

**BEFORE THE FLORIDA  
JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION**

INQUIRY CONCERNING A JUDGE,  
THE HONORABLE DIANA TENNIS  
JQC NOS. 2024-714, 2024-767

---

SC25-1438

**NOTICE OF FORMAL CHARGES**

TO: Hon. Diana Tennis  
Orange County Courthouse  
425 N Orange Ave Ste 1100  
Orlando, FL 32801-1515

The Investigative Panel of the Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission, at its meeting on May 1, 2024, 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. Beginning in 2016 and ending in 2021, you made more than 900 contributions to various political organizations<sup>1</sup>, totaling approximately \$29,000.

---

<sup>1</sup> “[A] political party or other group, the principal purpose of which is to further the election or appointment of candidates to political office.” Fla. Code Jud. Conduct, Definitions.

2. These organizations include, inter alia:
  - a. Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee
  - b. ACTBLUE (nonprofit Democratic Party PAC)
  - c. Jon Ossoff for Congress
  - d. Beto for Texas (Beto O'Rourke gubernatorial campaign)
  - e. National Democratic Training Committee PAC
  - f. Emily's List (pro-choice PAC)
  - g. End Citizens United (Democrat aligned PAC)
  - h. MoveOn.Org (PAC)
  - i. Bill Nelson for US Senate
  - j. Doug Jones for Senate Committee
  - k. Randy Bryce for Congress
  - l. Stephanie Murphy For Congress
  - m. Warnock for Georgia (Raphael Warnock US senatorial campaign)
  - n. Let America Vote PAC
  - o. The Democratic Coalition
  - p. Biden for President
  - q. Ditch Fund (PAC opposing Mitch McConnell)
3. For each of these contributions and others, you listed your occupation as "judge" with the Federal Elections Commission.

4. Contributions to political organizations violate Canon 7A, which is directed to "All judges..." and states in pertinent part:

(1) Except as authorized in Sections 7B(2), 7C(2) and 7C(3), a judge or a candidate for election or appointment to judicial office shall not:

(e) solicit funds for, pay an assessment to or make a contribution to a political organization or candidate, or purchase tickets for political party dinners or other functions.

5. The contributions listed above do not qualify for the exceptions set forth in Sections 7B(2), 7C(2) and 7C(3) of the Code of Judicial Conduct.

Your actions constitute inappropriate conduct in violation of Canons 1, 2A and 7A(1)(e) of the Florida 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, and the Executive Director of the Commission.

Dated: this 15<sup>th</sup> day of September 2025.

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



---

Hugh R. Brown  
Assistant General Counsel  
Florida Bar No. 99225  
P.O. Box 14106  
Tallahassee, Florida 32317  
(850) 488-1581  
[hbrown@floridajqc.com](mailto:hbrown@floridajqc.com)

**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 17<sup>th</sup> day of September 2025, to the following:

Hon. Diana Tennis  
Orange County Courthouse  
425 N Orange Ave Ste 1100  
Orlando, FL 32801-1515

c/o

Warren W. Lindsey, Esq.  
Counsel for Judge Tennis  
341 North Maitland Avenue, Suite 130  
Maitland, FL 32751  
[warren@warrenlindseylaw.com](mailto:warren@warrenlindseylaw.com)



---

Hugh R. Brown  
Assistant General Counsel