

FILED
MAR 20 2026

**BEFORE THE MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE
INQUIRY CONCERNING A JUDGE
NO. 2026-100**

ORIGINAL

2026-JP-300-SCT

COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATION FOR INTERIM SUSPENSION

THIS CAUSE came on this day before members of the full Commission pursuant to Rule 7 of the Rules of the Mississippi Commission on Judicial Performance, and the Commission having considered the complaint (Commission No. 2026-100) submitted by Leflore County Board of Supervisors Attorney, Willie Griffin, found by unanimous decision that probable cause exists to file a formal complaint against James Littleton, County Court Judge in Leflore County, Mississippi. The Commission determined that sufficient evidence exists that Judge James Littleton has engaged, and continues to engage, in conduct that poses an immediate threat to the integrity of the judiciary and said conduct is causing irreparable injury to the public, that warrants immediate action.

The Commission HEREBY RECOMMENDS to the Mississippi Supreme Court that Judge James Littleton be suspended immediately from performing the duties of his office pending a final determination of this inquiry.

A copy of the initial complaint submitted by Mr. Griffin, the Formal Complaint and a copy of the Commission Meeting Minutes are filed herewith.

SO RECOMMENDED on this, the 20th day of March 2026.

FILED

MAR 20 2026

OFFICE OF THE CLERK
SUPREME COURT
COURT OF APPEALS

RACHEL L. WILSON
Executive Director
Mississippi Commission on Judicial Performance

MOTION#2026-877

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FORMAL COMPLAINT

COMES NOW the Mississippi Commission on Judicial Performance, (“Commission”), by and through its Executive Director, Rachel L. Wilson, and files its Formal Complaint against James Littleton, County Court Judge, Leflore County, State of Mississippi, (hereafter referred to as the “Respondent”), to wit:

PARTIES

(1) The Commission is a body created pursuant to Section 177A, Mississippi Constitution of 1890, as amended.

(2) The Respondent is now and was at all times hereinafter mentioned, a County Court Judge, LeFlore County, State of Mississippi. The Respondent may be served with this Formal Complaint as provided in Rule 6C of the Rules of the Mississippi Commission on Judicial Performance.

JURISDICTION

(3) The Commission has jurisdiction over Respondent under the authority granted by Section 177A of the Mississippi Constitution of 1890, as amended, applicable statutes, and the Rules of the Commission.

(4) The Commission, acting upon the complaint of Willie Griffin, as well as investigations thereof, charges Respondent with judicial misconduct constituting a violation of Section 177A of the Mississippi Constitution of 1890, as amended.

ALLEGATIONS OF MISCONDUCT

(5) Respondent has failed to hold detention and/or adjudicatory hearings for minor children in need of supervision since September 2025, and is returning children detained for serious violations to the custody of their parents without hearings as required by law.

(6) Respondent has failed to conduct youth court proceedings for a lengthy period of time.

(7) Respondent has failed to properly appoint an intake officer to process new youth court cases as required by law.

(8) Respondent has assigned partial intake officer duties to his court administrator; however, Respondent is requesting additional compensation for fulfilling said duties in violation of the law.

(9) Respondent has engaged in retaliatory acts by taking legal action against the County Administrator and others.

(10) Respondent has entered *sua sponte* orders enjoining the Leflore County Board of Supervisors from taking certain actions regarding the 2025-2026 County Court fiscal year budget.

(11) Respondent has entered orders threatening the LeFlore County Board of Supervisors and others with contempt without due process.

(12) Respondent used threatening and intimidating language when speaking to the County Administrator, Cynthia Staniel, including but not limited to stating "Don't f*** with me. I am a motherf***** judge."

(13) Respondent has engaged in court proceedings as both prosecutor and witness in violation of the law.

(14) The Commission specifically reserves the right to amend this Formal Complaint as new instances of misconduct are discovered during the investigation.

VIOLATIONS

(15) By engaging in the aforementioned conduct, described in the paragraphs above, Respondent violated Canons 1, 2A, 2B, 3B(1), 3B(2), 3B(3), 3B(4), 3B(7), 3C(1), and 3C(4) of the Code of Judicial Conduct of Mississippi Judges, a copy of which is included as an attachment to this Formal Complaint.

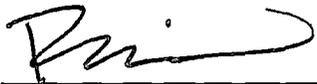
(16) Respondent's conduct as set forth in the paragraphs hereinabove violates Section 177A of the Mississippi Constitution of 1890, as amended, as said conduct constitutes willful misconduct in office and conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice which brings the judicial office into disrepute.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Respondent is advised pursuant to Section 177A of the Mississippi Constitution of 1890, as amended, applicable statutes, and the Rules of the Commission, that an answer to this Formal Complaint may be filed by the Respondent with the Commission within thirty (30) days after service upon the Respondent of this Formal Complaint at the Commission office at P.O. Box 668, Madison, Mississippi 39130 and that the Commission shall thereafter set a time and place of hearing of this Formal Complaint and shall give notice thereto to Respondent. Respondent is hereby advised of his right to counsel and to file an answer in her behalf through counsel, and Respondent is further advised that all the proceedings

in connection with the complaint shall be in accordance with Section 177A of the Mississippi Constitution of 1890, as amended, applicable statutes, and the said Rules of this Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION
ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE

BY: 

Rachel L. Wilson
Executive Director

Date: 20 March 2026



MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE

Minutes of 20 March 2026, via Zoom

The specially called electronic meeting was called by Chairman, Patricia Bennett, pursuant to Rules of the Mississippi Commission on Judicial Performance (MCJPR) Rule 3(G), upon recommendation of Executive Director, Rachel Wilson, pursuant to MCJPR Rule 3(F)(1) and (3). Chairman Bennett; Circuit Court member, Judge Stanley Sorey; Chancery Court member, Judge Jim Persons; County Court member, Judge Veldore Young Graham; Justice Court member, Judge Christopher McBrayer; lay member Jeffrey Adcock; and lay member, Charlie Jackson appeared telephonically, along with Commission staff.

A quorum was confirmed.

Complaint 2026-100

The members considered Complaint 2026-100. Richelle Lumpkin moved to file a Formal Complaint and immediately forward a Recommendation to the Mississippi Supreme Court recommending immediate interim suspension, pursuant to Rule 7. Mr. Jackson seconded the motion and discussion was had. The motion carried unanimously by those voting, Judge Graham abstained from the vote.

The members further considered the Commission's obligations under Rule 4(A) regarding submissions to the Mississippi Supreme Court. In that "All proceedings before the Supreme Court and any final decisions made by the Supreme Court shall be made public....," Judge Persons moved to lift confidentiality only to the extent required in order

to recommend the immediate interim suspension, specifically maintaining confidentiality with regard to the remaining proceedings; Judge Graham seconded it and the motion carried unanimously.

Complaint 2026-100 being the only matter considered, Judge Persons moved to adjourn, Judge Lumpkin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman, Patricia Bennett

 20 MARCH 2026
Executive Director, Rachel Wilson



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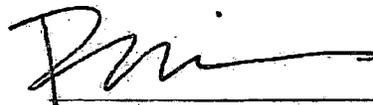
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