

STATE OF MARYLAND

BEFORE THE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL DISABILITIES

In the Matter of the

*

Honorable Norman R. Stone, III,
Associate Judge, Baltimore County
District Court of Maryland

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Case No. CJD 2012-014

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AGREEMENT FOR DISCIPLINE BY CONSENT

The Honorable Norman R. Stone, III, Associate Judge, District Court of Maryland for Baltimore County ("Judge Stone"), by and through his counsel, David B. Irwin and Steven P. Lemmey, Investigative Counsel ("Investigative Counsel") for the Commission on Judicial Disabilities ("Commission"), pursuant to Maryland Rule 16-808(l), hereby enter into this Agreement consisting of the following terms:

1. On October 22, 2012, at a duly constituted regular meeting of the Maryland Commission on Judicial Disabilities, upon a unanimous vote, the Commission Members, pursuant to Rule 16-808(a), made a finding of probable cause in the above-entitled case to believe that Judge Stone committed sanctionable conduct. The Commission directed Investigative Counsel to initiate proceedings against Judge Stone by filing with the Commission Charges that he had committed sanctionable conduct.

2. On December 6, 2012, Charges against Judge Stone in the above-entitled case were filed by Investigative Counsel with the Commission and thereafter served upon Judge Stone. A copy of the Charges is attached to this Agreement and incorporated herein as Exhibit A.

3. On December 7, 2012, Judge Stone, by and through his counsel, filed a written

response to the Charges, admitting to the conduct in the Charges and that the conduct was in violation of the Rules of Judicial Conduct. A copy of the response is attached to this Agreement and incorporated herein as Exhibit B.

4. On November 28, 2012, the Chair of the Commission met with Judge Stone, Judge Stone's counsel, Investigative Counsel, and the Commission's Executive Secretary. Judge Stone's counsel advised the Chair of the Commission that Judge Stone wished to admit to the conduct outlined in the attached Charges and agreed that the Rules of Judicial Conduct had been violated by Judge Stone.

5. Based upon the representations of counsel and Judge Stone's admissions, the Commission's Investigative Counsel and Judge Stone's counsel prepared the attached Stipulation of Facts and Conclusions of Law ("Stipulation"). The Commission having reviewed the Stipulation agreed with Judge Stone and his counsel that this case could proceed forward under this Agreement For Discipline By Consent. The Commission reached that conclusion because the attached Charges and Stipulation clearly demonstrate that Judge Stone acted in violation of the Maryland Code of Judicial Conduct, has accepted full responsibility for that conduct, and agreed to the sanction stated herein. A copy of the attached Stipulation is incorporated herein as Exhibit C.

6. Judge Stone admits to all of the Charges and to the truth of all facts constituting sanctionable conduct. In the Stipulation and in his admissions, Judge Stone expressly admitted that his actions in the twenty-eight (28) cited contempt cases were not in compliance with the law of contempt in Maryland. Judge Stone agreed that the twenty-eight (28) cases provide clear and convincing evidence that he violated the Rules of Judicial Conduct and engaged in conduct that was prejudicial to the proper

administration of justice.

7. Based upon the Stipulation in this case, the Commission concluded that Judge Stone's conduct merits a serious sanction that would require the approval of the Maryland Court of Appeals. The Commission authorized the Commission's Investigative Counsel to enter into discussions with Judge Stone and his counsel to reach an Agreement for Discipline By Consent. The Commission authorized Investigative Counsel and Judge Stone's counsel to submit this Agreement to the Maryland Court of Appeals for the Court's approval pursuant to Maryland Rule 16-808(l).

8. Judge Stone consents to a suspension without pay for a period of five (5) work days to be completed within thirty (30) days of the date of this Agreement, and to an overall suspension of ninety days with the remaining 85 days being stayed based upon his successful completion of a two year period of probation with the Commission. (The "Sanction"). The conditions of probation are that Judge Stone must comply with the Maryland Code of Judicial Conduct and not be charged with conduct that results in a disposition of any complaint more severe than a dismissal or a dismissal with a warning.

9. Judge Stone has served as a District Court Judge in Maryland for over fourteen years. During that fourteen years he has served in a distinguished and exemplary manner. In addition to serving as a District Court Judge, Judge Stone has also been involved in numerous committees and other court related activities.

10. Judge Stone waives his rights to further proceedings before the Commission and to subsequent proceedings before the Court of Appeals relating to the Charges and the Sanction. Judge Stone waives all rights to challenge or dispute the Charges and the Sanction, and waives all other rights available to him under the Maryland Rules in

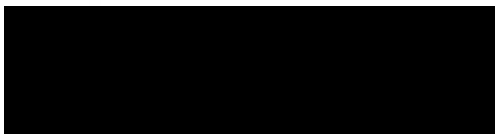
connection with the Charges and the Sanction.

11. Judge Stone agrees that the Sanction, this Agreement, the Stipulation, and the Charges may be admitted in any subsequent disciplinary proceeding against him, if relevant.

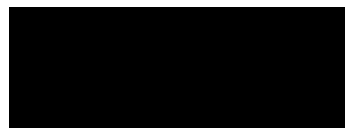
12. Judge Stone enters into this Agreement and gives his consent to the Sanction freely and voluntarily, after thorough discussion with his counsel, David B. Irwin.

13. Pursuant to Maryland Rule 16-808(l), the parties agree that this Agreement shall be submitted to the Court of Appeals, which shall either approve or reject this Agreement. Until approved by the Court of Appeals, this Agreement shall be confidential and privileged as required by Maryland Rule 16-808(l). If the Court approves this Agreement and imposes the Sanction, this Agreement, and all of the attached exhibits, shall be made public as required by Maryland Rule 16-808(l). If the Court rejects this Agreement including the Sanction, the proceedings before the Commission shall resume as if no Agreement For Discipline By Consent had been reached.

AGREED:

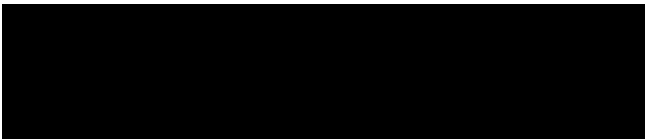


Hon. Norman R. Stone, III
Associate Judge, Baltimore County
District Court of Maryland,



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Recommendation of the Commission

The Commission on Judicial Disabilities recommends the approval of this Agreement
by the Court of Appeals.

Maryland Commission on Judicial Disabilities

By: 
The Honorable Alexander Wright, Jr., Chair