

**IN THE SUPREME COURT  
OF FLORIDA**

INQUIRY CONCERNING A JUDGE,  
THE HONORABLE ERNEST KOLLRA  
JQC NO. 2018-386

SC19-\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ /

**STIPULATION**

In this disciplinary proceeding, the Investigative Panel of the Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission and Judge Ernest Kollra, Circuit Judge 17th Judicial Circuit, present the following stipulation to this Court pursuant to Article V, Section 12 of the Florida Constitution and Rule 6(k) of the Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission's Rules.

1. Under Rule 6(k), the Commission may reach agreement with a judge on discipline or disability, and such stipulation shall be transmitted directly to the Supreme Court.

2. A Notice of Investigation dated December 5, 2018, was served on Judge Kollra. A hearing before the Investigative Panel was held in Orlando, Florida on January 25, 2019 at which Judge Kollra appeared with counsel, and testified under oath. At the conclusion of that hearing the Investigative Panel determined that probable cause existed for the filing of Formal Charges. This Stipulation is being

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filed concurrently with a Notice of Formal Charges, and the Findings and Recommendation of Discipline.

3. Upon being presented with the Notice of Investigation, Judge Kollra took immediate responsibility for his conduct, both in his written response, and during his sworn testimony before the Commission. Judge Kollra has admitted that his conduct was inappropriate and violated the Canons.

4. Judge Kollra has expressed remorse and regrets that his use of the partisan political endorsements called into question the impartiality and integrity of the non-partisan judicial elections.

5. In light of the facts, the Judge's responses to the Panel's inquiries, and Judge Kollra's lack of prior disciplinary history, the Investigative Panel and Judge Kollra respectfully submit that the interest of justice and sound judicial administration is best served by entering into this Stipulation regarding the matters at issue and by the Findings and Recommendations which accompany this Stipulation.

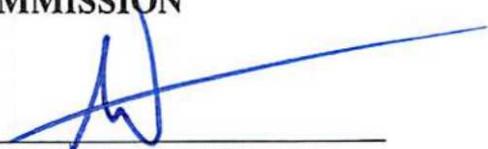
6. Judge Kollra does not contest the Findings and Recommendations, and accepts the discipline recommended therein. He further waives a plenary hearing before the Hearing Panel of the Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission, if the Findings and Recommendations are accepted by the Court.

7. The parties acknowledge and understand that this Stipulation and attached Findings and Recommendations of Discipline are subject to the review and approval of this Court. The parties acknowledge and understand that this Stipulation and Findings and Recommendations of Discipline may be rejected by the Court, and in that event this matter may be returned to the Hearing Panel for a final plenary hearing. In such event, the parties agree that none of the statements in the Stipulation (or the attached Findings and Recommendations of Discipline) are admissible in that hearing for any purpose. The parties further agree that none of the negotiations related to this Stipulation are admissible for any purpose.

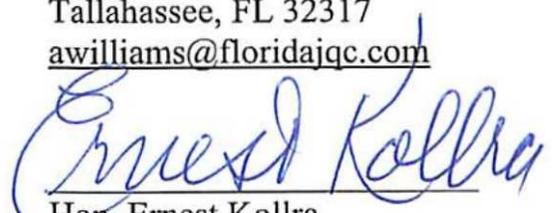
8. The parties agree that oral argument before this Court is not necessary in light of the record, the nature of the charges, the contents of this Stipulation, and the attached Findings and Recommendation of Discipline. As previously noted, Judge Kollra waives his right to further hearings if they are accepted.

Dated this 14 day of February, 2019.

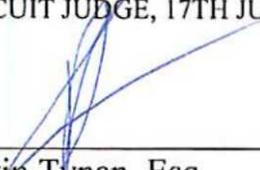
**INVESTIGATIVE PANEL OF  
THE FLORIDA JUDICIAL  
QUALIFICATIONS  
COMMISSION**

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Hon. Ernest Kollra

CIRCUIT JUDGE, 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



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