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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AUGUST 6, 2014

The following statement is hereby submitted by the Honorable Michael A. Maggio in response to the Agreed to Sanction with the JDDC:

It is with mixed emotions that I was faced with the decision of today. I am no quitter but I have always done my utmost best to attain and promote the highest ideals of the justice system. I accepted responsibility and apologized for the statements under an assumed pseudonym in a private sports blog that were attributed to me. Those people that know me, have interacted with me or have observed me in private or public know those statements do not, have not, nor ever will represent my beliefs, core principles, philosophy or my heart. I am proud of my service to my constituents, litigants, lawyers and all with whom I interacted. It was my hope and desire that I would finish serving them in my elected capacity. I, along with my staff, treated all with courtesy, respect and dignity. In none of the over 45,000 cases was there a single instance of any bias or prejudice in my actions, decisions, or words.

There have now been two investigative agencies, the Arkansas Ethics Commission and the Judicial Discipline and Disability Commission, that have reviewed the campaign donation allegations and both have dismissed those allegations.

I want to thank the people of the 20th Judicial District for the honor of their friendship and serving them as their Judge and electing me multiple times. I ask that you do not define me by the sanction levied today, but instead look at my record of presiding over one of the busiest dockets in the State and working tirelessly for all litigants to have efficient and timely access to the Court as well as for all of them to receive the fairness they each deserved. I stand by my service to these litigants, staff, and counsel who appeared in front of me over their years. While they all may not agree with my rulings, they all left knowing that they had been treated fairly and with respect.

I want to thank all of my friends and colleagues for the overwhelming outpouring of support, prayers and kind words. I look forward to continuing to serve in the future.