

## STATE OF KANSAS

DEC 02 2024

## BEFORE THE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

COMMISSION ON  
JUDICIAL CONDUCTInquiry Concerning a Judge  
ED PARKS

Complaint No. 3283

**ORDER**

Members of the Commission present include James S. Cooper, Chair; Judge Brenda M. Cameron; Judge Robert W. Fairchild; Judge Paula D. Hofaker; Norman R. Kelly; and Dr. Joyce A. Pigge.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

There is no dispute regarding the facts set out below:

1. Ed Parks, respondent, was appointed to the bench April 2001 as a Municipal Court Judge in the cities of Norwich and Conway Springs, Kansas.
2. As a non-lawyer, Judge Parks was certified by the Kansas Supreme Court under K.S.A. 12-4114 with Supreme Court Order 2001 SC 58.
3. On July 9, 2024, John Houston from the Office of Judicial Administration filed a complaint alleging the following concerns involving respondent's tenure as a municipal court judge:
  - A. disorganized record keeping;
  - B. illegible and/or incomplete records;
  - C. failure to properly dispose of cases in his courts;
  - D. a lack of control over financial instruments used to pay fines and fees;
  - E. a lack of any financial accounting; and
  - F. unreported convictions to state agencies.
4. Respondent is no longer serving as judge in either community. The Office of Judicial Administration is concerned that respondent may seek judicial appointment with another municipality.
5. On August 9, 2024, the Inquiry Panel for the Commission met at its general monthly meeting to discuss the complaint against the respondent and determine whether the complaint contained facts that cause a reasonable person to believe that a violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct had occurred. The Commission decided to refer this matter to the Commission Examiner for investigation.
6. After investigation the following facts were confirmed:
  - A. In municipal court, parties paid fines to the respondent and those fines were to be deposited in the City's bank account.
  - B. Respondent was territorial about his receipt of the fines, the depositing of the fines, and his record keeping.

- C. A prosecutor in both Norwich and Conway Springs indicated there was never a docket listing for the cases on the respondent's docket. Respondent indicated he was journalizing all the court proceedings, but the prosecutor never saw him making any notes and he would often forget.
- D. Respondent's record keeping under K.S.A 12-4106(c) was minimal and not compliant with the statute. If information was journalized, it was often illegible.
- E. Regarding respondent's fiscal responsibilities, fines were not clearly stated, payments were not always tracked, collection of fines and costs were not deposited, and deposits were not identified.
- F. In several cases, respondent also failed to take action or resolve many cases that came before him.
- G. After experiencing health problems in 2023 when respondent was unable to perform his judicial duties, a search of his chambers revealed many uncashed checks of which many were so old that the bank would not cash them.
- H. Respondent resigned as municipal court judge from Conway Springs in 2022 and from Norwich in 2023.
- I. Respondent had not fulfilled his continuing education requirements and is no longer certified to be a judge.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. RULE 2.5(A) of the Code of Judicial Conduct, Rule 601B, provides:  
  
“(A) A judge shall perform judicial and administrative duties, competently and diligently.”
2. RULE 2.7 of the Code of Judicial Conduct, Rule 601B, provides:  
  
“(A) A judge shall hear and decide matters assigned to the judge, except when disqualification is required by Rule 2.11 or other *law*.”
3. The Commission concludes that the respondent violated the above-cited rules by clear and convincing evidence in the following manner:
  - A. disorganized record keeping;
  - B. illegible and/or incomplete records;
  - C. failure to properly dispose of cases in his courts;
  - D. a lack of control over financial instruments used to pay fines and fees;
  - E. a lack of any financial accounting; and
  - F. unreported convictions to state agencies.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that Ed Parks:

1. cease and desist from future activity in violation of the above-cited canons;
2. agree not to seek election or accept appointment to or hold any judicial office in the future; and
3. agree that this Order will be made public.

This Order, if accepted, shall be made public pursuant to Rules 611(a) and 614(c). See 2023 Kan. S. Ct. R. 533, 536.

The Secretary of the Commission on Judicial Conduct is hereby instructed to serve a copy of this Order on the respondent under K.S.A. 60-303(c). The respondent must, in accordance with Rule 614(c), either (1) agree to comply with the order by accepting the order in writing where indicated and returning a signed copy of the order to the Secretary of the Commission; or (2) refuse to accept the by notifying the Secretary it is not accepted. The signed order or written refusal to accept must be served upon the Secretary of the Commission within twenty days after service of the order. This order is deemed to have been refused if the Secretary of the Commission receives no response from the respondent within twenty days after service of this Order.

**BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION** dated this 7<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2024.

**COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

*James S. Cooper*  
JAMES S. COOPER, Chair

APPROVED & ACCEPTED

Date

*Ed Parks*  
11/25/2024

*Ed Parks*  
ED PARKS, Respondent