

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE  
STATE OF FLORIDA

INQUIRY CONCERNING A JUDGE,  
THE HONORABLE GARY M. FARMER, JR.  
JQC NOS. 2024-900 & 2025-125

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SC2025-0510

**RESPONDENT'S MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME**

**COMES NOW** Respondent, **GARY M. FARMER, JR.**, by and through undersigned counsel, and hereby files this Motion for Extension of Time, and in support thereof, states the following:

1. That late in the day of April 10, 2025, Respondent received an email from the Florida JQC advising Respondent that the JQC had formally filed charges on JQC No. 2024-900; had just filed JQC No. 2025-125; and, had also filed a formal Recommendation of Suspension. It should be noted that JQC No. 2024-900 had been pending since it was initially filed in early October, 2024. Thus, the instant Rule to Show Cause and Recommendation for Suspension without pay comes six (6) months after the allegations were initially filed and four (4) months since the probable cause determination on December 13, 2024. The timing and perceived urgency of the recently filed Rule To Show Cause and Recommendation for Suspension without pay is curious and seems unnecessary especially, given Respondents current judicial assignment to the Foreclosure Division.

2. Respondent has previously been represented by private counsel however said representation had been terminated several weeks ago. Since receiving the instant Rule to Show Cause Recommendation For Suspension without pay on April 11, 2025, Respondent has been speaking to and meeting with several attorneys about substituting in and taking over his

representation in this matter. Several of said attorneys, including undersigned counsel, expressed interest in representing Respondent but were concerned about the very short time frame, especially given the fact that both the Passover and Easter holidays were within the ten day window provided by this Court's Order for responding to or opposing the request for immediate suspension without pay. Ultimately, undersigned counsel agreed, albeit reluctantly, to undertake said representation, in large part because of undersigned counsel's previous experience appearing before Respondent and his general good reputation as an attorney and trial judge when Respondent was assigned to the criminal division.

3. However, undersigned has had and continues to have several other previously scheduled hearings, court appearances, meetings, engagements and holiday family plans that severely limit undersigned counsel's ability to put forth the time and effort deserving of this matter to best represent Respondent and ensure that he receives the level of representation to which he is entitled.

4. In addition, undersigned just learned that the transcript from the December 13, 2025 6(b) Hearing was not previously obtained by Respondent. Undersigned counsel believes that review of this transcript (88 pages plus exhibits) and the two separate complete Inquiry files will be imperative to providing the highest level of representation possible. Again, additional time is needed to do so.

5. Moreover, Respondent and undersigned counsel respectfully note for the Court that, although there exist two separate Inquiry cases, all of the events and issues raised in the second inquiry arose from or occurred during the same time frames as the initial Inquiry. In other words, it is not as though Respondent engaged in new or recent behavior necessitating a new filing after the initial filing by the JQC. To the contrary, since the initial Inquiry was filed in October of last year Respondent advises that he has affirmatively refrained from the conduct (telling jokes in Court) that

are the primary basis of both Inquiries. Moreover, Respondent advises that he has been genuinely striving to exhibit the highest level of judicial demeanor and professional conduct.

6. Undersigned counsel also respectfully notes that this Court gave Respondent only ten (10) days to oppose a suspension without pay that would have a significant and chilling impact on Respondent's ability to provide a meaningful defense to a request to remove him from the bench. His due process rights would be substantially diminished and adversely impacted by such a suspension. In addition, and unbeknownst to this Court, Respondent was already in the process of retaining new representation. The fact that both the Passover and Easter holidays will consume five (5) of the ten (10) day period provided for filing a response amounted to a significant deterrent to those efforts, and is the reason why undersigned counsel is only now appearing before the Court and submitting this Motion. Both undersigned counsel and Respondent apologize to the Court for the date of filing, just before the Easter holiday and Court closing.

7. Given all the foregoing, undersigned counsel files this Motion for Extension of Time seeking an addition fifteen (15) days to prepare and file opposition to the immediate suspension. Undersigned has spoken with Alex Williams, Counsel for the JQC, and was advised that the JQC takes no position on this request for additional time and will defer to this Court.

**WHEREFORE**, Respondent respectfully requests this Court enter an order granting this Motion for Extension of time, and providing Respondent and undersigned counsel an additional fifteen (15) days to file meaningful and appropriate responses to the request for issuance of a Rule to Show Cause why Respondent should not be immediately suspended without pay.

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I **HEREBY CERTIFY** that the foregoing has been electrically filed this **17<sup>th</sup>** day of **April, 2025**, with the **Clerk of the Florida Supreme Court; ALEXANDER JOHN WILLIAMS**, General Counsel for the Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission, via [awilliams@floridajqc.com](mailto:awilliams@floridajqc.com); and, **BLAN L. TEAGLE**, Executive Director for the Judicial Qualifications Commission, via [bteagle@floridajqc.com](mailto:bteagle@floridajqc.com).

Respectfully submitted,

**DUTKO & KROLL, P.A.**

Counsel for Judge Gary M. Farmer, Jr.  
633 South Federal Highway, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301  
954-595-3900; 954-764-5040 (fax)  
[michael@dutkoandkroll.com](mailto:michael@dutkoandkroll.com)  
[jean@dutkoandkroll.com](mailto:jean@dutkoandkroll.com)

By: /s/ **MICHAEL E. DUTKO, SR.**

MICHAEL E. DUTKO, SR.  
Florida Bar No. 434957