



## STATE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

### PUBLIC STATEMENT

No. PS-2012-1

The State Commission on Judicial Conduct has learned from numerous sources, including the media, the existence of a YouTube video purporting to depict a Texas judge engaging in the act of striking his teenage daughter with a belt. As a result of the media attention surrounding the release of this video on the internet, the Commission has been flooded with telephone calls, faxes, and emails from concerned citizens, public officials, and others, calling for an investigation into the videotaped incident.

Due to the high profile nature of the matter, the Commission believes that the interests of the judiciary and the public would be best served by issuing this public statement announcing that it has commenced an investigation into the incident. This case will proceed in accordance with the rules and procedures promulgated by the Texas Supreme Court, and as permitted by the Texas Government Code and the Texas Constitution.

In an effort to avoid burdening already limited agency resources, and to prevent delays in the investigation of the case, the Commission asks that no additional complaints be filed on this matter.

The Commission issues this public statement pursuant to the authority granted to it by Article 5, Section 1-a(10) of the Texas Constitution, which provides that such action may be taken when sources other than the Commission cause notoriety concerning a judge or the Commission itself and the Commission determines that the best interests of a judge or of the public will be served by issuing the statement.

This public statement is intended to help preserve the integrity of all judges in the State of Texas, to promote public confidence in the judiciary, and to encourage judges to maintain high standards of professional conduct.

Signed this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of November, 2011.

  
Jorge C. Rangel, Chair  
State Commission on Judicial Conduct