent repercussions, including the discovery that Judge Schrader's actions allegedly enabled a convicted child molester to have access to Court data -- also adversely affects the administration of that office, as well as the rights and interests of the public.

Given these findings, the Hearing Panel, pursuant to Rule 15(A)(1), hereby suspends Judge Schrader until the final disposition of this criminal matter or until her current term of office expires, whichever occurs first. All parties to the criminal litigation are reminded that this suspension is temporary; Judge Schrader shall be reinstated to office if the matter is not tried "at the first regular or special term following the indictment." Rule 15(A)(6). Merely re-indicting with minor or technical changes to the charges will not have the effect of extending or renewing the suspension. *See State v. Jones*, 290 Ga. App. 879, 880 (2008); *State v. Daniels*, 206 Ga. App. 443, 445 (1992). Finally, the Hearing Panel will review its decision upon petition of Judge Schrader if there is a substantive change in circumstances with her criminal case. Rule 15(A)(3).

This 16<sup>th</sup> day of October 2019.



Hon. Robert C.I. McBurney  
Presiding Officer  
Hearing Panel, Judicial Qualifications Commission