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APR 26 2008

George F. VanHoy Chief Magistrate
Twenty-eighth Judicial District
1820 Norway St.
Bristol, Virginia 24201

Chief Circuit Court Judge Randall Lowe
Washington County Court
Abingdon, Virginia 24210
April 1, 2008

Dear Judge Lowe,

This letter is written as a result of a meeting of Chief Circuit Court Judge Randall Lowe, Chief General District Court Judge Sage Johnson, Chief Magistrate George VanHoy and Magistrate John Mullins III.

Our purpose was to make sure that no canons of conduct were violated by John Mullins III, as his father, John Mullins Jr., has become a bondsman. Also to develop a way to avoid conflicts that might arise in the future.

I later met with both John Mullins Jr. and John Mullins III to discuss the results of that meeting and both were in agreement that John Mullins Jr. would not do bonds on cases for which John Mullins III had set bail.


Also Magistrate Mullins agreed that he would not discuss any official business coming before him with his father, and would continue to perform his job without the influence of his father as a bondsman.

Mr. Mullins, who also owns a wrecker service, agreed not to tow any vehicle in which he might be involved in issuing a warrant or setting a bail.

This agreement shall be in effect until it is either amended or revoked by the Chief Circuit Court Judge.

Beginning July 1, 2008 this agreement would be at the discretion of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court, who shall at that time take over the authority and agreements of the magistrate system.

Sincerely,


George VanHoy
Chief Magistrate
28th Judicial District

To: Honorable Judge Lowe, 28th
Judicial District Circuit Court.

From: John C. Mullins III
Magistrate 28th Judicial District

Date: March 30, 2008

Re: Reply to cannons

This is a response to the questions asked of Chief Vanhoy and myself by Judge Lowe and Judge Johnson about the cannons of conduct and any issues of impropriety, influence, gifts, impartiality and the prestige of the office in regards to my father being a Bail Bondsman and myself being a Magistrate.

After a meeting with Chief Vanhoy and my father we have come to a agreement that while I am working as a Magistrate I will not do any bail process for my father and will recluse myself from any proceeding involving him or any of his business as a bail bondsman. Furthermore my father has agreed that he will not post bail for any defendant that I have had a bail hearing for.

These two factors will effectively resolve the issues of cannons 2B, 3D(1), 4D(2) and 2A.

In regards to cannon 3C(6), since I have no interest in any proceedings my father conducts as a bail bondsman. I cannot disclose and have no interest in disclosing any business of my office to my father. Furthermore he will not be conducting business while I'm working so he will not be privy to any non-public information that I may have.

Sincerely


John C. Mullins III

Cc: G. Vanhoy