



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

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JUDGE PAUL J. CAVANAUGH RETIRES FROM THE BENCH

BOSTON, MA (March 15, 2002) -- Judge Paul J. Cavanaugh, First Justice of the Malden Division of the District Court Department, has agreed with the Commission on Judicial Conduct that he will retire from the bench as of March 20, 2002, in resolution of Complaint No. 2001-11. This complaint was initiated by the Commission and investigated by Special Counsel.

The Commission's complaint concerns Judge Cavanaugh's conduct in connection with a separate complaint against another judge. The Commission alleges that Judge Cavanaugh violated Canon 1, Canon 2, and Canon 2(A) of the Code of Judicial Conduct. In particular, the Commission alleges that while at the Malden District Court, Judge Cavanaugh made inquiry of a member of the Commission concerning its confidential investigation of the complaint against the other judge, and asked the Commission member to speak to the other judge about that investigation; that thereafter, Judge Cavanaugh received, unsolicited, from the Commission member a copy of a confidential investigative report concerning the other judge; and that the report was sent from the Malden District Court to the other judge. Judge Cavanaugh admits the truth of these allegations, and that his conduct interfered with the Commission's proceeding.

The Commission further alleges that Judge Cavanaugh made false statements under oath to the Commission concerning his above-described conduct; Judge Cavanaugh does not admit the truth of these allegations. In connection with this matter, there are no allegations of misconduct by Judge Cavanaugh while performing his judicial duties on the bench.

Judge Cavanaugh's retirement and admissions have led to the closing of the Commission's Complaint No. 2001-11. Judge Cavanaugh has entered into this agreement with the Commission pursuant to G.L. c.211C, §8(1), and has waived his confidentiality with regard to this statement of resolution of the matter.

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