

STATE OF MARYLAND
BEFORE THE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL DISABILITIES

IN THE MATTER OF: *
* CJD-2019-147
*
JUDGE JOAN B. GORDON

RESPONDENT'S ANSWER TO CHARGES

COMES NOW the Respondent, The Honorable Judge Joan B. Gordon, and in Answer to the charges filed herein, respectfully submits the following:

1. Respondent and her Counsel are in receipt of Charges filed herein by Investigative Counsel, alleging violations of the Maryland Code of Conduct for Judicial Appointees (Md. Rule 18-200 et seq.). Respondent denies all claims and charges.

2. As of August, 2020, Respondent has begun intensive treatment and surgery for lung cancer. Treatment and the results of surgery have left Respondent unable to prepare a response to the Charges, or to continue to perform her judicial duties. Her last day performing judicial duties of any kind was August 14, 2020. Accordingly, she has notified the Governor and Chief Judge Barbera of her serious medical condition, and has been forced to retire effective December 31, 2020.

3. While it had been the fervent intention of Respondent to refute the allegations within the Charges, and present evidence in support of her position, she is medically incapable of doing so.

4. Because of the Respondent's retirement from the bench, the tribunal loses jurisdiction over this matter.

WHEREFORE, Respondent requests that this matter be dismissed.

Respectfully submitted,
ETHRIDGE, QUINN, KEMP,
ROWAN & HARTINGER

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 28th day of December, 2020, a copy of
the foregoing was served via first class mail, on:

Tanya C. Bernstein
Director/Investigative Counsel
Commission on Judicial Disabilities
P.O. Box 340
Linthicum Heights, MD 21090-0340

Paul F. Kemp