



Press Release

July 25, 2012

TO: Media/Press

FROM: Judicial Conduct Board

SUBJECT: Magisterial District Judge Ross C. Cioppa (District Court 05-2-09, Allegheny County), 4 JD 2012 (Court of Judicial Discipline)

Harrisburg. By Order entered July 24, 2012, the Court of Judicial Discipline removed former Magisterial District Judge Ross C. Cioppa from office and barred him from future judicial service.

The Court's sanction order results from a Complaint filed by the Judicial Conduct Board on April 20, 2012. In the Complaint, the Board asserted that former Judge Cioppa violated the Rules Governing Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges and the Pennsylvania Constitution by pleading guilty on April 12, 2012, to two counts of Indecent Assault (Misdemeanor 2) and two counts of Official Oppression (Misdemeanor 2). The criminal charges arose from evidence that Judge Cioppa attempted to solicit sexual favors from women appearing in his court in exchange for favorable judicial treatment. The Court concluded that there was sufficient evidence to support the charges presented by the Board against former Judge Cioppa, and, as a result, it removed him from office for these violations and barred him from serving as a judge in Pennsylvania in the future.

Contact:

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CJD Sanction Order is 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	:	
Former Magisterial District Judge	:	No. 4 JD 12
District Court 05-2-09	:	
Fifth Judicial District	:	
Allegheny County	:	

RECEIVED
COURT OF JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

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ORDER

AND NOW, this 24th day of July, 2012, after hearing on the issue of sanctions, it is hereby ORDERED that Respondent, Ross C. Cioppa, is hereby removed from office as magisterial district judge of Magisterial District Court 05-2-09, and it is further ORDERED that Respondent shall hereafter be ineligible to hold any judicial office in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

PER CURIAM

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