

BEFORE THE JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION
STATE OF GEORGIA

In re: Inquiry Concerning)
Judge Shana B. Vinyard) Complaint No. 18-280
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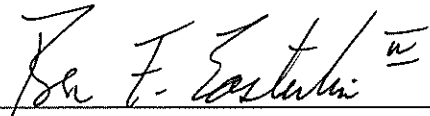
Report of Disposition to Supreme Court of Georgia
Pursuant to O.C.G.A. §15-1-21(k)(l) and Commission Rule 11.A

This matter originated before the Judicial Qualifications Commission’s (“the “Commission”) Investigative Panel with a complaint of judicial misconduct on the part of Whitfield County Magistrate Judge Shana B. Vinyard. More specifically, the allegation concerned Judge Vinyard’s failure to avoid impropriety and the appearance thereof in all her activities.

During the pendency of a full investigation into these allegations and prior to a vote on whether to file formal charges, the Investigative Panel and Judge Vinyard mutually agreed to a disposition of this case pursuant to Commission Rule 17.D. Judge Vinyard agreed to resign from her judicial post effective April 1, 2019, and to not be eligible to hold or seek judicial office until January 1, 2025, which Governor Brian P. Kemp accepted on February 13, 2019. (See Exhibits A, B.)

The Investigative Panel submits this Report of Disposition for filing in the public records of the Supreme Court of Georgia pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 15-1-21(k)(1) and Commission Rule 11.A.

Respectfully submitted, this 27th day of March, 2019.



Ben F. Easterlin IV, Director
State Bar Number: 237650

Judicial Qualifications Commission
244 Washington Street, SW
Suite 300
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is certify that I have this day served a copy of the foregoing

**REPORT OF DISPOSITION TO THE SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA
PURSUANT TO O.C.G.A. § 15-1-21(k)(1) AND COMMISSION RULE 11.A**

via mail and email to:

Shana B. Vinyard (Respondent)
P.O. Box 1904
Dalton, GA 30722

Rick Brown, Esq. (Respondent's Counsel)
Law Office of Rick Brown
111 West King Street
Dalton, GA 30720

Hon. Robert McBurney (Hearing Panel)
Presiding Officer
Fulton County Superior Court
185 Central Avenue SW
Suite T-5755
Atlanta, GA 30303

This th 27 day of MARCH, 2019.



Ben F. Easterlin, IV
Director
Georgia Bar No. 237650

EXHIBIT A



STATE OF GEORGIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
ATLANTA 30334-0900

Brian P. Kemp
GOVERNOR

February 13, 2019

The Honorable Shana B. Vinyard
Magistrate Judge
Whitfield County
P.O. Box 1904
Dalton, Georgia 30722

Dear Judge Vinyard:

Thank you taking the time to apprise me of your resignation, effective April 1, 2019. Your resignation as Magistrate Judge of Whitfield County is hereby accepted.

Sincerely,

Brian P. Kemp

BPK:rcb

cc: The Honorable Brad Rafensperger, Secretary of State
The Honorable Sheri H. Blevins, Judge, Probate Court of Whitfield County

EXHIBIT B

BEFORE THE JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION
STATE OF GEORGIA

In re: Inquiry Concerning
Judge Shana B. Vinyard

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Complaint No. 18-280

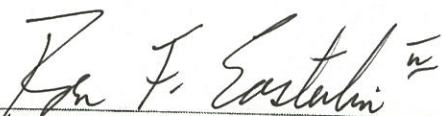
CONSENT ORDER

Pursuant to Rule 17(D) of the Judicial Qualification Commission (the “Commission”), the Commission’s Investigative Panel and Judge Shana B. Vinyard (“Vinyard”) resolve the above-styled matter as follows:

1. Vinyard had agreed to resign from her position as Associate Judge for the Magistrate Court of Whitfield County.
2. Vinyard agreed to submit her resignation from the Magistrate Court of Whitfield County to the Governor of the State of Georgia on or before February 15, 2019, and she complied with that agreement.
3. Vinyard’s resignation from the Magistrate Court of Whitfield County was accepted on February 13, 2019, and it becomes effective on April 1, 2019 (*See* attached Exhibit A.)
4. Vinyard currently holds no other judicial office.

5. Vinyard will not seek, request, or accept elected or appointed judicial office for a period ending December 31, 2024.
6. This Consent Order resolves any allegations as to judicial misconduct in the above-styled matter as provided herein.

This 26th day of February, 2019.



Ben F. Easterlin IV
Director
Judicial Qualifications Commission



Edward D. Tolley
Chairman of the Investigative Panel
Judicial Qualifications Commission



Shana B. Vinyard
Respondent



Counsel for Respondent