

# JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

## PREPARED STATEMENT

Issued October 17, 2014

Today, Justice J. Michael Eakin of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania self-reported to the Judicial Conduct Board that he received a number of emails in 2010 that may have violated the Code of Judicial Conduct.

Generally, proceedings before the Judicial Conduct Board must be kept confidential. However, as provided in Article V, section 18(a)(8) of the Pennsylvania Constitution, if, independent of any action by the Board, the fact that the Board is conducting an investigation becomes a matter of public record, the Board may issue a statement that the investigation is ongoing if the subject of the investigation directs the Board to reveal that information.

The Board, upon Justice Eakin's request, confirms that it is conducting an independent investigation into the matters addressed in Justice Eakin's letter. Under the Constitution of the Commonwealth, Justice Eakin, like any judicial officer who is the subject of an investigation by the Board, is entitled to a full, fair, and confidential investigation of all the facts of the matter and to a fair hearing without prejudice.

He, like any other judge, will have the right to provide a response to the allegations against him and to provide evidence on his own behalf. At the conclusion of the Board's investigation, the Board will determine if there is probable cause of misconduct and how to further proceed.