

FILED

MAR 23 2009

A. C. J. C.

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
JUDICIAL CONDUCT

IN THE MATTER OF	:	
	:	
LAWRENCE P. DeBELLO	:	DOCKET NO: ACJC 2008-116
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT	:	ANSWER
	:	
	:	

Lawrence P. DeBello, Judge of the Superior Court, (Respondent) by way of Answer to the Formal Complaint of the Supreme Court of New Jersey, Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct (Complainant), states as follows:

FACTS

1. Respondent admits the allegations contained in paragraph 1.
2. Respondent admits the allegations contained in paragraph 2.
3. Respondent admits the allegations contained in paragraph 3.
4. Respondent admits the allegations contained in paragraph 4.

5. Respondent admits the allegations contained in paragraph 5.

6. Respondent admits the allegations contained in paragraph 6.

7. Respondent admits the allegations contained in paragraph 7.

8. Respondent admits the allegations contained in paragraph 8, except he notes that, at the time of his communications with Edward Marable, Mr. Marable was no longer appearing before Respondent.

9. Respondent admits the allegations contained in paragraph 9.

10. Respondent admits the allegations contained in paragraph 10.

11. Respondent has insufficient information upon which to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in paragraph 11 and will amend this answer upon receipt of discovery as he is uncertain as to the meaning of the allegation that he gave "misleading answers" to the Committee. However, Respondent admits that he was asked questions about the frequency with which he communicated with his former law clerk and his decision to continue communicating with her even after his meeting with Assignment Judge Galipoli.

AS TO COUNT I

12. Respondent repeats his responses to the allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 11 of the Complaint as if set forth fully and at length herein.

13. Respondent admits the allegations contained in paragraph 13.

AS TO COUNT II

14. Respondent repeats his responses to the allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 13 of the Complaint as if each was set forth fully and at length herein.

15. Respondent admits the allegations contained in paragraph 15.

16. Respondent admits the allegations contained in paragraph 16.

AS TO COUNT III

17. Respondent repeats his responses to the allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 16 of the Complaint as if each was set forth fully and at length herein.

18. Insofar as Respondent may have testified to the Executive Director in a misleading fashion, he admits the allegations contained in paragraph 18.

SZAFERMAN, LAKIND, BLUMSTEIN &
PLADER, P.C.

By: /s/Arnold C. Lakind
Arnold C. Lakind

Dated: March 19, 2009