

Judicial Conduct Board
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Joseph A. Massa, Jr., Chief Counsel
717-234-7911

Press Release

March 1, 2012

TO: Media/Press

FROM: Judicial Conduct Board

**SUBJECT: Willie F. Singletary,
Former Philadelphia Traffic Court Judge;
Philadelphia Traffic Court
Philadelphia County
3 JD 2012**

Harrisburg. The Judicial Conduct Board today filed formal charges by Board Complaint in the Court of Judicial Discipline against Willie F. Singletary, a former Philadelphia Traffic Court Judge.

In accordance with the rules which govern proceedings before the Court of Judicial Discipline, Mr. Singletary has an opportunity to respond to the charges, obtain and inspect the evidence which forms the basis of the allegations and the right to a public trial before the Court of Judicial Discipline.

Upon completion of the trial, if the Court determines that the charges have been proven by clear and convincing evidence, it will schedule a Sanctions Hearing to determine what sanctions should be imposed upon the former judge for violating the Rules Governing Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges and the Pennsylvania Constitution. Possible sanctions include reprimand, suspension, or removal from office.

Counsel

Board: Joseph A. Massa, Jr., Chief Counsel

Respondent:

Contact

Joseph A. Massa, Jr., Chief Counsel

Board Complaint is attached.

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

END

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
COURT OF JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE

RECEIVED AND FILED
COURT OF
JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE
OF PENNSYLVANIA

2012 MAR -1 P 1:30

In re:

**Willie F. Singletary;
Former Traffic Court Judge
Philadelphia County**

:
:
:
:
:
:
: 3 JD 2012

IMPORTANT NOTICE

TO: WILLIE F. SINGLETARY:

You are hereby notified that the Pennsylvania Judicial Conduct Board determined that probable cause exists to file formal charges against you for conduct proscribed by Article V, §17(b) and §18(d)(1) of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Rules Governing the Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges. The Board's counsel will present the case in support of the charges before the Pennsylvania Court of Judicial Discipline.

You have an absolute right to be represented by a lawyer in all proceedings before the Court of Judicial Discipline. Your attorney should file an entry of appearance with the Court of Judicial Discipline in accordance with C.J.D.R.P. No. 110.

You are hereby notified, pursuant to C.J.D.R.P. No. 302(B), that should you elect to file an omnibus motion, that motion should be filed no later than thirty (30) days after the service of this Complaint, in accordance with C.J.D.R.P. No. 411.

You are further hereby notified that, if you elect not to file an omnibus motion, you may file an Answer admitting or denying the allegations contained in this Complaint within thirty (30) days after the service of this Complaint in accordance with C.J.D.R.P. No. 413. Otherwise, you may file an answer within twenty (20) days after the entry of an order dismissing all or part of your omnibus motion. Failure to file an Answer shall be deemed a denial of all factual allegations in the Complaint.

COMPLAINT

AND NOW, this 1st day of March, 2012, pursuant to Court of Judicial Discipline Rule of Procedure 301, comes the Judicial Conduct Board of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (the Board), through counsel, and files this Complaint against Willie F. Singletary, former Philadelphia Traffic Court Judge, Philadelphia County (Respondent). The Board alleges that Respondent violated the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Article V, § § 17(b) and 18(d)(1), and the Rules Governing Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges by virtue of his conduct, delineated specifically as follows:

1. Article V, § 18 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania grants to the Board the authority to determine whether there is probable cause to file formal charges against a judicial officer in this Court and, thereafter, to prosecute the case in support of such charges before this Court.

2. Since January 7, 2008, until February 27, 2012, Respondent served as a judge on the Philadelphia County Traffic Court (First Judicial District) with chambers located at Room 207, 800 Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19123.

SUPPORTING FACTS AND CHARGES

3. Traffic Court judges are assigned to night court duty (3:00 PM to 8:00 PM) on a rotating one-week basis approximately every six weeks.

4. Respondent was assigned to night court duty during the week of December 19-24, 2011.

5. During night court, the Impoundment Court is also in operation.

6. The Philadelphia Parking Authority subcontracts with PRWT Services, Inc. which provides collection services for the Parking Authority at Philadelphia Traffic Court.

7. F (Identity Protected), a young adult female, employee of PRWT Services, Inc., was assigned as a cashier at Philadelphia Traffic Court in regard to Philadelphia Parking Authority fees collected at Philadelphia Traffic Court for booting, towing and impoundment operations.

8. During the week beginning Monday, December 19, 2011, F's work shift was from 1:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

9. On Monday, December 19, 2011, beginning at approximately 5:22 PM Respondent approached F at her cashier work station as she waited on members of the public. While engaging F in a conversation, Respondent briefly examined her cell phone and then returned it to her. F placed her cell phone on her work area counter.

10. Respondent then grabbed F's cell phone and walked away to another unoccupied cashier window. F told Respondent that her cell phone did not work. Respondent figured out how to operate F's cell phone and began going through the pictures on her cell phone. Respondent remained at the other cashier window for a number of minutes with F's cell phone.

11. Challenged by F to stop viewing her personal pictures on her cell phone, Respondent said "okay," and set the phone down.

12. At approximately 5:53 PM after returning to F's work station and approaching F, Respondent began showing her a series of pictures on his cell phone.

13. The pictures included:

- (a) His two daughters in a hot tub or bubble bath;
- (b) Himself (before church);
- (c) His BMW automobile; and,
- (d) A female in black booty shorts.

14. Respondent then showed F two pictures of his erect penis asking her, "Like that?" or "Do you like that?"

15. F attempted to ignore Respondent by continuing to work and then getting on the office telephone.

16. Respondent asked F, "Who you giving your time to? It is my time right now."

17. On Tuesday, December 20, 2011, F told Traffic Court Philadelphia Police Officer Felicia Williams about the incident of the night before in which Respondent had shown pictures of his penis to F. Officer Williams reported the incident to her police supervisors.

18. On Wednesday, December 21, 2011, F confirmed the incident to the Honorable Gary S. Glazer, a judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County (the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania) and, by special assignment, the Administrative Judge of the Philadelphia Traffic Court. F also reported the incident to her PRWT supervisors. F was instructed to leave Traffic Court for the remainder of her work day.

19. On Wednesday, December 21, 2011, Respondent saw F upset and crying as she was about to leave Traffic Court. Respondent called F into the courtroom chambers and told her not to worry if she was getting fired because his uncle is the owner of PRWT Services, Inc., and he would make sure she will be ok.

20. On December 22, 2011, the Honorable Gary S. Glazer issued a Memorandum to Respondent advising him:

(a) His judicial assignments had been transferred to other Judges of the Philadelphia Traffic Court;

(b) Neither he nor any intermediary on his behalf was to have any contact whatsoever with named Traffic Court employees.

(c) He was prohibited from entering any Traffic Court building for any reason; and,

(d) Failure to comply with this order would result in further action by Judge Glazer or other appropriate authorities. (See Board Exhibit "A").

21. On January 5, 2012, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania relieved Respondent of any and all judicial and administrative responsibilities as a judge of the Philadelphia Traffic Court; and, suspended Respondent without pay. (See Board Exhibit "B").

22. On February 27, 2012, Respondent submitted his resignation to the Honorable Ronald D. Castille, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, effective immediately.

23. By virtue of some, or all of the facts collectively, alleged in paragraphs 1 through 22 of this Board Complaint, the Respondent is subject to discipline pursuant to Article V, § 18(d)(1) of the Pennsylvania Constitution for the following reasons:

Count 1: The Respondent has violated Rule 4C of the Rules Governing Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges, which provides, in part, that

"Magisterial district judges shall be patient, dignified and courteous to litigants, witnesses, lawyers and others with whom they deal in their official capacity."

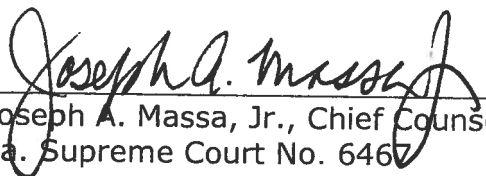
Count 2: The Respondent has violated Article V, § 18(d)(1) of the Pennsylvania Constitution by engaging in conduct which brings the judicial office into disrepute.

Count 3: The Respondent has violated Article V, §17(b) by violating the Rules Governing the Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges.

WHEREFORE, the Board asserts that Respondent Willie F. Singletary, former Philadelphia Traffic Court Judge, is subject to disciplinary action and sanction pursuant to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Article V, § 18(d)(1).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 1, 2012


Joseph A. Massa, Jr., Chief Counsel
Pa. Supreme Court No. 6467

Judicial Conduct Board
601 Commonwealth Avenue
P.O. Box 62525
Harrisburg, PA 17106
(717) 234-7911

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
COURT OF JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE

In re:

**Willie F. Singletary;
Former Traffic Court Judge
Philadelphia County**

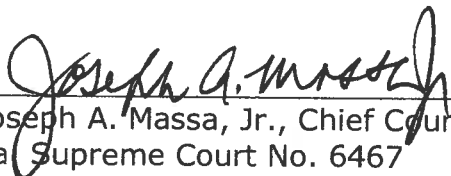
:
:
:
:
:
:
: **3 JD 2012**

VERIFICATION

I, Joseph A. Massa, Jr., Chief Counsel to the Judicial Conduct Board, verify that I am authorized to make this verification and file the foregoing *BOARD COMPLAINT*. I verify that the Judicial Conduct Board found probable cause to file the formal charges contained in this Board Complaint. I understand that the statements herein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S § 4904, relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 1, 2012



Joseph A. Massa, Jr., Chief Counsel
Pa. Supreme Court No. 6467

Judicial Conduct Board
601 Commonwealth Avenue
P.O. Box 62525
Harrisburg, PA 17106
(717) 234-7911

EXHIBIT "A"



FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA
TRAFFIC COURT
800 SPRING GARDEN STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19123-2890

THOMASINE TYNES
PRESIDENT JUDGE

GARY S. GLAZER
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

ROBERT T. DeEMILIO
DERUTY COURT ADMINISTRATOR

MEMORANDUM

TO: Judge Willie Singletary
FROM: Administrative Judge Gary S. Glazer *ESG*
DATE: December 22, 2011

Effective immediately and until further notice, your judicial assignment has been transferred to other Judges of the Philadelphia Traffic Court.

Neither you nor any intermediary on your behalf is to have any contact whatsoever with Officer Felicia Williams, Ms. Taleesha Mixon, or any other Traffic Court employee including, but not limited to, Tanya Hilton.

You are further ordered that you are prohibited from entering the Traffic Court building for any reason, effective immediately.

Failure to comply with this order will result in further action by me or other appropriate authorities.

/mmf

- cc: Mr. Chief Justice Ronald D. Castille
- President Judge Thomasine Tynes
- Inspector Christopher Flacco
- Captain Robin J. Hill
- Sgt. Frank Rauscher
- Robert T. DeEmilio, Deputy Court Administrator
- Captain Peter Lavini, Sheriff's Office
- Ms. Tanya Hilton

COPY

ATTACHMENT "A"

EXHIBIT "B"

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE: PHILADELPHIA TRAFFIC COURT : No. 377
JUDGE WILLIE SINGLETARY :
: JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION DOCKET
:

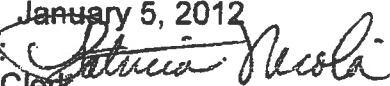
ORDER

PER CURIAM

AND NOW, this 5th day of January 2012, upon consideration of the December 22, 2011 Petition of the Honorable Gary S. Glazer of the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania, Administrative Judge of Traffic Court, it is hereby Ordered that Philadelphia Traffic Court Judge Willie Singletary is hereby relieved of any and all judicial and administrative responsibilities as a judge of the Philadelphia Traffic Court.

It is further Ordered that Judge Willie Singletary is suspended without pay pending further order of this Court.

This Order is without prejudice to the rights of Judge Willie Singletary to seek relief in this Court for the purpose of vacating or modifying this interim Order. In re: Avellino, 690 A.2d 1138 (Pa. 1997); and see, In re: McFalls, 795 A.2d 367 (Pa. 2002).

A True Copy Patricia Nicola
As of: January 5, 2012
Attest: 
Chief Clerk
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
COURT OF JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE

In re:

**Willie F. Singletary;
Former Traffic Court Judge
Philadelphia County**

:
:
:
:
:
:
:
3 JD 2012

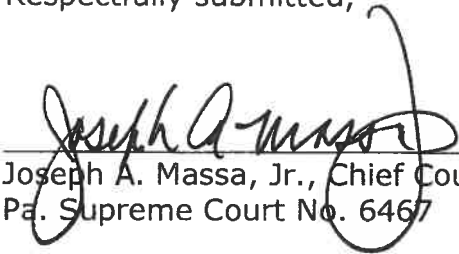
PROOF OF SERVICE

In compliance with Rule 122(D) of the Court of Judicial Discipline Rules of Procedure, on March 1, 2012, a copy of this *BOARD COMPLAINT* was sent by Certified Mail to counsel for the Respondent, who agreed to accept service of this Board Complaint on behalf of his client:

Certified Mail No. 7161 7145 5373 0150
Return Receipt Requested

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 1, 2012



Joseph A. Massa, Jr., Chief Counsel
Pa. Supreme Court No. 6467

Judicial Conduct Board
601 Commonwealth Avenue
P.O. Box 62525
Harrisburg, PA 17106
(717) 234-7911