

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
COURT OF JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE

IN RE:

Stephanie Domitrovich
Judge of the Court of Common Pleas : No. 1 JD 14
Sixth Judicial District
Erie County

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ORDER

AND NOW, this 21st day of July, 2016, based upon the attached letter received from the specially appointed mentor, the Honorable Maureen Lally-Green, it is ORDERED that a hearing be held on August 15, 2016 at 3:00 p.m., in the Courtroom of Robert J. Colville at 708 City-County Building, 414 Grant Street, Pittsburgh, PA. 15219. The purpose of the hearing is to determine whether the mentoring plan, as ordered under the Judicial Diversion Program, has been successfully completed.

Statement of Reasons

1. On July 7, 2014, the Judicial Conduct Board filed a Complaint against Respondent, Stephanie Domitrovich, raising allegations concerning:

- (a) Judge Domitrovich's unpleasant treatment both on and off the bench of those appearing before her and also of those who work with her as personal staff or as Erie County employees; and
- (b) Allegations concerning Judge Domitrovich's *ex parte* communications regarding matters before her court.

2. The Board also filed a Petition for Interim Suspension on the same date.

3. Argument was held before the Court *en banc* on the Petition for Interim Suspension on September 29, 2014. Following legal argument from representatives of

the Board and the Respondent, the Petition for Interim Suspension was denied on the same date.

4. Subsequently, the Court held conferences with counsel for the Board and the Respondent during which a counselling and mentoring program was discussed.

5. Following his appointment as Conference Judge on July 21, 2015, the undersigned convened conferences on August 14, and August 21, 2015, during which the details of a counselling and mentoring program were refined and a formal policy for a Judicial Diversion Program was discussed with the Judicial Conduct Board. Furthermore, the parties agreed that the Honorable Maureen Lally-Green (retired), a former judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania and a certified mediator from the National Judicial College would be an ideal counsellor and mentor for this case.

6. After a consultation with Judge Lally-Green, she agreed to perform the services under the Judicial Diversion Program.

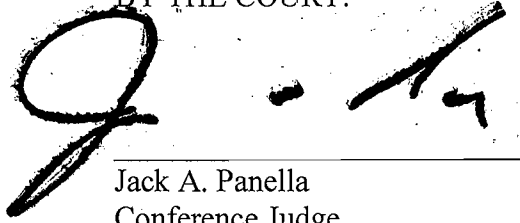
7. The Court of Judicial Discipline then adopted the Interim Policy Statement/Judicial Diversion Program. The IPS/JDP is docketed at 1 JD 94.

8. Judge Lally-Green engaged in the mentoring program with Judge Domitrovich in accordance with the directives as agreed to by the Court, and the Judicial Conduct Board.

9. Judge Lally-Green has now reported to the Court that Judge Domitrovich has "satisfactorily complied" with the conditions of the program, and therefore Judge Lally-Green recommends that the Court find that Judge Domitrovich has successfully completed the program.

10. The Court understands that Judge Domitrovich has become a productive member of the Erie County Court of Common Pleas, as will be more fully discussed at the hearing to be held on August 15, 2016. At the hearing the Court must make a decision as to whether Judge Domitrovich is fulfilling all her responsibilities as a member of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania.

BY THE COURT:



Jack A. Panella
Conference Judge

Maureen E. Lally-Green, J. (retired)
207 Greenbriar Drive
Cranberry Township, PA 16066
724 612 2601

June 2016

Honorable Jack A. Panella
Pennsylvania Court of Judicial Discipline
601 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 1500
P.O. Box 61260
Harrisburg, PA 17106

Re: Diversion Program for 1 CJD 14

Dear Judge Panella:

In an order issued September 17, 2015, the Court of Judicial Discipline appointed the undersigned, pursuant to the Court's Diversion Program, in 1 CJD 14. The Honorable Court essentially requested that the focus of the appointment be on matters that appeared to underlie alleged claims made in 1 CJD 14. The Court did not request the undersigned to address the merits of the alleged claims and she did not do so.

Pursuant to this Court appointment, the undersigned and the judge in 1 CJD 14, Judge Stephanie Domitrovich, focused on appropriate and effective strategies in three intertwined areas of judicial work: court management, communications and conflict resolution. Since the Court also did not request the undersigned to opine on the Judge's judicial skills (before this appointment), our work was on improvement and enhancement of skills.

Throughout this process, the Judge has had an excellent focus on the purpose of this process and has participated with a positive, forward-thinking and most-sincere attitude. In all respects, the Judge willingly, intelligently, professionally, competently and completely addressed these areas.

In summary, in my view, the Judge has much more than satisfactorily complied with the Order of the Court. I believe that, following our work together, her court management, communication and conflict resolution skills have improved and been enhanced. I, therefore, recommend the discontinuance of my appointment in this matter. I add that it has been a privilege to work with Judge Domitrovich.

It is noted that, pursuant to the request of the President Judge of the Court, the time frame for this written report was extended to the present day.


Maureen E. Lally-Green, J. (ret.)