

## PRESS STATEMENT BY MADAME JUSTICE DEBRA TODD

I concur with the Court's decision to follow the recommendation of Special Counsel to refer this matter to the Judicial Conduct Board.

It is my considered opinion that, based on the information in the possession of the Court at this time, action by this Court is not presently warranted. A complete and thorough investigation by the Judicial Conduct Board is in order, and expedited treatment by that body is essential.

I have reviewed all of the emails provided by the Office of the Attorney General, and I am disappointed and offended, both personally and professionally, by much of the content. The email exchanges contain offensive images, comments, and "jokes," some of which are sexually explicit and demeaning to women. Some trivialize physical and sexual assault. I am equally offended by the derogatory stereotyping and mocking of racial, ethnic, and religious groups, as well as gays and lesbians.

It should be abundantly clear that all of our Commonwealth's judges are expected to conduct themselves, in both their personal and public lives, in a manner that promotes the public's trust and confidence in the judiciary. Our citizens deserve nothing less.