

**BEFORE THE FLORIDA
JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION**

INQUIRY CONCERNING A JUDGE,
THE HONORABLE CLAUDIA ROBINSON
NO. 2017-266

SC17- _____

NOTICE OF FORMAL CHARGES

TO: The Honorable Claudia Robinson
South Regional Courthouse
3550 Hollywood Blvd., Room 214
Hollywood, FL 33021

The Investigative Panel of the Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission (“JQC” or “the Commission”), at its meeting on November 3, 2017, by a vote of the majority of its members, pursuant to Rule 6(f) of the Rules of the Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission, and Article V, Section 12 (b) of the Constitution of the State of Florida, finds that probable cause exists for formal proceedings to be instituted against you.

The specific allegations for which the Commission has found probable cause are that:

1. While presiding over the civil court in Broward County, you appointed a disproportionate number of mediations to your former campaign advisor, attorney Michael Ahearn. Although your campaign did not pay Mr. Ahearn for his services during the election, he has stated publicly, and you have acknowledged that he had “a significant role” in your 2014

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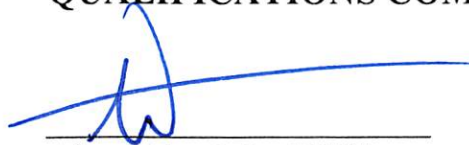
campaign, and that he helped you get elected in a very close election. Records show that between April 2015 and March of 2017, you ordered approximately 296 cases into private mediation. In 245 of those cases, you listed Mr. Ahearn as the default mediator who would be assigned if the parties did not stipulate to a different mediator within ten days. Mr. Ahearn actually conducted mediations in approximately 174 of those cases, charging between \$250 to \$300 per hour, with at least a one hour minimum.

By appointing your former campaign advisor as the default mediator in over 80% of the mediations ordered, your actions created the appearance of impropriety and favoritism in the mediation appointment process, and constitute inappropriate conduct in violation of Canons 1, 2, and 3C(4), of the Code of Judicial Conduct.

You are hereby notified of your right to file a written answer to these charges within twenty (20) days of service of this notice upon you. The original of your response and all subsequent pleadings must be filed with the Clerk of the Florida Supreme Court, in accordance with the Court's requirements. Copies of your response should be served on the undersigned Counsel for the Judicial Qualifications Commission, and the General Counsel of the Commission.

Dated: this 30th day of November, 2017.

**THE FLORIDA JUDICIAL
QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION**



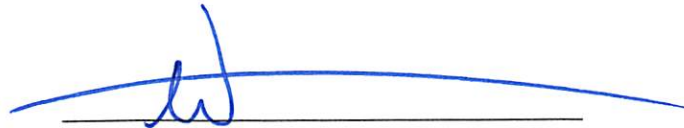
Alexander John Williams
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Notice of Formal Charges has been furnished by electronic service, on this the 30th day of November, 2017, to the following:

The Honorable Claudia Robinson
South Regional Courthouse
3550 Hollywood Blvd., Room 214
Hollywood, FL 33021

C/o John Jack Seiler, Esq.
jseiler@sszrlaw.com
COUNSEL TO JUDGE ROBINSON



Alexander John Williams
ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL