

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY

SPECIAL ORDER NO. 2016-42

SUBJECT: Assignment of Judge

On August 17, 2016, Chief Judge Timothy C. Evans convened the Executive Committee of the Circuit Court of Cook County. The following findings were made regarding Judge Valarie E. Turner:

1. Allegations of misconduct by Judge Valarie E. Turner have been brought to the attention of the Executive Committee. It is alleged that Judge Valarie E. Turner permitted attorney Rhonda Crawford to adjudicate cases assigned to Judge Turner. It is further alleged that Ms. Crawford's adjudication of cases took place on the judge's bench in a courtroom and while wearing a judicial robe provided by Judge Turner. The Committee conducted a preliminary review of these allegations, which included the review of supporting documents, and concluded that a possible threat of injury to the public's confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary and to the orderly administration of justice may have occurred.

2. Section (c) of Illinois Supreme Court Rule 21, provides, *inter alia*, "The chief judge of each circuit may enter general orders in the exercise of his or her general administrative authority, including orders providing for assignment of judges;"

3. The Committee is aware that its review is only preliminary and that further investigation and ultimate determinations are pending. The Committee further recognizes that each judge has authority and responsibility to preside over his or her courtroom and to administer justice independently and in accordance with the law. Nonetheless, the Committee believes that, based on the allegations against Judge Valarie E. Turner, its preliminary review of these allegations, the pending investigations and determinations in this matter, and the best interests of judicial administration,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that, pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 56 (eff. Dec. 1, 2008) and the rules and policies for judges of the Circuit Court of Cook County, effective immediately, Judge Valarie E. Turner is hereby removed from her current assignment and assigned to restricted duties or duties other than judicial duties in the First Municipal District, as determined by the Honorable E. Kenneth Wright, Jr., Presiding Judge of the First Municipal District;

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that Judge Valarie E. Turner shall be immediately assigned to the Illinois Supreme Court Peer Mentoring Program in accordance with Illinois Supreme Court Administrative Order M.R. 23632 (eff. January 19, 2010).

Dated this 17th day of August, 2016.