

**In the  
Supreme Court of Indiana**

IN THE MATTER OF )  
 )  
THE HONORABLE )  
 )  
CALVIN D. HAWKINS )  
 )  
JUDGE OF )  
 )  
LAKE SUPERIOR COURT )

Case No: 24S-JD-403

**NOTICE OF THE INSTITUTION OF FORMAL PROCEEDINGS**  
**AND**  
**STATEMENT OF CHARGES**

The Indiana Commission on Judicial Qualifications (“Commission”), having found probable cause to warrant formal charges of judicial misconduct, now notifies Respondent, the Honorable Calvin D. Hawkins (“Respondent”), of the filing of these Charges. These Charges are brought under Admission and Discipline Rule 25 and before the Indiana Supreme Court, which, pursuant to Article 7, § 4 of the Constitution of Indiana, has original jurisdiction over the discipline, suspension, and removal of all judges and judicial officers of this State. The Commission charges that Respondent, while Judge of Lake Superior Court, engaged in judicial misconduct as specifically charged below. Pursuant to Admission and Discipline Rule 25VIII (F), Respondent may file a written Answer to these Charges within twenty (20) days of service.

**BACKGROUND**

1. Respondent was admitted to the Indiana Bar in 1971.

2. In July 2007, Respondent was appointed as Judge for Lake Superior Court and began serving as Judge in Lake Superior Court, Civil Division in approximately September 2007.
3. At all times pertinent to these Charges, Respondent served as Judge in Lake Superior Court, Civil Division, Room Two. As Judge of Lake Superior Court, Civil Division 2, Respondent was responsible for overseeing up to five court staff.

### **FACTS GIVING RISE TO MISCONDUCT CHARGES**

#### *Interactions with Court Staff from Other Courts*

4. On October 19, 2023, Respondent was scheduled to preside over a civil jury trial in Lake Superior Court, Civil Division Room Two (“Room Two”), located in East Chicago, Indiana.
5. On the morning of October 19, 2023, the recording equipment malfunctioned in Room Two, and Respondent’s staff was unable to record the trial. After speaking with the presiding judge of Lake Superior Court, Civil Division Room One (“Room One”), Respondent and his court staff relocated the civil jury trial to Room One in the Hammond, Indiana courthouse (“Hammond courthouse”) that same day.
6. Along with Room One, there are other courtrooms at the Hammond courthouse. Court staff from both Room One and Lake Superior Court, Civil Division Room Five (“Room Five”) assisted Respondent and his staff with setting up the recording equipment for Room One’s jury trial.
7. When Respondent arrived at the Hammond courthouse, he and his staff introduced themselves to the staff in Rooms One and Five.
8. Staff employee F.R. worked in Room Five and assisted Respondent and other staff members on the days of trial.

- a. When Respondent introduced himself to F.R., he began to rub her shoulder.
  - b. F.R. did not want Respondent to touch her in this manner.
  - c. F.R. was wearing a turtleneck sweater. After Respondent stopped rubbing her shoulder, F.R. retreated and put on an additional sweater over the turtleneck because she was uncomfortable with Respondent's unwanted touching and the way he was staring at her chest area.
9. On the first day of trial, F.R. reported to the office manager that she was uncomfortable with the way that Respondent had looked at her.
10. Later that day, another staff member, T.B., was in Room One assisting with the courtroom's setup. T.B. is a support secretary in the Hammond courthouse.
11. T.B. knelt to work on one of the components of the recording system.
12. Respondent saw T.B. from his position in the hallway leading into the courtroom and made the comment that T.B. was "on her hands and knees." T.B. heard Respondent's comment about her being "on her knees." T.B. felt uncomfortable, interpreting Respondent's comment as a sexual reference because of the way he was looking at her after he made the statement.
13. At the time that Respondent made the comment that T.B. was "on her hands and knees," there were other individuals present in the courtroom.
  - a. One of Respondent's court staff, J.P., heard Respondent make a comment referencing T.B.
  - b. J.P. interpreted Respondent's comment as a sexual connotation.
14. In his Response to the Commission's Notice of Investigation and in his deposition, Respondent admitted that he saw T.B. attempting to fix a recording component and

made a comment that T.B. was on her “hands and knees.”

15. On October 20, 2023, Respondent and his court staff returned to Court One to complete the jury trial.
16. On October 20, 2023, Respondent went to Court Five’s offices looking for juror paperwork.
17. Respondent saw F.R. and after speaking with her, F.R. agreed to help Respondent with getting the necessary juror paperwork.
18. Although F.R. told Respondent that she would bring the paperwork to him, Respondent told her that he would wait in or near her office.
19. Respondent walked to F.R.’s office and stood in her doorway.
20. F.R. felt uncomfortable with Respondent standing in her office because there was not a comfortable amount of space for the both of them to be in there together. Due to the way Respondent greeted her, F.R. was uncomfortable with Respondent being in the office with her.
21. After F.R. had the juror paperwork, she saw Respondent in a nearby hallway and handed the paperwork to him. When F.R. handed the paperwork to Respondent, Respondent tried to hug F.R. by attempting to put his arm around her and leaned in to try to kiss her. F.R. physically pushed Respondent away.
22. T.B. also observed Respondent try to hug F.R. and lean in to try and kiss F.R.
23. During the Commission’s investigation, when asked about this event, Respondent gave conflicting accounts.
  - a. In a response to the Commission’s Notice of Investigation, Respondent stated that he did not recall trying to kiss F.R.

- b. In his deposition on March 27, 2024, Respondent testified that he had reached over to F.R. to spontaneously hug and thank her, and F.R. recoiled.
  - c. Respondent further testified at the deposition that he was not trying to kiss F.R. but may have “blown a kiss to her or something...”
24. On October 25, 2023, F.R. received a card from Respondent.
- a. Respondent wrote in the card:

It was such a pleasure meeting you last week. Thank you for being so gracious as I have some “loose screws” in my head and may have appeared too forward.
25. F.R. was concerned about how Respondent learned her last name because she was not listed in the office directory.
26. On October 26, 2023, F.R. took the card to her office manager and reported what had occurred on October 20, 2023 when Respondent tried to hug and kiss her.
27. The office manager immediately reported the information to the Judge of Room Five, who then reported to the Judge of Room One.
28. In a response to the Commission’s Notice of Investigation and during his deposition, Respondent admitted that he sent F.R. a thank-you card.
29. Respondent’s unwanted touches to F.R. and his additional attempts to touch and kiss F.R. were unwelcome physical conduct of a sexual nature and constituted harassment under the Indiana Code of Judicial Conduct.
30. Respondent’s suggestive comment to T.B. about being on her “hands and knees” was verbal conduct of a sexual nature that was unwelcome and constituted harassment under the Indiana Code of Judicial Conduct.

*Respondent's Interactions with his Court Staff*

31. During the Commission's investigation, additional information was received that Respondent had engaged in a pattern of conduct that included unwanted hugs and inappropriate comments toward his own staff member.
32. J.P. began working in Respondent's court in 2007 and was subject to his supervision as a member of his court staff. Between 2007 and 2020, Respondent engaged in physical contact with, and made comments to J.P., that made J.P. uncomfortable.
33. Some of the unwanted physical conduct between Respondent and J.P. includes but is not limited to the following:
  - a. On multiple occasions, Respondent engaged in unwanted hugging of J.P.
  - b. Respondent tried to rub J.P.'s arms or shoulders.
34. J.P. informed Respondent that his conduct made her uncomfortable in the following instances:
  - a. J.P. informed Respondent that she did not want to be hugged by him because it made her uncomfortable.
  - b. J.P. informed Respondent not to come near her work area in the courthouse because it made her uncomfortable.
  - c. When Respondent commented to J.P. that her arms were showing and tried to put his hands on her shoulder, J.P. turned her back to him and told him to keep his hands to himself.
  - d. In his March 2024 deposition, Respondent stated that one of the last times he hugged J.P., he knew she may have felt some discomfort by the look on her face.

35. Towards the end of 2023, J.P. met with Respondent regarding the handling of Trial Rule 41(E) dismissals and the need to make sure another member of the court staff was knowledgeable about how to handle these cases.
36. During the conversation, Respondent stated, “shall we have a threesome?”
37. At other times, Respondent also made comments about J.P.’s physical appearance, including that her arms were showing while wearing a sleeveless blouse and whether she was wearing makeup.
38. In his August 1, 2024 response to the Commission’s Amended Notice of Investigation, Respondent admitted that he made comments to J.P. about her appearance, including her wearing makeup and that she wore a sleeveless blouse one day.
39. Respondent’s comments to J.P. and his attempts to touch her despite J.P. telling Respondent not to do so were unwelcome verbal and physical conduct of a sexual nature and constituted harassment under the Indiana Code of Judicial Conduct.
40. Between 2007 and 2023, Respondent routinely hugged his court staff and other individuals at the courthouse in East Chicago, Indiana.
41. Respondent hugged and kissed one member of his court staff, C.G., in early 2024. Respondent testified in his deposition that he believed he kissed C.G. either on the cheek or her head.
42. In his response to the Commission’s Notice of Investigation and in his deposition, Respondent admitted that he hugged people all the time.
43. In his March 2024 deposition, Respondent acknowledged that his hugging of court staff had a negative effect on the integrity of the judiciary. When asked how his conduct reflected on the judiciary as a whole, Respondent stated as follows in his deposition:

It has a negative effect, but there's a certain aspect of it, one's humanity  
Okay, you know? And I don't want to demean the fact that if that's not  
something that you're sensitive to, you can go crazy with it. Okay? And you  
could become a quote, unquote a predator, could be a predator.

My characterization of when I got this, the only person that I felt could have  
had any kind of feeling would be the young lady that I had met for the very first  
time (referring to F.R.).

### **APPLICABLE JUDICIAL CONDUCT RULES**

44. Rule 1.2 of the Indiana Code of Judicial Conduct provides that, “A judge shall act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary, and shall avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety.”
45. Rule 2.3(B) of the Indiana Code of Judicial Conduct provides that, “A judge shall not, in the performance of judicial duties, by words or conduct manifest bias or prejudice, or engage in harassment, including but not limited to bias, prejudice, or harassment based upon race, sex, gender, religion, national origin, ethnicity, disability, age, sexual orientation, marital status, socioeconomic status, or political affiliation, against parties, witnesses, lawyers, or others.”
46. Comment 4 to Rule 2.3 of the Indiana Code of Judicial Conduct provides that, “Sexual harassment includes but is not limited to sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature that is unwelcome.”
47. Rule 2.8(B) of the Indiana Code of Judicial Conduct provides that a judge shall be patient, dignified, and courteous to litigants, jurors, witnesses, lawyers, court staff, court officials, and others with whom the judge deals in an official capacity, and shall require similar conduct of lawyers, court staff, court officials, and others subject to the judge's direction and control.



## CHARGES

The Commission incorporates, by reference, the facts contained in ¶¶ 1-43 into the Charges below.

### *Count 1*

The Commission charges that on October 19, 2023 and October 20, 2023, Respondent touched F.R. without her permission and attempted to touch and kiss F.R. without her permission. By engaging in this conduct, Respondent violated Rules 1.2, 2.3(B), and 2.8(B) of the Code of Judicial Conduct.

### *Count 2*

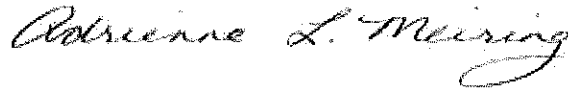
By making a comment to T.B. about “being on her hands and knees” while in court on October 19, 2023, Respondent violated Rules 1.2, 2.3(B), and 2.8(B) of the Code of Judicial Conduct.

### *Count 3*

By engaging in a pattern of inappropriate behavior towards J.P. that included unwelcome comments and physical conduct of a sexual nature, Respondent violated Rules 1.2, 2.3(B), and 2.8(B) of the Code of Judicial Conduct.

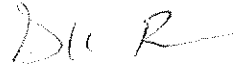
WHEREFORE, the Commission respectfully requests that, upon the filing of Respondent’s Answer, the Indiana Supreme Court appoint three Masters to conduct a public hearing on the charges that Respondent committed judicial misconduct as alleged, and further prays that the Supreme Court find that Respondent committed misconduct and that it impose upon him the appropriate sanction.

Respectfully submitted,



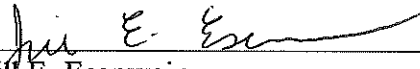
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12/2/24  
DATE

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a copy of this "Notice of the Institution of Formal Proceedings and Statement of Charges" was sent by certified mail, postage pre-paid to Respondent, through counsel, and via electronic mail at the following mailing and electronic address:

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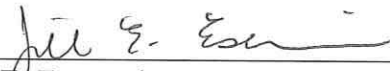
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