Heather Banks Mi

IN THE STATE COURT OF BULLOCH COUNTY, STATE OF GEORGIAOCT 01, 2022 03:39 PM

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MO FLO LLC) State Court: STCV2022000202	Heathe Bulloch
1267 NORTHSIDE DRIVE E.	AST) Magistrate Court: 2022-11739CS	
STATESBORO, GA 30458)	
DBA: FLOORS OUTLET) MOTION TO RECUSE JUDGE JOSEP	Н
) CUSHNER ON GROUNDS THAT HIS	
Plaintiff(s)) WIFE IS IN AN ATTORNEY IN THE SA	ME
) FIRM AS OPPOSING COUNSEL AND	ON
) GROUNDS THAT HIS WIFE HAS A	
VS) CURRENT ONGOING FINANCIAL	
WILHELMINA ALEXANDER	EDWIN ALEXANDER) RELATIONSHIP WITH PLAINTIFF	
204 HIGHLAND RD	204 HIGHLAND RD		
STATESBORO, GA 30458	STATESBORO, GA 3	0458	
Defendants			

MOTION TO RECUSE JUDGE JOSEPH CUSHNER ON GROUNDS THAT HIS WIFE IS IN AN ATTORNEY IN THE SAME FIRM AS OPPOSING COUNSEL AND ON GROUNDS THAT HIS WIFE HAS A CURRENT ONGOING FINANCIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH PLAINTIFF

Defendants move for recusal of Judge Joseph Cushner in this case (State Court STVC2022000202) on grounds that his wife, Leslie Cushner, currently represents one of the plaintiff parties needed for just adjudication. His wife currently represents Prince Preston, owning partner of Floors Outlet and owner of MoFlo, LLC, in another case. Because of this relationship, one of the parties in this case is currently paying money on an ongoing basis to Judge Cushner's household, he has a pecuniary interest in this case and in the September 8 Motion for Joinder. An affidavit in support of this is attached.

This day of October 1, 2022.

Wilhelmina Randtke, Defendant

204 Highland Rd.

Statesboro, GA 30458

Edwin Alexander, Defendant

204 Highland Rd.

Statesboro, GA 30458

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I filed a copy of this MOTION TO RECUSE JUDGE JOSEPH CUSHNER ON GROUNDS THAT HIS WIFE IS IN AN ATTORNEY IN THE SAME FIRM AS OPPOSING COUNSEL AND ON GROUNDS THAT HIS WIFE HAS A CURRENT ONGOING FINANCIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH PLAINTIFF with the State Court of Bulloch County and will mail copies to:

Christopher R. Gohagan 12Siebald Street Post Office Box 327 Statesboro, Georgia 30459

Brian McDonald 208 Spotted Fawn RD N Statesboro, GA 30458

R. Matthew Shoemaker Jones Cork LLP 435 Second Street Fifth Floor, SunTrust Bank Building P.O. Box 6437 Macon, Georgia 31208-6437

Signed October 1, 2022

Wilhelmina Randtke 204 Highland Rd

Statesboro, GA 30458

IN THE STATE COURT OF BULLOCH COUNTY, STATE OF GEORGIA

MO FLO LLC) State Court: STCV2022000202
1267 NORTHSIDE DRIVE E	AST) Magistrate Court: 2022-11739CS
STATESBORO, GA 30458)
DBA: FLOORS OUTLET) AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO
) RECUSE JUDGE JOSEPH CUSHNER
Plaintiff(s)) ON GROUNDS THAT HIS WIFE IS IN AN
) ATTORNEY IN THE SAME FIRM AS
) OPPOSING COUNSEL AND ON
VS) GROUNDS THAT HIS WIFE
WILHELMINA ALEXANDER	EDWIN ALEXANDER	R) HAS A CURRENT ONGOING FINANCIAL
204 HIGHLAND RD	204 HIGHLAND RD) RELATIONSHIP WITH PLAINTIFF
STATESBORO, GA 30458	STATESBORO, GA 3	30458
Defendants		

AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO RECUSE JUDGE JOSEPH CUSHNER ON GROUNDS THAT HIS WIFE IS IN AN ATTORNEY IN THE SAME FIRM AS OPPOSING COUNSEL AND ON GROUNDS THAT HIS WIFE HAS A CURRENT ONGOING FINANCIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH PLAINTIFF

- On September 29, 2022, Defendants became aware of a conflict of interest for Judge Joseph Cushner in the following way.
- 2. Previously, on or around September 21, 2022, Defendants received a copy of a Claim of Lien by mail filed against 204 Highland Rd. by "Mo Flo, LCC" and in which Mo Flo, LLC claims to be a "subcontractor, materialman and mechanic" but does not claim to be a contractor nor to have privity with us and does not give the name of the alleged contractor. This claim of lien is attached.
- 3. In researching the lien perfection and foreclosure process, Defendants became aware of the following: That the lien perfection process would involve suing and serving process on the contractor, but would not involve actual notice to nor services of process on the property owners in the proceeding to perfect the lien. That the lien foreclosure process would involve publishing notice in the paper, but would not involve actual notice nor service of process on the property owners in the foreclosure proceeding. Defendants

Wilhelmina Randtke and Edwin Alexander are the property owners. Defendants believe that Mo Flo, LLC may coordinate with companies owned by the same management to get a default judgment by Mo Flo, LLC against another company registered to the same management, get a default judgment against a strawman company with no capital, and then foreclose without ever having to give Wilhelmina Randtke or Edwin Alexander actual notice of the lien perfection action nor of the foreclosure action.

- 4. On September 29, 2022, Defendants were researching cases in PeachCourt.com in the Superior Court of Bulloch County with a goal of detecting any proceeding to perfect the Claim of Lien. Defendants searched variations of plaintiffs' names which have been given in this proceeding. In this process, Defendants noticed that Prince Preston, an owning partner of Floors Outlet, was a plaintiff in a recently opened case and is currently represented by Leslie Cushner in the Superior Court of Bulloch County in case no.
 SUDR2022000290 opened in August 2022.
- 5. Because the last name is the same as the judge, Joseph Cushner, Defendants researched and found a newspaper article in the Statesboro Herald stating that Leslie Cushner and Joseph Cushner are married. The newspaper article states that at the time of the article, in 2019, Joseph Cushner was the Bulloch County Solicitor General. This newspaper is attached to this filing.
- Joseph Cushner's biography on the website for the State Court of Bulloch County states
 that he previously served as Solicitor-General of Bulloch County. This biography is
 attached to this filing.
- Our August 9, 2022 Defendants' Answer filed in the Magistrate Court of Bulloch County and transferred to State Court, brought counterclaims against Prince Preston as an owning partner of Floors Outlet.

- 8. Our September 8, 2022, Motion For Joinder And Motion To Correct The Party Names And Clarify Whether Brian McDonald Has Already Appeared Or Needs To Be Served requested Prince Preston be joined as a person needed for just adjudication.
- Judge Joseph Cushner's wife, Leslie Cushner, currently represents a plaintiff in another matter and currently has a financial relationship with a plaintiff in this case. Prince Preston is currently making payments directly to Judge Joseph Cushner's household.
- 10. Prince Preston is an owning partner of Floors Outlet, the company we make the contract with. We named Prince Preston as a party to this suit in our August 9, 2022 Defendants' Answer in paragraphs 1, 10, 12, 16, 19-21, 26-27, 46, 52, 55, 57, 74-75, 97, 100-102, 104.
- 11. Prince Preston also is representing Mo Flo, LLC in the engagement with this legal action. He hired legal counsel here, and has decision making authority in this case. On August 23, 2022, Chris Gogohan mailed to Defendant's address a bill to Prince Preston and his whole packet of documents, which we returned. Our email to Chris Gogahan is attached, as is the bill, and cover letter. Prince Preston retained counsel in this case and is a party with a financial interest as he works for Mo Flo, LLC and engaged counsel on behalf of Mo Flo, LLC.
- 12. Exhibit O attached to our August 9, 2022 Defendants' Answer shows a local business permit obtained by "MOFLO LCC DBA: FLOORS OUTLET" on June 1, 2022 the day after Floors Outlet stopped work. That local business permit lists Prince Preston as an owner along with Randy Childs, and Brian McDonald, and shows Prince Preston's ownership and financial interest close in time to when Floors Outlet contracted with us.
- 13. Additionally, Defendants noticed that the law firm at which Leslie Cushner is employed by Taulbee, Rushing, Snipes, Marsh and Hodgin, LLC. The list of attorneys from the firm's website is attached to this filing.

- 14. According to the newspaper article, Leslie Cushner was promoted to equity partner in 2019, and so has a financial interest in the business of the law firm.
- 15. Taulbee, Rushing, Snipes, Marsh and Hodgin, LLC is the same law firm that employees Chris Gohagan, who filed a notice of appearance in this case on September 26, 2022.
- 16. According to Opinion 20 of the Judicial Qualifications Commission of Georgia, a judge is disqualified to handle a case in which one of the lawyers is a member of a firm that includes the judge's son.
- 17. Ga. Code. Jud. Cond. 2.11 states, "Judges shall disqualify themselves in any proceeding in which their impartiality might reasonably be questioned, or in which: (1) The judge has a personal bias or prejudice concerning [...] a party's lawyer". And "Judges shall disqualify themselves in any proceeding in which their impartiality might reasonably be questioned, or in which: (2) The judge is within the third degree of relationship to any of the following listed persons, or the judge's spouse, domestic partner, intimate partner, or any other member of a judge's family residing in the judge's household is within the third degree of relationship to any of the following persons: [...] (b) a lawyer in the proceeding; (c) a person known by the judge to have a more than de minimis interest that could be substantially affected by the outcome of the proceeding".
- 18. OCGA 15-1-8 gives disqualification rules and states in part, "(a) No judge [. . .] shall: [. . .] (2) Preside, act, or serve in any case or matter when such judge is related by consanguinity or affinity within the third degree as computed according to the civil law to any party interested in the result of the case or matter".
- 19. The word "party" as used in statute under which judge is disqualified when related to party interested in result of case is not restricted to technical limitation of party to case, but includes those who are interested in result of the case, although not parties of record. Gray v. Barlow, 1978, 241 Ga. 347, 245 S.E.2d 299

- 20. Within statute prohibiting judge from sitting in cause wherein he is related to either "party," "party" includes any one pecuniarily interested in result of case, not merely party to record. Dennard v. State, 1933, 46 Ga.App. 513, 168 S.E. 311.
- 21. The spousal relationship is within the close family relationship covered by recusal rules. The recusal in Friends of Chattahoochee, Inc. v. Longleaf Energy Associates, LLC, 285 Ga. 859, 862–863, 684 S.E.2d 632, 63 (2009) states, "Nevertheless, it is imperative that the public have faith and trust in the impartiality of the justice system, and any 'appearance of impropriety' that may exist is enhanced where the relative at issue is the judge's spouse. Therefore, I will disqualify myself from any case in which King & Spalding lawyers are actively representing a party before this Court, including this case. In such cases, no motion to disqualify me needs to be filed; however, if it appears that I have inadvertently overlooked such representation, a motion or a simple letter to our Clerk, copying opposing counsel and advising of that fact, will be welcome."

Signed,	60 ///
Wilhelmina Randtke	Edwin Alexander
State of Georgia County of Bulloch	State of Georgia County of Bulloch
Sworn to (or affirmed) and subscribed before me this 10/1/2022, by Wilhelming Randtle (Name of Signer).	Sworn to (or affirmed) and subscribed before me this 10/1/2022 , by [dwin Mexander (Name of Signer).
Personally Known Produced Identification	Personally Known Produced Identification
Type and # of ID Driver's License R532-898-80	Type and # of ID <u>Drivery License</u> 4425-210-79-447-0
(Signature of Notary) C L Kelsaw NOTARY PUBLIC	(Signature of Notary) C L Kelsaw NOTARY PUBLIC
(Name Builder County GE Carlet), or Printed) My Commission Expires	(Name of Nathochy County affect of Printed) My Commission Expires
Notary Public, 65/29/2026 orgia	Notary Public, Stat 05/23/2020

BK:280 PG:837-837 L2022007592

RETURN RECORDED DOCUMENT TO: Taulbee, Rushing, Snipes, Marsh & Hodgin, LLC c/o Christopher R. Gohagan 12 Siebald Street, Statesboro, Georgia 30458 CROSS REFERENCE: Deed Book 2701, Pages 560-561 FILED IN OFFICE
CLERK OF COURT
09/13/2022 09:10 AM
HEATHER BANKS MCNEAL, CLERK
SUPERIOR COURT
BULLOCH COUNTY, GA

COUNTY OF BULLOCH STATE OF GEORGIA

]]

7084885854 PARTICIPANT ID

CLAIM OF LIEN

This claim of lien expires and is void 395 days from the date of filing of the claim of lien if no notice of commencement of lien action is filed in that time period. The owner is hereby further notified that said owner has the right to contest this lien.

MO FLO, LLC, a subcontractor, materialman and mechanic, files this preliminary notice of lien rights in the amount of EIGHT THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED SIXTY-NINE DOLLARS AND SEVENTY-TWO CENTS (\$8,869.72) as of JULY 12, 2022, plus interest on the follow described property:

All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in the 1209th G.M. District of Bulloch County, Georgia, and in the City of Statesboro, being known and designated as Lot No. 1, Block F of Orchard Hills Subdivision as shown by a plat of same prepared by Lamar O. Reddick & Associates, Surveyors, dated May 12, 1987, recorded in Plat Book 29, Page 74, Bulloch County, Georgia records.

and improvements thereon. The owners of said property are EDWIN J. ALEXANDER and WILHELMINA RANDTKE, having an address of 204 HIGHLAND ROAD, STATESBORO, GEORGIA 30458.

The lien is claimed for the following labor, material, and services furnished by Lienor for improving said property: PROPERTY located at 204 HIGHLAND ROAD, STATESBORO, GEORGIA 30458, in the amount of EIGHT THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED SIXTY-NINE DOLLARS AND SEVENTY-TWO CENTS (\$8,869.72). The last date of delivery of materials and services under this job was JUNE 14, 2022.

This 12th day of SEPTEMBER 2022.

TAULBEE, RUSHING, SNIPES, MARSH & HODGIN, LLC

<u>/s/ Christopher R. Gohagan</u>

CHRISTOPHER R. GOHAGAN Georgia Bar No.: 313902 ATTORNEY FOR MO FLO, LLC

Page 1 of 1

P.O. Box 327 Statesboro, Georgia 30459 P: (912) 764-9055 F: (912) 764-8687 STEPHEN T. RUSHING
DANIEL B. SNIPES (GA & SC)
LAURA T. MARSH
WESLEY C. TAULBEE
SCOTT A. HODGIN
CHRISTOPHER R. GOHAGAN (GA & SC)
CHARLIE MCCOOK
SPENCER TYSON
KAYLEE SHEPPARD SHEALY

LAW OFFICES
TAULBEE, RUSHING, SNIPES,
MARSH & HODGIN, LLC

12 SIEBALD STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 327
STATESBORO, GEORGIA 30458
www.statesborolawgroup.com

P: 912-764-9055 F: 912-764-8687 E: awall@statesborolawgroup.com

OF COUNSEL: DAN R. TAULBEE

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

September 13, 2022

Edwin J. Alexander Wilhelmina Randtke 204 Highland Road Statesboro, Georgia 30458 (NO: 7021 0350 0000 6836 9341)

RE: CLAIM OF LIEN FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 204 HIGHLAND ROAD, STATESBORO, BULLOCH COUNTY, GEORGIA

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Please find the enclosed Claim of Lien which by Mo Flo, LLC against the above-referenced property on dated September 12, 2022. This notice is being provided to you pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44-14-361.1(a)(2) as you have been identified as the owner (as agent for the owner) of this property.

Sincerely,

TAULBEE RUSHING SNIPES

MARSH & HODGIN, LLC

Ashley Wall

Paralegal to Christopher R. Gohagan

P: (912) 764-9055 F: (912) 764-8687

E: <u>awall@statesborolawgroup.com</u>

Enclosures/aw

CENTIFIED INIMIL

LAW OFFICES

TAULBEE, RUSHING, SNIPES, MARSH & HODGIN, LLC

STATESBORO, GEORGIA 30459



Edwin J. Alexander
Withclimina Randthe
204 Highland 120 ad
Statestoon, PA 30458

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Law firm names Leslie Cushner as a partner





Published: Jan 28, 2019, 5:13 PM





The Statesboro law firm of Taulbee, Rushing, Snipes, Marsh, and Hodgin, LLC announces that Leslie H. Cushner was promoted to partner.

SIGN OF FOR THE HEKALDS FREE E

NEWSLETTER

A graduate of The George Washington University and the University of Georgia School of Law, Cushner joined the firm in 2013. Her areas of practice include personal injury, motor vehicle accidents and family law matters.

Firm partner Laura Marsh said: "Leslie is brilliant, dedicated and does an outstanding job for her clients. She is an excellent attorney and we are thrilled that she and Joseph have made Statesboro their home and that she will be joining the firm as an equity partner."

partner."

Cushner is married to Bulloch County Solicitor General Joseph Cushner and mother to two daughters. Her community involvement includes the United Way of Southeast Georgia, Statesboro Service League, and the Lynda Brannen Williamson Women's Leadership Academy.



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Updated: Sep 29, 2022, 4:34 PM Published:

(S)

It's that time of year again, and Hurricane Ian has us square in its sights. While the path may vary by the time you read this, it is currently predicted to come right through the southeast Georgia region.

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Herald headlines







Contact Us

State Court

The State Court of Bulloch County is located in the historic Bulloch $\,$ County Courthouse in Statesboro, Georgia. Bulloch State Court has served the citizens of Bulloch County and Georgia since it was created by the Georgia General Assembly on August 10, 1903.

Judge Joseph L. Cushner was appointed to the State Court of Bulloch County by Governor Brain Kemp in March of 2020. A native of Bulloch County, he received his undergraduate degree and law degree from the University of Georgia. Prior to serving as ${\it Judge}\ of\ State\ Court,\ he\ was\ the\ elected\ Solicitor-General\ of}$ $Bulloch\,County.\,The\,Court\,Administrator\,is\,Annette\,Crosby.$ Heather McNeal is the Clerk of the State Court of Bulloch County.

 $\mbox{\Large \large +} \,$ The State Court's jurisdiction includes the following cases which occur in Bulloch County:

State Court Contact



Joseph Cushner Judge, State Court (912) 764-8605 (912) 489-1730

■ statecourt@bullochcounty.net

🔰 2 North Main Street Statesboro, Georgia 30458





TAULBEE, RUSHING, SNIPES, MARSH & HODGIN, LLC

700+ \$10 000 000+ BECOVERED FOR OUR CLIENTS

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WHO WE ARE

Taulbee, Rushing, Snipes, Marsh and Hodgin, LLC has been one of the premier law firms in Southeast Georgia for over three decades, serving the diverse legal needs of its people and businesses with over 100 years of combined experience. Our lawyers are all graduates from to perchools in the coutheast and hold degrees in accounting, and finance, as well as traditional pre-law majors. We are licensed to practice in Georgia and South Carollias.



- 2008, Market District Location Opened

- 2015 , Updated Branding





MEET OUR ATTORNEYS

Dan R. Taulbee

Stephen T. Rushing



Scott A. Hodgin

Chris Gohagan

Leslie Cushner

REQUEST A FREE CONSULTATION



STEPHEN T. RUSHING
DANIEL B. SNIPES (GA & SC)
LAURA T. MARSH
WESLEY C. TAULBEE
SCOTT A. HODGIN
CHRISTOPHER R. GOHAGAN (GA & SC)
CHARLIE MCCOOK
SPENCER TYSON
KAYLEE SHEPPARD SHEALY

TAULBEE, RUSHING, SNIPES,
MARSH & HODGIN, LLC
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P: 912-764-9058 F: 912-764-8687 E: awall@statesborolawgroup.com

OF COUNSEL: DAN R. TAULBEE

U.S. MAIL & EMAIL: office@floorscwf.com

August 23, 2022

Wilhelmina Randtke c/o Prince Preston 204 Highland Road Statesboro, Georgia 30458

RE: MO FLO, LLC V. WILHELMINA ALEXANDER BULLOCH COUNTY MAGISTRATE COURT CASE NO.: 2022-11739CS

Dear Mr. Preston,

Thank you for considering Taulbee, Rushing, Snipes, Marsh & Hodgin, LLC, in connection with the above referenced lawsuit. This letter confirms that Taulbee, Rushing, Snipes Marsh & Hodgin, LLC, is not undertaking representation in the above-referenced matter.

In declining representation in this matter, we do not express any opinion regarding the merits or demerits of any claims. Should you decide to proceed further, I recommend that you contact counsel as soon as possible to ensure you do not go into default. If you decide to pursue this matter, I am sure whoever you retain will advise you accordingly.

Again, thank you for your consideration of Taulbee, Rushing, Snipes, Marsh & Hodgin, LLC. We wish you the best of luck in all future endeavors.

Very truly yours,

Taulbee, Rushing, Snipes Marsh & Hodgin, LLC

Christopher R. Gohagan

CRG/aw

Enclosed are the original documents you provided to our office. (In)

TAULBEE, RUSHING, SNIPES, MARSH & HODGIN, LLC

12 SIEBALD STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 327
STATESBORO, GEORGIA 30458
www.statesborolawgroup.com

INVOICE

To: Wilhelmina Randtke c/o Prince Preston 204 Highland Road Statesboro, Georgia 30458

ATTORNEY

Date	Description	Time	Total
Date	Description	Ame	1000

Date	Description	Time	Total
08/23/2022	Consultation Fee	FLAT FEE	\$500.00
		Total	\$500.00

You can submit payment by mail, in-person, or online at https://secure.lawpay.com/pages/statesborolawgroup/operating.

THANK YOU!



You sent me an invoice and client files; I'm the opposing party; please send a runner to pick this up

Wilhelmina Randtke <randtke@gmail.com>

Tue, Aug 30, 2022 at 5:03 PM

To: cgohagan@statesborolawgroup.com

Cc: wrandtke@georgiasouthern.edu, Edwin Alexander <edwinalexander127@gmail.com>

Christopher Gohagan,

Last Thursday, I got a bill and client file from you. I've never been your prospective client. I'm the opposing party. I believe your prospective client, who you declined to accept, is Randy Childs, based on the client files you sent me. It is possible your client is Prince Preston, since you listed his name in your bill. Those two have a common law partnership that does unlicensed contracting in town, and did something like \$35K damage to my house, and Prince Preston assaulted me in my own bedroom.

I phone called your number on the letter Thursday, Aug 25, 2022 and left a message saying your name, with this same info about the opposing party's files being sent to me, and with my number, and never got a call back.

I phone called today, and got your receptionist who I gave this same info to and she did not take my name or contact info, and said to email you. I think she spoke to you while I was on the phone with her, so maybe you remember.

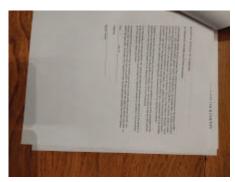
Please send a runner to pick this client file up, so sort out who your prospective client was, and you can get this paperwork to them and they can know you declined representation.

I will put the files you sent me in my backpack. You can pick it up from the Systems Office of Henderson Library on the Georgia Southern campus between 8am and 5pm.

Don't send me another bill, because I have never consulted with you. I am the opposing party and you are conflicted out for me, so we have no business at this time.

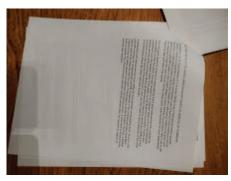
-Wilhelmina Randtke 850-345-6123

6 attachments



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IMG_20220830_194953921.jpg 4670K





IMG_20220830_195008055.jpg 4197K



IMG_20220830_195042747.jpg 3803K



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IMG_20220830_195020413.jpg 4407K



The Judicial Qualifications Commission of Georgia

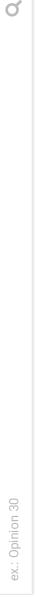


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All categories ▶ Conflict of Interest/Failure to Disqualify ▶ Opinion 20

case in which one of the lawyers is a member of a firm that includes the judge's son. The judge has already decided that he will disqualify himself (a) in any case in which his son personally participates, or (b) in any The Commission has been asked to express an opinion as to whether a judge is disqualified to handle a case handled by the law firm on a contingent fee basis; and his inquiry relates only to non-contingent fee cases in which his son will not participate.

Rule 2.11 of the Code of Judicial Conduct provides in part:

Categories:

- Administrative Duties other than Delay
- Bias/Prejudice/Partiality
- Conflict of Interest/Failure to
- Delay/Failure in <u>|||</u>

Disqualify

- Scheduling/Deciding a Matter
 - Failure to attend Mandatory
 - Failure to Follow the Training
- Law/Incompetence
- Improper Election/Political Campaign Conduct
 - Improper Public Comment ...
- Misconduct Off the Bench
- Misuse of the Prestige of **Judicial Office**



(A) Judges shall disqualify themselves in any proceeding in which their impartiality might reasonably be questioned, or in which:

:

(2) The judge is within the third degree of relationship to any of the following listed persons, or the judge's spouse, domestic partner, intimate partner, or any other member of a judge's family residing in the judge's household is within the third degree of relationship to any of the following persons:

:

(b) a lawyer in the proceeding;

Commentary [5]:

impartiality might "reasonably be questioned" under Rule 2.11 (A), or that the relative is known by the judge affiliated does not of itself disqualify the judge. Under appropriate circumstances, the fact that the judge's to have an interest in the law firm that could be "substantially affected by the outcome of the proceeding" The fact that a lawyer in a proceeding is affiliated with a law firm with which a relative of the judge is under Rule 2.11 (A) (2) (c) requires the judge's disqualification.

Commission's opinion that the judge should not preside in any case in which any partner or associate of There is no automatic disqualification under this Canon in the situation covered by the inquiry. However, "impartiality might reasonably be questioned," within the meaning of Rule 2.11(A). Accordingly, it is the the Commission believes that under the particular circumstances outlined in the judge's request, his the law firm that includes his son actively participates.

[Pertinent Code of Judicial Conduct provisions: Rule 1.2(B), 2.11(A). Cross reference to other relevant opinions for review: #33, #71, #72, #84, #93, #128, #140, #168.]