

**BEFORE THE FLORIDA  
JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION**

INQUIRY CONCERNING A JUDGE,  
THE HONORABLE WOODY CLERMONT  
JQC NO. 2025-398

SC25-\_\_\_\_\_

**NOTICE OF FORMAL CHARGES**

TO: Hon. Woody Clermont  
South Regional Courthouse  
3550 Hollywood Blvd.  
Hollywood, FL 33021

The Investigative Panel of the Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission, at its meeting on July 8, 2025, by a vote of the majority of its members, pursuant to Rule 6(f) of the Rules of the Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission and Article V, Section 12(b) of the Constitution of the State of Florida, finds that probable cause exists for formal proceedings to be instituted against you. Probable cause exists on the following formal charges:

1. At all times material hereto, you were a judge in Broward County, Florida.
2. On April 11, 2025, you attended the first appearance proceedings at the Broward County Courthouse on behalf of a personal friend who had been arrested on a domestic violence charge.

3. Upon arriving outside the courtroom, you identified yourself as a judge when asked by the bailiff, which was noted on a sheet provided to the presiding judge. Once in the courtroom, you engaged the Assistant State Attorney in conversation about the case. The prosecutor explained that he was going to recommend a small monetary bond with some conditions. You provided additional mitigating information about the Defendant and the circumstances of the incident. Based on the information you provided, the prosecutor agreed to recommend a non-monetary bond with conditions.
4. When the case was called, you approached the podium and confirmed for the presiding judge that you and the prosecutor had “reached an agreement” as to the defendant’s bond. You continued to advocate on behalf of the defendant by providing mitigating information and character testimony in order to persuade the presiding judge that he should impose the recommended bond. You told the court that you had “known [the defendant] for 32 years,” that “[the defendant has] never been in trouble before,” and that, “she’s an upstanding citizen in our community.”

5. By appearing, advocating, and voluntarily providing un-subpoenaed character testimony for this personal friend, you lent the prestige of your judicial office to advance the private interests of another and practiced law while a judge, in violations of Canons 1, 2A, 2B and 5G of the Code of Judicial Conduct.

You are hereby notified of your right to file a written answer to these charges within twenty (20) days of service of this notice upon you. The original of your response and all subsequent pleadings must be filed with the Clerk of the Florida Supreme Court, in accordance with the Court's requirements. Copies of your response should be served on the undersigned General Counsel for the Judicial Qualifications Commission.

Dated: this 26<sup>th</sup> day of August 2025.

**THE INVESTIGATIVE PANEL OF THE  
JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS  
COMMISSION**



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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Notice of Formal Charges has been furnished by electronic service, on this the 28<sup>th</sup> day of August 2025, to the following:

Hon. Woody Clermont

c/o

Scott K. Tozian, Esq.  
Smith Tozian Daniel & Davis  
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Counsel for Judge Clermont



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Hugh R. Brown  
Assistant General Counsel