



The Judiciary Commission of Louisiana

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December 23, 2014

John E. Settle, Jr.
Attorney at Law
1915 Citizens Bank Drive
Bossier City, Louisiana 71111

Re: *In re: Judge Sheva M. Sims*
Louisiana Supreme Court Docket No. 14-O-2515
Judiciary Commission Case No. 0320

Dear Mr. Settle:

The Judiciary Commission, after conducting an investigation into your complaint against Judge Sheva M. Sims and a disciplinary hearing, filed a recommendation with the Louisiana Supreme Court that Judge Sims be suspended without pay for ninety (90) days. A copy of the Commission's Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Recommendation of Discipline is attached.

The case is not concluded yet. The Supreme Court is not bound by any of the Commission's proposed findings and conclusions or its recommendation of discipline, and may take any action it considers to be appropriate in the case. The Judiciary Commission may recommend that a judge be disciplined, but only the Supreme Court may discipline a judge.

In accordance with Louisiana Supreme Court Rule 23, Section 23, the case record filed by the Commission with the Supreme Court, including the Commission's Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Recommendation of Discipline, and the proceedings before the Supreme Court, are a matter of public record and not confidential. However, documents, evidence, or proceedings before the Judiciary Commission that are not contained in the case record filed with the Supreme Court are still confidential and will remain confidential.

Now that the Commission has made a recommendation to the Court, the Office of Special Counsel will file a brief on behalf of the Commission. Judge Sims's attorney will file a brief on her behalf. The Court will schedule oral argument within the next few months during which the Office of Special Counsel and Judge Sims's attorney will make oral arguments to the Court and answer questions the Justices may have about the case. The Court's oral argument docket can be accessed over the Court's website at <http://www.lasc.org>.¹ Oral arguments can be viewed remotely, while the

¹ From the main page, click on the words "CHECK THE COURT DOCKET FOR THE SCHEDULE" that appear in the right-hand column of the page.

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arguments are taking place, through the Court's website.² Members of the public may also attend the oral arguments in person at the Louisiana Supreme Court, 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130, Fourth Floor Courtroom. Should you choose to attend in person, be aware that there is no free public parking available at the Louisiana Supreme Court and parking in the French Quarter is limited and can be expensive. You will have to pass through security to enter the building. Seating in the courtroom is on a first come/first served basis.

Within a few months after oral argument, the Louisiana Supreme Court will issue a written opinion in which it will announce its decision and the reasons for it. We will notify you of the Court's decision when that occurs.

If you have any questions, please call the Office of Special Counsel at (504) 568-8299, identify yourself as the complainant in the case of *In re Judge Sheva M. Sims*, which has been filed with the Louisiana Supreme Court, and ask to speak to either Special Counsel Mary Whitney or Assistant Special Counsel Lantz Savage. You may need to leave a message if neither is immediately available.

Thank you for your participation in the process and your continued patience and understanding.

Sincerely,



Clare Fiasconaro
Commission Counsel

Enclosure

cc: Chair and Members, Judiciary Commission of Louisiana (Judge Edwards recused)
(without enclosure)
Sandra A. Vujnovich, Chief Executive Officer (without enclosure)
Mary Whitney, Special Counsel (without enclosure)
Lantz Savage, Assistant Special Counsel (without enclosure)

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² From the main page, click on the words "Click to view The Louisiana Supreme Court Oral Argument" that appear in the right-hand column of the page under the heading "Court Live Feed."