Serial: 227844

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF MISSISSIPPI

No. 2019-JP-01009-SCT

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE

v.

JUSTICE COURT JUDGE WENDELL WILLIAMS

EN BANC ORDER

This matter is before the Court on the Petition for Interim Suspension of Justice Court Judge Wendell Williams, filed by the Mississippi Commission on Judicial Performance. The Commission has filed a formal complaint, Nos. 2019-008 and 2019-009, in which it alleges that Judge Williams pushed a deputy justice court clerk and slapped her hand. It also alleges Judge Williams has been impatient, rude, and threatening toward litigants, witnesses, attorneys, and court staff.

Under Section 177A of the Mississippi Constitution, the Commission charges Judge Williams with "(b) willful misconduct in office; . . . [and] (e) conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice which brings the judicial office into disrepute." Miss. Const. art. 6, § 177A. The Commission further alleges that Judge Williams violated Canons 1, 2A, and 3B of the Code of Judicial Conduct. In this petition, the Commission requests that Judge Williams be suspended from his duties as justice court judge while the proceeding on the formal complaint is pending.

After due consideration, the Court finds that the Petition should be granted and that Judge Williams should be temporarily suspended from his duties as justice court judge for District One, Jefferson County, Mississippi. Judge Williams is suspended, with pay, pending resolution of the formal complaint filed by the Commission.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Petition for Interim Suspension of Justice Court Judge Wendell Williams filed by the Mississippi Commission on Judicial Performance is granted. Justice Court Judge Wendell Williams is hereby suspended from all duties as justice court judge for District One, Jefferson County, Mississippi, with pay, until further order of this Court.

The Clerk of this Court is hereby directed to forthwith deliver certified copies of this order to the Circuit Clerk of Jefferson County.

SO ORDERED, this the 10th day of December, 2019.

/s/ David Michael Ishee

DAVID MICHAEL ISHEE, JUSTICE FOR THE COURT