

**BEFORE THE FLORIDA  
JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION**

**INQUIRY CONCERNING A JUDGE,  
THE HONORABLE WAYNE CULVER  
No. 2022-189 & 2022-203**

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**NOTICE OF FORMAL CHARGES**

TO: The Honorable Wayne Culver  
Seminole County Judge  
Seminole Criminal Justice Center  
101 Eslinger Way  
Sanford, FL 32773-6707

The Investigative Panel of the Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission, at its meeting on May 3, 2022, 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. On February 10, 2022, while presiding over the misdemeanor criminal case of State v. Zuma Maldonado (21-MM-1204), you engaged in intemperate conduct, including raising your voice and using profanity while threatening to use your contempt authority against a person in the gallery of your courtroom.

[Video of this is attached as "**JQC Exhibit 1**".]

2. While presiding over an injunction hearing that occurred on January 25, 2022, in the matter of [REDACTED] (Seminole County case number [REDACTED]), you engaged in intemperate conduct while dealing with a pro-se litigant, including making sarcastic comments. You later summarily declared the litigant to be in contempt without conducting the legally required proceeding for contempt. In addition to not

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conducting the legally required hearing and colloquy for direct contempt proceedings, you also failed to enter a signed judgment of guilt with specific findings of fact as required by Fla. R. Crim. P. 3.830(c), and unlawfully imposed three consecutive contempt sentences totaling 537 days in jail. Before you left the bench you changed the sentence to concurrent terms totaling 179 days. You also failed to inform the prose litigant that he had 30 days to appeal your contempt sentence.

[Video of this matter is attached as “**JQC Exhibit 2**”].

The foregoing conduct constitutes inappropriate conduct that violates Canons 1, 2, 3B(2), and 3B(4) 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 Counsel for the Judicial Qualifications Commission.

**THE FLORIDA JUDICIAL  
QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION**

By: /s/ Alexander J. Williams  
Alexander J. Williams  
GENERAL COUNSEL  
Florida Bar No. 99225  
P.O. Box 14106  
Tallahassee, Florida 32317  
(850) 488-1581  
[awilliams@floridajqc.com](mailto:awilliams@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 29<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2022, to the following:

Hon. Wayne Culver

SEMINOLE COUNTY JUDGE

C/o

Warren W. Lindsey, Esq.

Lindsey & Ferry, P.A.

1150 Louisiana Avenue, Suite 2

Winter Park, Florida 32789

warren@warrenlindseylaw.com

COUNSEL FOR JUDGE CULVER

/s/ Alexander J. Williams

Alexander J. Williams

GENERAL COUNSEL