



The Judiciary Commission of Louisiana

400 Royal Street, Suite 1213
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130-8145

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PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

April 10, 2019

Larry Culp
2613 Horseshoe Lake Road
Monroe, LA 71203

Re: File No. 18-181

Dear Mr. Culp:

The Judiciary Commission recently considered the complaint you lodged against Judge Alvin R. Sharp in the referenced file.¹

The Judiciary Commission takes complaints against judges for misconduct very seriously. The Commission looked carefully at your complaint and the ethics rules that apply, including the Code of Judicial Conduct and the Louisiana Constitution. Following a review of this matter, the Commission found no violation of any ethics rule by Judge Sharp but took appropriate action and then closed the file.

We are unable to provide you with any further information or specific details regarding the Commission's decision or action. As discussed in the letter previously sent to you by the Office of Special Counsel, the Louisiana Constitution (Article V, Section 25(C)) and the rules of the Louisiana Supreme Court (Rule XXIII, Section 23) require that all proceedings before the Judiciary Commission are confidential. Although this rule does not allow you to disclose to anyone the fact that you filed a complaint with the Commission or the action taken on the complaint, you may disclose and discuss the underlying events that led you to file a complaint. Please be advised that violations of the confidentiality rule will be taken very seriously.

Thank you for taking the time to bring this matter to the attention of the Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kelly McNeil Legier", is written over a horizontal line.

Kelly McNeil Legier
Commission Counsel

¹ As indicated in previous correspondence to you, your complaint against Judge Robert C. Johnson was assigned a separate file number (File No. 18-182) and was closed by the Commission.

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cc: Chair and Members, Judiciary Commission of Louisiana
Sandra A. Vujnovich, Chief Executive Officer
Michelle A. Beaty, Special Counsel
Lantz Savage, Assistant Special Counsel

The Honorable Alvin R. Sharp
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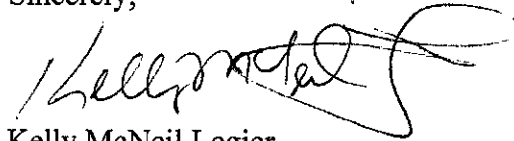
attempted to explain your reasons for filing the envelope at issue under seal, the Commission did not regard anything about the circumstances before you as overcoming the constitutional right of access to court records or authorizing you to seal the document *sua sponte* without giving the parties any notice or opportunity to be heard prior to sealing. Your actions appeared to unnecessarily cause confusion, suspicion by Mr. Culp and Mr. Banks, and added time and expense in seeking to unseal the document.

Although a judge's legal error will not be regarded as judicial misconduct in many instances, a legal error could constitute an ethical violation if the judge's ruling or action is made contrary to clear and determined law about which there is no confusion or question as to its interpretation, and the legal error is either egregious (involving the denial of basic legal rights), made in bad faith, or made as part of a pattern or practice of legal error. *In re Quirk*, 97-1143 (La. 12/12/97), 705 So. 2d 172.

This reminder is in keeping with the Commission's goal of assisting judicial officers in avoiding conduct or practices that may give rise to future violations.

Mr. Culp will be notified of the file closure.

Sincerely,



Kelly McNeil Legier
Commission Counsel

cc: Steven Scheckman, Counsel to Judge Sharp
Chair and Members, Judiciary Commission of Louisiana
Sandra A. Vujnovich, Chief Executive Officer
Michelle A. Beaty, Special Counsel
Lantz Savage, Assistant Special Counsel