Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Joseph A. Massa, Jr., Chief Counsel



Press Release

October 17, 2011

TO:

Media/Press

FROM:

Judicial Conduct Board

SUBJECT: 6 JD 2011 Magisterial District Judge Ross C. Cioppa, District Court 05-2-09, Allegheny County

Harrisburg. On Monday, October 17, 2011, pursuant to the petition of the Judicial Conduct Board, the Court of Judicial Discipline suspended Magisterial District Judge Ross C. Cioppa with pay due to the pending felony charges against the judge. Judge Cioppa was charged by criminal complaint with 2 counts each of Bribery, a third-degree felony, Indecent Assault, a second-degree misdemeanor, and Official Oppression, a second-degree misdemeanor. The criminal complaint alleges that Judge Cioppa solicited sexual favors from female litigants who appeared in his courtroom as consideration for favorable decisions by him in their cases. The criminal charges against Judge Cioppa are pending currently in the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County.

The Board reserves further comment on this matter until such time as the criminal charges against Judge Cioppa are resolved.

Contact

Hank Abate, Chairman, Judicial Conduct Board James E. McErlane, Esquire, Vice-Chair, Judicial Conduct Board Joseph A. Massa, Jr., Chief Counsel 717-234-7911

Court of Judicial Discipline Order attached.

For more information about the Judicial Conduct Board, please visit the Board's website at www.jcbpa.org.

END

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA COURT OF JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE

IN RE: Ross C. Cioppa Magisterial District Judge : No. 6 JD 11 Magisterial District 05-2-09 Allegheny County

ORDER

AND NOW, this 17th day of October, 2011, it is hereby ORDERED that Respondent is SUSPENDED WITH PAY from all of his duties as magisterial district judge of magisterial district 05-2-09.

Respondent's entitlement to any medical benefits shall not be affected by this Order.

PER CURIAM

Judges James, McGinley, and Mullen did not participate in the consideration or disposition of this case.