



**BEFORE THE STATE COMMISSION
ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

CJC No. 21-0784

PUBLIC ADMONITION

**HONORABLE AUDREY MOOREHEAD
DALLAS COUNTY CRIMINAL COURT AT LAW NO. 3
DALLAS, DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS**

During its meetings on April 6-7 & 19, 2022, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct concluded a review of the allegations in this matter against the Honorable Audrey Moorehead, judge of the Dallas County Criminal Court at Law No. 3 in Dallas, Dallas County, Texas. Judge Moorehead was advised by letters of the Commission's concerns and provided written responses. On June 8, 2022, Judge Moorehead appeared before the Commission with counsel and gave testimony regarding this matter. After considering the preponderance of evidence before it, the Commission entered the following Findings and Conclusion:

BACKGROUND

On December 8, 2020, Judge Moorehead was arrested for Driving While Intoxicated ("DWI") after hitting a light pole and totaling her car. On August 25, 2021, Judge Moorehead was indicted by a grand jury on a misdemeanor DWI charge in Case No. M21-04193, which remains pending. Judge Moorehead's arrest was publicized in the Dallas media.

In her testimony before the Commission, Judge Moorehead acknowledged she consumed vodka prior to operating her vehicle on the night in question but expressed her belief she was not intoxicated. Judge Moorehead initially testified the arresting officer did not ask her to perform any field sobriety tests at the time of her arrest, but later changed her testimony to indicate the officer attempted to conduct a Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus ("HGN") field sobriety test, but that the judge refused to comply because the officer was not administering the test properly. Judge Moorehead indicated she declined to provide a blood sample voluntarily. Thereafter, the police obtained a warrant, and her blood was drawn approximately two hours after her arrest. The results of the test showed an alcohol concentration of 0.105.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. At all times relevant hereto, the Honorable Audrey Moorehead was judge of Dallas County Criminal Court at Law No. 3 in Dallas, Dallas County, Texas.
2. As the judge of this court, Judge Moorehead regularly presided over and continues to preside over DWI cases.
3. On December 8, 2020, Judge Moorehead consumed vodka prior to operating her vehicle.
4. Judge Moorehead was arrested for DWI after hitting a light pole with her car, totaling the vehicle.
5. Judge Moorehead refused to complete the HGN field sobriety test at the time of her arrest after telling the officer he was administering the test improperly.
6. Judge Moorhead declined to voluntarily provide a sample of her blood for testing, which was eventually obtained through a warrant.
7. The results of the blood draw, which occurred approximately two hours after her arrest, showed Judge Moorehead's alcohol concentration was 0.105 at that time.
8. On August 25, 2021, Judge Moorehead was indicted by a grand jury on a misdemeanor DWI charge. The misdemeanor DWI case is currently pending in the County Criminal Court at Law No. 8 of Dallas County, Texas.

RELEVANT STANDARD

Article V, Section 1-a(6)(A) of the Texas Constitution provides in relevant part, that a judge shall not engage in "willful or persistent conduct that is clearly inconsistent with the proper performance of his duties or casts public discredit upon the judiciary or administration of justice."

CONCLUSION

Based on the record before it and the factual findings recited above, the Texas State Commission on Judicial Conduct has determined the Honorable Audrey Moorehead, Judge of County Criminal Court at Law No. 3 in Dallas, Dallas County, Texas, should be publicly admonished for operating a motor vehicle after consuming alcohol and causing a single car accident, conduct which resulted in the judge being arrested and indicted on a misdemeanor DWI charge and garnering negative media attention, and which constituted willful conduct that cast public discredit upon the judiciary, in violation of Article V, Section 1-a(6)(A) of the Texas Constitution.

The Commission has taken this action pursuant to the authority conferred it in Article V, §1-a of the Texas Constitution in a continuing effort to promote confidence in and high standards for the judiciary.

Issued this the 9 day of June, 2022.



David Schenck
Chairman, State Commission on Judicial Conduct