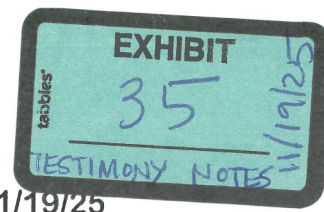


(1)



MY SPEECH TO THE JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION

11/19/25

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and members of the Commission.

~~Senator Campbell I am one of your constituents from James Island~~

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak today. My name is Helen R. Walker and I am here as a Mother, a Grandmother and a lifelong South Carolinian who believes deeply in fairness, ethics and accountability in our courts.

For more than 33 years, I have worked as the Controller for Limehouse Properties in downtown Charleston, a business owned by the late H.B. "Buck" Limehouse. Many of you or your Fathers knew Buck personally. He was a man whose word meant everything and who believed that trust and integrity were not optional – they were essential to Public Service.

His oldest Son, Harry B. "Chip" Limehouse III, carried forward those same values in his twenty years in the South Carolina House of Representatives. During Chip's time serving the people of our state, he participated in rare but necessary legislative oversight when a Judge was not reappointed after legitimate citizen complaints. That experience taught me that accountability is not about anger – it is about duty. It is part of how our system protects the public.

I am here today because I believe that Judge Spiros Ferderigos failed in that duty.

This Commission's Policies and Procedures direct citizens like me to address matters relating to ETHICS, COMPETENCY OR CHARACTER --- not to relitigate an entire case. I understand that clearly.

But temperament is character.  
And temperament is competency.

A judge must be prepared and able to listen, to remain patient, and to give every citizen who comes before him or her --- regardless of income, influence, or representation – a fair and equal opportunity to be heard.

In my family's experience, Judge Ferderigos would not listen!  
He refused to hear motions, He refused to read affidavits, and he refused to review evidence that directly affected the safety and well-being of a child.

(2)

I am not here too argue the underlying case. I am here to tell you that when a judge shuts the door on one side of a situation, he is no longer neutral.

Among your evaluation criteria is diligence --- the duty to thoroughly review the information placed before a Judge.

In our situation, Judge Ferderigos had:

- Sworn affidavits
- Medical documentation
- Police involvement
- And motions specifically asking him to review concealed or corrected facts.

But he did not review them.

When a Judge does not read what is placed in the record, he cannot be diligent. And when he does not allow a party to speak to correct errors, he cannot be fair.

I want to emphasize again:

I am not asking you to change any ruling.

I am pointing out that the process itself broke down, and the responsibility for that breakdown rests squarely with the JUDGE.

Your manual makes clear that the Commission cannot reopen a case. I am not here asking you to.

But you can consider the consequences of JUDICIAL INDIFFERENCE.

Because <sup>this</sup> one JUDGE refused to listen:

- My Son has not seen or had any contact with his daughter in more than 1,145 days.
- My Husband and I have not seen or had any contact with our granddaughter since December of 2021, nearly 4 years!
- A once-loving child is now suffering from PARENTAL ALIENATION SYNDROME --- a form of psychological harm that South Carolina courts do not yet formally recognize!
- My husband and I both are in our seventies, we were forced to mortgage our paid-off home for \$200,000 to try to help our Son be heard.
- We spent ~~more than \$860,000~~ of our retirement savings trying to navigate a system that never let us speak. *Total fees in this case are over \$860,000 due to Judge Ferderigos rulings.*

370,000 Blank  
58,000 Lovette  
160,000 Hopkins

All Lawyers

• Judge Ferderigos ~~was~~ was the catalyst for this devastating snowball that wiped out our family!!

(3)

I am 78 years old today and I should be retired. But I still work because this JUDGE'S refusal to consider evidence led to the financial devastation that no family should ever have to endure.

If a JUDGE does not hear the truth, the consequences do not fall on Lawyers or Court Staff.

The consequences fall on children, and on Grandparents and on families who are left with silence that may never be repaired.

I want to be very clear about something:  
DO NOT FEEL SORRY FOR JUDGE FERDERIGOS.

If he is not reappointed:

- He will still practice law,
- He will still go home to his children every night,
- His children will still have their Grandparents,
- And he will still have every opportunity to rebuild his career.

But my family cannot rebuild what we have lost.

We cannot buy back those lost years with our precious GRANDDAUGHTER

We cannot undo the emotional damage to a child

Our family was deprived of due process and dignity, and the responsibility for that lies with the JUDGE who refused to listen.

Just for one moment, put yourselves in my position. I go to sleep at night not knowing anything about my Granddaughter's life at all now. She will be 16 years old in 3 months. Her Mother (who was diagnosed with Bi Polar and I witnessed her mental instability) was given total custody of her to make all decisions and she will not agree to even start reconciliation with my Son. He pays child support, but his Parental Rights have been defacto terminated.

Members of this commission, your role is vital.

You are the guardians of JUDICIAL INTEGRITY in South Carolina.

You have the authority --and the duty -- to ensure that only those who demonstrate fairness, diligence, patience and respect for every citizen are allowed to remain on the BENCH.

Based on my direct experience, I believe JUDGE FERDERIGOS has not met those standards.

I RESPECTFULYY URGE YOU TO DENY HIS REAPPONTMENT.

(4)

South Carolina deserves JUDGES who read the record, who listen with patience, and who treat every family --- wealthy or poor ---- with equal respect.

Thank you for allowing me to speak today.  
May GOD guide you in your deliberations!