

# Commission on Judicial Conduct Report of Activities for Third Quarter of 2015

BOSTON, MA (November 13, 2015) – On November 13, 2015, the Commission on Judicial Conduct's Executive Director, Howard V. Neff, III, published this interim report of Commission activities, covering the Commission's activities for the third quarter of calendar year 2015, from July 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015. During that period, sixty-one complaints were filed with the Commission, and out of those complaints, seventeen were docketed for investigation or preliminary inquiry, as they alleged conduct that, if true, would constitute judicial misconduct.

During the third quarter, the Commission held two meetings and considered seventeen complaints that had been docketed in 2015 and in previous years.

Of those seventeen complaints, twelve were dismissed by the Commission after investigation or preliminary inquiry. In one of those dismissed complaints, the Commission found that the evidence did not rise to the level of judicial misconduct but expressed its concern to the judge that he or she should avoid the same or similar conduct in the future.

Two of the seventeen complaints before by the Commission in the first two quarters were still being considered at the end of the third quarter.

Pursuant to Agreed Dispositions that became effective in 2015 and in previous years, during the first two quarters of 2015, the Commission monitored the conduct of judges in connection with Agreed Dispositions in an additional three complaints.

Pursuant to the Commission's statute and rules, an Agreed Disposition may take the form of an Informal Adjustment in which the Commission informs or admonishes the judge that certain conduct is or may be cause for discipline, or an Agreed Disposition may take the form of a reprimand. This form of disposition requires agreement by the judge. In most cases, this type of disposition has a valuable, favorable effect on a judge's conduct. The terms of such a disposition usually include a period of monitoring by the Commission and conditions imposed on the judge that are designed to prevent a repetition of the misconduct. The conditions may include counseling, education, assignment of a mentor judge, monitoring by the Commission for a specified period of time, voluntary retirement, or other appropriate conditions.

The Commission's statute, rules, and a copy of the Commission's 2014 Annual Report are available on the Commission's website: [www.mass.gov/cjc](http://www.mass.gov/cjc).

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