



Judicial Conduct Board
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Robert A. Graci, Chief Counsel
717-234-7911

Press Release

August 6, 2013

TO: Press

**FROM: Robert A. Graci
Chief Counsel**

**SUBJECT: Thomas M. Nocella
No. 7 JD 12
Judge of the Court of the Court of Common Pleas
First Judicial District
Philadelphia County**

Harrisburg. Following a July 29, 2013 sanctions hearing, by Order entered August 5, 2013, the Pennsylvania Court of Judicial Discipline ordered that Philadelphia County Court of Common Pleas Judge Thomas M. Nocella be removed from office and that he is ineligible to hold judicial office in Pennsylvania in the future.

In its June 26, 2013 Opinion, the Court issued its Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and determined that Nocella, as a judicial candidate in 2009 and 2011, made numerous misrepresentations to the Philadelphia Bar Association's Commission on Judicial Selection and Retention and in so doing violated the Code of Judicial Conduct and the Pennsylvania Constitution. Additionally, the Court concluded that Nocella, as counsel to the Appreciation Fund and as a Municipal Court Judge, violated the Pennsylvania Constitution when he made repeated misrepresentations to counsel for the Philadelphia Board of Ethics, assisted in the dissipation of the Appreciation Fund's assets in violation of court orders, and was adjudicated in contempt of court. On July 12, 2013, the Court dismissed Nocella's objections and affirmed the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

Counsel

**Board: Elizabeth A. Flaherty, Assistant Counsel &
Robert A. Graci, Chief Counsel**

Respondent: Samuel C. Stretton, Esquire

Contact

Robert A. Graci, Chief Counsel

Court of Judicial Discipline Order attached.

For further information about the Pennsylvania Judicial Conduct Board, see the Board's Website at www.jcbpa.org.

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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
COURT OF JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE

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IN RE: :
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 Thomas M. Nocella :
 Judge of the Court of Common Pleas : No. 7 JD 12
 First Judicial District :
 Philadelphia County :

ORDER

AND NOW, this 5th day of August, 2013, the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law set forth in this Court's Opinion dated June 26, 2013 having become final pursuant to C.J.D.R.P. No. 503, and after a hearing before the full Court on July 29, 2013 on the question of sanctions, it is hereby ORDERED that Respondent, Thomas M. Nocella, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County, is removed from office and shall be ineligible to hold judicial office in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in the future.

PER CURIAM

President Judge McGinley dissents from the Sanction Order entered by the majority of the Court and would suspend Respondent from his judicial office for four months with half pay and place him on probation thereafter until his retirement.

Judge McCune did not participate in the determination and entry of this Sanction Order.

CERTIFIED FROM THE RECORD

AUG -5 2013

Wanda W. Sweigart
Clerk of Court