

November 19, 2020

COPIY

Received on
11-20-20 AM

Robert T. Mittelholzer, Esq.

Executive Secretary

Judicial Conduct Committee

132 Chapel Street

Portsmouth, NH 03801

JC-20-062-G

Re: IMO Albrecht November 6, 2020 hearing

Dear Atty. Mittelholzer,

It is with extreme embarrassment that I write this self-report of a possible violation of Rule 2.8. On November 6, 2020 I presided over a hearing regarding the above parties. The hearing was telephonic and each party had counsel. It was scheduled for four hours. We started at 11:30 am and finished around 3:30 pm. These parties have been involved in high conflict and contentious litigation since 2016. There are more than 420 docket entries in their file.

I shall not go into detail of their conflict, but will provide a brief overview. I have presided over dozens of hours of hearings regarding a domestic violence petition, temporary, final and post-divorce hearings. The parties live on opposite coasts but that circumstance does not dampen their conflict.

On November 6 I conducted a telephonic hearing. No parties were in attendance; the two people in the courtroom were my court recorder/monitor and me. Periodically a security officer would check in to ensure there were no security issues. During father's testimony he began speaking of issues that were not relevant to the issues to be decided-something he often did. Under my breath I uttered a comment that contained a vulgar expression: "who the f*** cares." During mother's testimony somewhat later, I had uttered a sentence that was completely inappropriate.

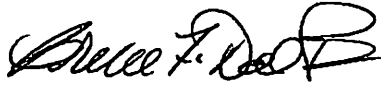
Until Judge King informed me that the comments were overheard by an eScriber transcriptionist, I did not even remember saying anything, let alone the comments described in the previous paragraph. I certainly do not dispute the recording. It is my voice and I made the statements. I emphasize, however, that the comments were not directed toward any individual and do not signal a bias or anything remotely close. They were made out of complete frustration. The matter had been scheduled a few days earlier for a WebEx experience. The WebEx did not work and we were required to reschedule. A few days prior to the hearing and the day of the hearing, counsel had more than 300 pages of exhibits delivered to me for my review.

Again I wish to emphasize that the comments-as inappropriate as they are-were not directed to any party. They were uttered out of frustration and under my breath. After Judge King's notification, I asked the monitor if she overheard me saying anything. She stated that she did not.

I do not excuse my comments in any way. Given my position in the court system, more is expected of me. Frankly, I expect more of myself. I can assure you that I shall not replicate my action. A reprimand is clearly in order should you deem it appropriate. When I make a mistake, I own it. I do not engage in denial.

I thank you for taking the time to read and consider this self-report. I am happy to speak further with you on this matter at your convenience should you desire to do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce F. DalPra". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bruce" and last name "DalPra" clearly legible.

Bruce F. DalPra

Marital Master

C: Honorable David King