



Judicial Conduct Board
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
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Press Release

October 9, 2015

TO: Press

FROM: Robert A. Graci
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SUBJECT: Investigation Regarding Certain Emails Received From Attorney General Kathleen G. Kane

As permitted by the Pennsylvania Constitution and the Rules of Procedure of the Judicial Conduct Board, the Board has already disclosed that it conducted an investigation last year into allegations regarding inappropriate emails self-reported by Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice J. Michael Eakin. The Board's investigation, conducted with Justice Eakin's cooperation, resulted in the dismissal of the complaint against the Justice. That investigation and its conclusion were based on information then available to the Board.

The Board has also disclosed, consistent with the Constitution and the Board's rules, that it has recently received materials from the Attorney General regarding emails involving Justice Eakin and that it has commenced a new investigation into those matters.

Any investigation conducted by any agency necessarily relies on the full disclosure by those persons or entities with pertinent information. The Board believed that it had been provided with all such information when it concluded its prior investigation. However, recent revelations, including news accounts of emails sent to or from Justice Eakin's personal email account, demonstrate that the Board was not provided with all of the information on the Attorney General's servers relating to that account.

As has been already stated, the Board is conducting an independent investigation as a result of these recent disclosures. At the conclusion of the investigation, the Board will determine if there is probable cause of misconduct and how to proceed further.

Created by constitutional amendment in 1993, the Judicial Conduct Board of Pennsylvania is an independent state agency responsible for reviewing, investigating, and, where warranted, prosecuting complaints of judicial misconduct before the Pennsylvania Court of Judicial Discipline. The Board is comprised of twelve Pennsylvania citizens, half appointed

by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and the other half appointed by the Governor. The Board has three judicial members, three lawyer members, and six non-lawyer lay members. No more than half of the appointed board members may be from the same political party. Appointed board members serve four-year terms without pay and meet regularly to review requests for investigation filed against Pennsylvania judges at all levels.

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

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