



Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 17, 2017

The following release was read into the record of the regular meeting of The Arkansas Judicial Discipline and Disability Commission today and is public information: JDDC v Judge Bobby McCallister (#17-145) was filed by the JDDC Director in March of this year. The case has resulted in an agreed sanction. Judge McCallister has agreed to resign on December 15, 2017. His resignation has the legal effect of "removal from office" as defined in *Proctor v. Daniels* which includes permanent disqualification from holding judicial office.

Judge McCallister will submit a letter to Governor Hutchinson today announcing his resignation. The letter will inform the Governor of the date of the vacancy created in the office of Circuit Judge, 22nd Judicial District, 1st Division.

A final pleading, signed by the judge, his counsel, Deputy Director Emily White and Executive Director Sachar, will be filed and distributed on December 15, 2017. That final pleading will be a public document and it will be available to the press.

Judge McCallister was candid with the JDDC staff concerning the allegations and violations of the Code of Judicial Conduct. His attorneys were Traci LaCerra and Patrick Benca. LaCerra initially contacted the JDDC after the complaint was filed. Benca has

handled this ethics case, as well as the criminal and attorney licensing cases. Both attorneys have been professional and helpful throughout this process. This agreement saves months of time, hours of work and the cost of litigation. Acceptance of responsibility by Judge McCallister is appreciated and consistent with his and Mr. Benca's attitude, as we tried to find a resolution to this case.

We are all grateful to the JDDC and Commission Counsel Marie-Bernarde Miller for your hard work and availability. This case would not have resolved without a solid trial date and a clear scheduling order.

The Director offers no other official comment at this time. You will have more details on December 15th.