

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

**INQUIRY CONCERNING A JUDGE,
THE HONORABLE SCOTT DUPONT**

No. 2016-2103

RESPONSE TO CHARGES

In response to Formal Charges 1-5, I admit and take full responsibility for my actions. While my initial written response to the investigation, and my appearance before the investigative panel, may have given the appearance that I did not fully understand the inappropriateness of my behavior, it did so only because at that time I whole heartedly believed that the information I posted about my opponent was one hundred percent accurate. It was not until my appearance before the investigative panel that I fully appreciated that it was not, and that I had been careless. I regret the tone of my response to the charges and apologize for the impression it may have left.

I have had time to reflect on my actions, and think about my behavior, and in doing so I fully understand I was wrong. I should have conducted my own independent research and analysis of what was on my web site to guarantee that it was accurate in all respects. In this regard I fell short.

I also fully understand the importance of maintaining the integrity of the office to which I was elected six years ago and in which I have had the privilege of serving. As a sitting judge I set the example and in being the example, I must exercise restraint. I understand that I am fully and solely responsible for confirming the accuracy and source of all information disseminated by my campaign and that those responsibilities cannot be delegated.

While my answer to the question regarding following the Constitution was offered in the context of giving an opinion about the law, and when giving opinions about the law judges must state that they will follow the law as written, I now realize that my response was given in the wrong context, and as such, it was inappropriate. I fully understand my responsibilities in following the Constitution, and that the sanctity of the Constitution must always be protected.

I am truly remorseful and apologetic for my behavior. I recognize and understand that I must exercise the utmost discipline in connection with my judicial activities, including the activities of my campaign. I am deeply aware of the need for judges and judicial candidates to set an example of the utmost propriety, judicial demeanor and restraint when required to run in a contested election. The public that I serve should not, and cannot, expect anything less. I have learned a great lesson from this and have grown accordingly.

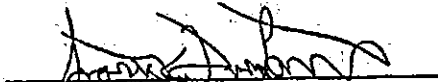
I regret having placed the Judicial Qualifications Commission and, ultimately, the Florida Supreme Court, in the position of having to address my actions. In taking full responsibility for

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my actions, I understand and accept that I will be subjected to sanction for my conduct. This behavior will never happen again.

WAIVER OF FORMAL HEARING

Please accept this as a waiver of a formal hearing before the Hearing Panel on the charges. I do request, however, that the Hearing Panel allow me to present testimony via affidavit or deposition regarding my character.



Scott Dupont

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

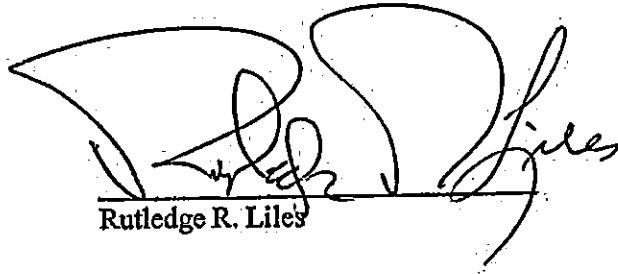
I HEREBY CERTIFY that a copy of the foregoing has been furnished, via U.S. Mail, to the following individuals this 19th day of December, 2016.

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