

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COMMISSION  
ON JUDICIAL DISABILITIES AND TENURE**  
515 FIFTH STREET, N.W. BUILDING A, ROOM 312  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001  
(202) 727-1363

Determination and Undertaking

Re: The Honorable Susan R. Winfield, Associate Judge of the Superior  
Court of the District of Columbia

The Commission has investigated the circumstances surrounding the arrest of Judge Susan R. Winfield on a charge of Refusing to Obey a Lawful Order of a Metropolitan Police Officer on March 6, 2005. The Commission has concluded that, during her arrest and temporary detention at the headquarters of the Fourth District of the Metropolitan Police Department, Judge Winfield made comments which were reasonably understood to suggest that, as a judge, she was entitled to "professional courtesy" from the police and that her arrest and the charge made against her should be reconsidered.

The Commission met with Judge Winfield, discussed the facts with her, and heard her reasons and explanations for her conduct.

The Commission has determined that Judge Winfield's conduct fairly gave the appearance of an attempt to lend the prestige of her office to advance her private interests, that is, to gain the personal advantage of deferential treatment, and that her conduct was of a sort which erodes public confidence in the judiciary. The Commission concludes, therefore, that Judge Winfield's conduct violated Canon 2B of the Code of Judicial Conduct as adopted by the Joint Committee on Judicial Administration of the District of Columbia Courts, in a fashion specifically proscribed in the Commentary to the Canon.<sup>1</sup>

Judge Winfield accepts the Commission's determinations and conclusions expressed above, recognizes that her conduct in this instance had the regrettable impact described above and violated the applicable provision of the Code of Judicial Conduct. Judge Winfield hereby

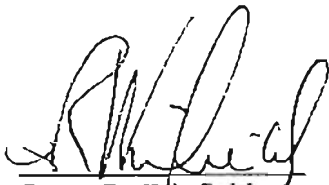
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<sup>1</sup> "Commentary: Maintaining the prestige of judicial office is essential to a system of government in which the judiciary functions independently of the executive and legislative branches. . . . Judges should distinguish between proper and improper use of the prestige of office in all of their activities. For example, it would be improper for a judge to allude to his or her judgeship to gain a personal advantage such as deferential treatment when stopped by a police officer for a traffic offense. . . ." Code of Judicial Conduct, Canon 2B, Commentary (1995).

undertakes to avoid any such conduct in the future and to conform her conduct to the standards prescribed by the Code.

In view of Judge Winfield's record of integrity and exemplary judicial service on behalf of the people of the District of Columbia over some twenty-one years, the Commission further concludes that no sanctions are warranted.

The Commission makes this document public with the agreement of Judge Winfield.



Susan R. Winfield  
Associate Judge  
Superior Court of the  
District of Columbia

For the Commission:



William P. Lightfoot  
Chairperson  
District of Columbia Commission  
on Judicial Disabilities and Tenure

July 15, 2005