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Senate Chamber
State of Tennessee

NASHVILLE

June 18, 2014

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FINANCE, WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
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INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Honorable Chris Craft
Administration Office of the Court
Board of Judicial Conduct
511 Union Street, Suite 600
P. O. Box 50356
Nashville, TN 37205

Timothy Discenza, Disciplinary Counsel
Board of Judicial Conduct
Administrative Office of the Courts
511 Union Street, Suite 600
P. O. Box 50356
Nashville, TN 37205

Dear Judge Craft and Mr. Discenza:

I am deeply troubled by the articles that recently appeared in the Tennessean and the Nashville Scene relating to Judge Casey Moreland and Judge Thomas Nelson in the recent case involving domestic abuse alleged to have been perpetrated by David Chase. The judges handling of those cases as reported by these newspapers could lead one to believe that there is too close a relationship between the judge and the defense attorney; therefore, I am requesting that the Board of Judicial Conduct investigate this matter.

It is critical that the public has confidence in Tennessee's court system. I am sure that you are aware of numerous cases involving pay to play across the United States. These cases range from the mid-1980s in Chicago that resulted in the conviction of 13 judges and 51 attorneys, to one of the latest in New Mexico involving Judge Michael Murphy. These cases, along with the conviction of Judge Baumgartner, continue to remind us of the importance of judicial accountability in our own court system. It is imperative that our Board of Judicial Conduct functions appropriately to ensure that Tennessee's judges are meeting the highest ethical standards and that judges who violate the people's trust are disciplined.

Judge Craft and Mr. Discenza

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I appreciate your consideration in this matter and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy McNally". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Randy McNally
State Senator

cc: The Honorable David Rivera, U.S. Attorney
Sen. Brian Kelsey, Chairman Judiciary Committee
Mark Gwyn, Director Tennessee Bureau Investigation
Bill Young, Administrative Director of the Courts
The Honorable Gary Wade, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court