



1                   **IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO**

2   **October 31, 2022**

3 **NO. S-1-SC-39605**

4 **INQUIRY CONCERNING A JUDGE,**

5 **JSC Inquiry No. 2021-075**

6 **IN THE MATTER OF HON. JOHN M. BURNS**

7 **Tatum Municipal Court Judge**

8

9   **ORDER**

10           WHEREAS, this matter came on for consideration by the Court upon petition  
11 of the Judicial Standards Commission (Commission) to accept the stipulation  
12 agreement and consent to discipline, the Court having considered the petition and  
13 stipulation agreement, and having determined that acceptance of the stipulation  
14 agreement is in the best interests of the judiciary and the public, and being  
15 sufficiently advised; Chief Justice C. Shannon Bacon, Justice Michael E. Vigil,  
16 Justice David K. Thomson, Justice Julie J. Vargas, and Justice Briana H. Zamora  
17 concurring;

18           NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that petition is GRANTED and the  
19 stipulation agreement and consent to discipline is APPROVED;

20

1           IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, pursuant to the stipulation agreement and  
2 this Court's power of superintending control and authority to discipline judges under  
3 the New Mexico Constitution Article IV, Sections 3 and 32, respectively,  
4 Respondent shall complete the following:

5           **I.     Formal Mentorship**

6           Respondent shall complete a six (6) month formal mentorship with a  
7 mentor recommended by the Commission and approved and appointed  
8 by this Court. The Commission shall submit its recommendation to this  
9 Court for approval no later than **November 15, 2022**.

10          **II.    Supervised Probation**

11          Respondent shall, concurrent to his mentorship, be on supervised  
12 probation for six (6) months. As a condition of probation, Respondent  
13 must provide the appointed mentor a list of all traffic cases involving  
14 litigants with commercial driver's licenses each of the six months he is  
15 on probation. This list must detail the disposition of each case to ensure  
16 that proper sentencing guidelines are followed.

17          IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that upon successful completion of the  
18 foregoing the Commission shall close JSC Inquiry No. 2021-075; and  
19

1 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all documents filed in this Court with  
2 regard to Inquiry No. 2021-075 are UNSEALED pursuant to Rule 27-104(B)  
3 NMRA.

4 IT IS SO ORDERED.



WITNESS, the Honorable C. Shannon Bacon, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New Mexico, and the seal of said Court this 31st day of October, 2022.

Elizabeth A. Garcia, Clerk of Court  
Supreme Court of New Mexico

By Kristen R. Edwards  
Deputy Clerk

5 I CERTIFY AND ATTEST:  
A true copy was served on all parties  
or their counsel of record on date filed.  
Kristen Edwards  
Deputy Clerk of the Supreme Court  
of the State of New Mexico