

(No. 05 CC 2 – Respondent reprimanded)

In re CIRCUIT JUDGE KURT P. KLEIN
of the Circuit Court of DeKalb County, Respondent

Order entered June 16, 2005

SYLLABUS

On March 16, 2005, the Judicial Inquiry Board filed a complaint with the Courts Commission, charging respondent with conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice and that brings the judicial office into disrepute in violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct, Illinois Supreme Court Rules 61, 62, 63 and 67. In summary form, the complaint alleged that between 2003 through 2004, respondent engaged in the following improper conduct: (a) permitted an *ex parte* communication with an army recruiter concerning a criminal case not pending before him, caused the case to be transferred to his court call, then allowed the *ex parte* communication to influence his judicial conduct and judgment regarding the case; and (b) publicly endorsed another judicial candidate by publicly wearing a baseball cap that displayed an endorsement at a time when respondent was not a candidate for office.

Held: Respondent reprimanded.

Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP, of Chicago, for Judicial Inquiry Board
William J. Martin, Ltd., of Oak Park, for respondent.
Neville & Mahoney, of Chicago, for respondent

Before the ILLINOIS COURTS COMMISSION: THOMAS, Chairperson, BURKE, BYRNE, CUETO, FRANKS, FUNDERBURK, commissioners. ALL CONCUR. WOLFF, commissioner, did not participate in the final disposition of this matter.

ORDER

This cause coming to be heard on the parties' Joint Recommendation and on respondent's Mitigation Statement, which were filed in this matter on June 14, 2005, and respondent, having admitted to the truth of the allegations as stated in the Complaint and having further agreed that he entered into the recommendation freely and voluntarily and with full knowledge of the allegations contained in the Complaint;

and the Illinois Courts Commission being fully advised in the premises;

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby ordered that the Joint Recommendation and the Mitigation Statement filed in this cause are adopted. It is further ordered that respondent is reprimanded.

Respondent reprimanded.