

In the
Supreme Court of Indiana

IN THE MATTER OF)	
)	
THE HONORABLE)	
)	
SABRINA R. BELL)	Cause No. 22S-JD-148
)	
JUDGE OF THE)	
)	
CRAWFORD CIRCUIT COURT)	

NOTICE OF CRIMINAL CHARGES AND REQUEST FOR SUSPENSION

The Indiana Commission on Judicial Qualifications, by its Counsel, Adrienne L. Meiring, hereby notifies the Court that an information has been filed against Respondent, the Honorable Sabrina Renee Bell (“Respondent”), for a crime punishable as a felony under the laws of the State of Indiana. Pursuant to Admission and Discipline 25 V, the Commission therefore requests the suspension with pay of Respondent. In support of this Notice and Request, the Commission would show the Court as follows:

1. Respondent has served as Judge of Crawford Circuit Court since January 1, 2017, since winning the general election in November 2016. Respondent was admitted to practice law in the State of Indiana on May 26, 2011.
2. On May 12, 2022, the Special Prosecutor filed an Information against Respondent for one count of Domestic Battery in the Presence of a Child, a Level 6 felony under cause number 13C01-2205-F6-000039 in Crawford County. A true and accurate copy of the filed Information was received and is attached as Commission’s Exhibit A.

3. Counsel for the Commission verified that the Information attached as Commission's Exhibit A was filed today.
4. Admission and Discipline Rule 25 V (A) provides that:

A judicial officer shall be suspended with pay by the Supreme Court...upon the filing of an indictment or information charging the judicial officer in any court in the United States with a crime punishable as a felony under the laws of Indiana or the United States.
5. The Information filed in Crawford Circuit Court charges Respondent with a crime of Domestic Battery in the Presence of a Child which is punishable as a Level 6 Felony under Indiana Code 35-42-2-1.3(a) and (b)(2).
6. An initial hearing on the charged count was held before Special Judge Nathan Verkamp on May 12, 2022.

WHEREFORE, the Indiana Commission on Judicial Qualifications requests that the Court enter an order pursuant to Admission and Discipline Rule 25 V suspending the Honorable Sabrina Renee Bell with pay from her position as Judge of Crawford Circuit Court pending further order of this Court or final determination of any disciplinary proceeding that may hereafter result from the criminal charges.

Respectfully submitted,

Adrienne L. Meiring

5/12/2022

DATE

Adrienne L. Meiring
Counsel to the Commission
Atty. No. 1

8414-45

5/12/2022

DATE

/s/ *Larry D. Newman*

Larry D. Newman
Staff Attorney to the Commission
Atty. No. 21760-49

5/12/2022

/s/ Jill E. Esenwein

DATE

Jill E. Esenwein
Staff Attorney for the Commission
Atty. No. 34291-20

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Comes now Adrienne L. Meiring and certifies that she served a copy of this “Notice of Criminal Charges and Request for Suspension” by email and by deposit in the United States Mail, first-class postage prepaid addressed to:

Sabrina R. Bell
Crawford Circuit Court
715 Judicial Plaza, PO Box 216
English, IN 47118-0216

This 12th day of May, 2022.

/s/ Adrienne L. Meiring

Adrienne L. Meiring, Counsel

Indiana Supreme Court
Commission on Judicial Qualifications
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