

FILED

JUL 21 2021

Ann A. Blinn
CLERK OF COURT

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EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

THE STATE OF NEVADA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

Case No. C-19-341767-1

Dept. No. 12

KIM BLANDINO,

Defendant.

ORDER OF SELF-DISQUALIFICATION, REQUESTING REASSIGNMENT

The Court is assigned to hear a pending disqualification motion against Judge Leavitt. *Administrative Order No. 21-0005*. Because the Court's impartiality might reasonably be questioned, the Court self-disqualifies pursuant to Canon 2, Rule 2.11 of the Nevada Code of Judicial Conduct and requests reassignment. The information below is offered in compliance with DCR 18.

As a rural court judge in a district comprised of two district court judges, the Court is keenly aware of and staunchly adheres to its obligation to decide matters assigned. NCJC Rule 2.7; *Las Vegas Redevelopment District v. District Court*, 116 Nev. 640, 643, 5 P.3d 1059, 1061 (2000). However, the Court is equally obliged to self-recuse in any proceeding in which the judge's impartiality might reasonably be questioned. NCJC Rule 2.11; *Ybarra v. State*, 127 Nev. 51 (2011). The test for whether a judge's impartiality might reasonably be questioned is objective and courts must decide whether a reasonable person, knowing all of the facts, would have reasonable doubts about the judge's

1 impartiality. *Ybarra*, 127 Nev. at 51.

2 Defendant is charged with extorting Michael Federico, a Las
3 Vegas Municipal Court Judge Pro Tem on or between April 8, 2019
4 and May 21, 2019. *Indictment*. It is alleged Defendant threatened
5 Federico that unless certain demands were met, complaints against
6 Federico would be filed with the Nevada Commission on Judicial
7 Discipline. *Id.* Defendant is also charged with impersonating an
8 investigator with the Nevada Commission on Judicial Discipline.
9 *Id.* The records reflects that Paul Deyhle, General Counsel &
10 Executive Director of NCJD is a witness.

11 Defendant represents having an acute interest in privately
12 policing Clark County judges, including Pro-Tem Judge Federico and
13 Judge Leavitt, and filing complaints with NCJD. Defendant's
14 apparent defense is that he "announced publicly that Kim in accord
15 with the calling from the Creator that Kim is. 'a volunteer unpaid
16 investigator [which means unofficial] working with the NCJD.'" *Id.*
17 Defendant's Supplemental Brief, July 20, 2021, p. 5-6.

18 The Court has served as an alternate member of the Nevada
19 Commission on Judicial Discipline since January 2019. In said
20 capacity, the Court has sat as a voting member on multiple cases,
21 some involving complaints against Clark County judges made during
22 the time in question. Some of the complaints resulted in formal
23 decisions embodied in the public record. Other complaints remain
24 confidential. NRS 1.4683. The Court has a member/counsel

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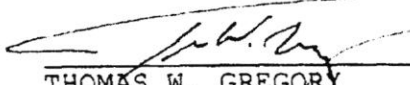
1 relationship with witness Deyhle. The Court's impartiality might
2 reasonably be questioned. NCJC Rule 2.11

3 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

4 DATED this 21st day of July, 2021.

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THOMAS W. GREGORY
DISTRICT JUDGE

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8 Copies served by mail delivered on July 21, 2021, addressed to:

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