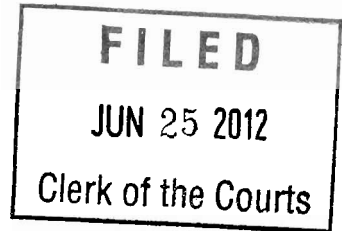




**THE TENNESSEE
COURT OF THE JUDICIARY**



511 Union Street
Suite 600
Nashville, TN 37219

JUDGES OF THE TENNESSEE
COURT OF THE JUDICIARY

Chris Craft
Presiding Judge

Timothy R. Discenza
Disciplinary Counsel

Patrick J. McHale
Assistant Disciplinary Counsel

Don R. Ash
David M. Cook
Angelita Blackshear Dalton
Joe F. Fowlkes
F. Evans Harvill
Christy R. Little
Richard A. Manahan
Kathy McMahan
Paul Neely
Pamela L. Reeves
Steve Stafford
Jean A. Stanley
Dwight E. Stokes
D. Kelly Thomas, Jr.
Thomas T. Woodall

June 21, 2012

Michael W. Catalano, Clerk
100 Supreme Court Building
401 Seventh Avenue, North
Nashville, TN 37219-1407
615-253-1470

FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

The Honorable Johnny D. Houston
City Judge
City of Red Bank, Tennessee
Suite 301, Flatiron Building
707 Georgia Avenue
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2048

RE: Internal Complaint in the Court of the Judiciary
File No. 11-4749

Dear Judge Houston:

This letter shall serve as a public letter of reprimand pursuant to your agreement with an investigative panel of this Court.

The reprimand relates to a complaint initiated by the Court of the Judiciary arising from a news account of statements attributed to you following a judicial hearing in which certain individuals were bound over for further proceedings, while you were acting in your capacity as Red Bank City Judge with General Sessions jurisdiction in Hamilton County, Tennessee, in October of 2011.

The pertinent portion of the comments as reported were:


“A judge told a group of men accused of robbing and beating a Red Bank man to death that he wished he could “pull a trap door” and send them “straight to hell right now” before sending their cases to a grand jury Monday evening.”

Upon receiving notice from Disciplinary Counsel you promptly responded admitting the factual basis for the complaint. You have also served as City Judge for Red Bank for several years and have no prior negative history with the Court of the Judiciary.

Your actions in the above matter constituted a violation of Canon 1 which requires that "A Judge Shall Uphold the Integrity and Independence of the Judiciary," **Canon 2A stating that** "A judge shall respect and comply with the law and shall act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary," and Canon 3B(4) which requires that "Judge shall be patient, dignified, and courteous to litigants jurors, witnesses, lawyers, and others with whom the judge deals in an official capacity, and shall require similar conduct of lawyers, and of staff, court officials, and others subject to the judge's direction and control.

Accordingly, this letter constitutes a public reprimand for your actions in the above situation.

Sincerely Yours,



Chris Craft
Presiding Judge

CC/bep