

**TENNESSEE SUPREME COURT RULE 41
COURT INTERPRETER GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE**

MELISSA RODANTE,
Complainant

vs.

MARK WEISSENBERG,
Interpreter

DECISION OF INTERPRETER GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

This cause came on for decision after initiation of this action by the filing of a grievance against Mr. Mark Weissenberg (Interpreter) a registered Supreme Court Rule 42 court interpreter, by Melissa Rodante (Complainant) on April 8, 2011.

Said grievance was heard on July 29, 2011 by a Grievance Committee ("Committee") composed of three members appointed by the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, Elizabeth A. Sykes, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 41. Said Committee was comprised of duly appointed members Hon. Ben Cantrell (retired), Janice Rodriguez, Director of the Tennessee Foreign Language Institute, and Michael Zogby, Tennessee certified Spanish interpreter. Present also at said hearing were the Complainant, Amber Hoskins, and the Interpreter, Mark Weissenberg.

The parties were sworn in and asked to provide testimony as to the allegations alleged by Ms. Rodante.

The Committee, after full review and discussion of the testimony presented and the record as a whole, hereby finds as follows:

1. The Interpreter, Mark Weissenberg, is bound by Tenn. Sup. Ct. Rule 41, in particular, Canon 4: Profession Demeanor – "Interpreters shall conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the dignity of the court and shall be as

unobtrusive as possible.”

2. Complainant stated that she observed on March 30, 2011, in the Bradley County, Tennessee courtroom, the Interpreter sitting at the district attorney’s table viewing his computer screen, making comments loud enough to cause her to look at what was on the Interpreter’s computer screen. On the Interpreter’s computer screen she saw three naked women engaging in sexual activity. The Complainant testified that the Interpreter tried to turn the screen away from her but watched the video for approximately one to one and a half minutes.

3. Interpreter admitted that on March 30, 2011, in the Bradley county courtroom, he was sitting at the district attorney’s table and opening emails on his computer. He does not recall the specific emails he was opening on that date, however he has since called the sender of the emails and asked him to stop sending these types of emails. Interpreter has also stated that he has stopped bringing his computer to court.

4. Interpreter did on March 30, 2011, have inappropriate material on his computer in the courtroom. The Interpreter was sitting at the district attorney’s table intentionally viewing the material and was grossly indiscreet in viewing the material. Interpreter viewed the inappropriate material long enough to be noticed by others and to cause others to be disturbed by the material thereby creating an offensive environment in the courtroom.

5. The Interpreter, by this behavior, exhibited a complete lack of professional demeanor and decorum acceptable for the courtroom and therefore did not present himself in a manner consistent with the dignity of the court and was not as unobtrusive as possible. These actions constitute a violation of Tenn. Sup. Ct. Rule 41, Canon 4.

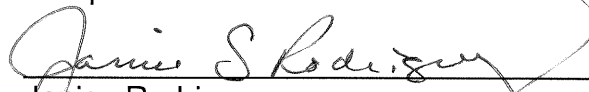
IT IS, THEREFORE, the unanimous decision of the Grievance Committee that Interpreter, Mark Weissenberg, violated Tenn. Sup. Ct. Rule 41, Canon 4

and should be and hereby is publicly admonished. This public admonishment shall be posted on the Administrative Office of the Court's website.

Dated this 3rd day of August, 2011.



Ben Cantrell
Chairman,
Interpreter Grievance Committee



Janice Rodriguez
Interpreter Grievance Committee Member



Michael Zogby
Interpreter Grievance Committee Member

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. Rule 41, providing for the Administrative Director of the Courts to adopt policies and procedures necessary to enforce the code, a party who wishes to obtain a review of the decision of the Grievance Committee may appeal to the Administrative Director of the Courts by filing a written notice of appeal, through the AOC Court Service Director, within 30 days following the Grievance Committee's decision.