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\*\*\*Via e-mail [CRRD@courts.mo.gov](mailto:CRRD@courts.mo.gov), 1st Class U.S. Mail

**June 5, 2025**

**Commission on Retirement, Removal and Discipline**

PO Box 1529  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

**RE: Request for Investigation into Judicial Misconduct by Judge Joe Don McGaugh**

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally request that the Commission initiate a full investigation into the conduct of Judge Joe Don McGaugh regarding his handling and disposition of cases in the months leading up to his suspension from the bench.

Specifically, I request a comprehensive review of all cases heard and disposed of by Judge McGaugh during the three-month period immediately preceding the commencement of his suspension. There is credible concern that serious misconduct may have occurred during this timeframe, including biased rulings, the intentional denial of due process, and the preferential treatment of individuals with personal or political ties to the judge.

In my own case, Judge McGaugh dismissed the matter *with prejudice* without ruling on key motions and without allowing proper judicial process to unfold. The circumstances strongly suggest the case was rushed to disposition in advance of his suspension, raising serious questions about motive and judicial integrity. During the hearing and in my motion, I cited clear, binding Missouri Supreme Court precedent that supported my position. The defendant made no denial of my allegations. Rather than engage with the law, Judge McGaugh responded with a smug, knowing grin—an expression that made it unmistakably clear that while I may have prevailed on legal merit, I would lose because of cronyism and bias.

The defendant in my case is a local fire chief with known personal ties to Judge McGaugh. This potential conflict was never disclosed, and the outcome reflected a troubling pattern of favoritism.

The fire chief failed to perform a ministerial duty—namely, ordering a hazardous fire to be extinguished—on two separate occasions. This failure resulted in injury and likely contributed to my mother's death. However, my case was not a damages claim. It was a petition for **injunctive relief** filed in an attempt to prevent further injury. My mother was experiencing repeated asthma attacks due to smoke exposure, and she was on her deathbed in the hospital at the time Judge McGaugh dismissed my case. In his ruling, Judge McGaugh inaccurately described my petition as one for damages, when it was clearly for injunctive relief. I believe this mischaracterization was an intentional effort to shield his friend from future liability by dismissing the case with prejudice under a false pretense.

Additionally, I am personally aware of another individual whose criminal case—stemming from a prior theft charge—was inexplicably removed from Case.net. This individual had openly boasted about his friendship with Judge McGaugh, a relationship that was publicly visible on social media until recently. In conjunction with the

disappearance of his case from public records, the individual's Facebook connection with Judge McGaugh also disappeared. This appears to be a deliberate attempt to conceal a personal relationship that may have improperly influenced a judicial decision.

I'm a proud supporter of the Constitution and the rule of law — and I **demand** accountability, transparency, and the draining of the swamp wherever it exists. If the judiciary is to be respected, it must operate above personal relationships, favoritism, and political gamesmanship.

My request is about transparency, reform, and giving the people of Carroll County a voice. Judge McGaugh's conduct, in my view, runs contrary to the values many of us hold dear — regardless of party affiliation.

**We the people have both a right and a responsibility** to hold public officials accountable — especially those entrusted with interpreting and enforcing the law.

Given Judge McGaugh's past disciplinary record and the circumstances surrounding his suspension, the public deserves full transparency and accountability. Litigants like myself should have been **fully informed** of the nature of the allegations and pending disciplinary actions against him before stepping into his courtroom. That information is vital to ensuring informed decisions about seeking a change of judge or venue — rights which were effectively denied to anyone who unknowingly appeared before Judge McGaugh during the investigation. This would not have been extraordinary or burdensome to disclose. By failing to provide this information, the court system may have materially harmed litigants who proceeded under the false presumption of impartiality.

My case was filed in **November 2024** — well into the investigation, but before the suspension was publicly imposed. That left me in an extremely vulnerable and unfair position, as detailed above. Frankly, given the nature of the misconduct, Judge McGaugh should have been **immediately suspended** pending the conclusion of the investigation.

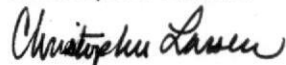
It is my firm belief that a deeper review of Judge McGaugh's recent rulings will reveal a disturbing pattern of misconduct and abuse of judicial discretion. I respectfully ask the Commission to investigate whether cases were improperly rushed, influenced by personal connections, or handled in ways inconsistent with Missouri's judicial code of conduct. In fact, I would be willing to bet that if one were to cross-reference the list of litigants he ruled in favor of with his personal associations — including his Facebook friend list or the **Carrollton High School yearbooks** from the years Judge McGaugh attended — a pattern would become evident.

I am prepared to submit supporting documentation and provide testimony as needed to assist with your inquiry.

Thank you for your time and attention to this urgent matter of public concern.

Sincerely,

Christopher Larsen



CC: 8th Circuit Presiding Judge, Hon. Kevin Walden - 8 South Main Street - Carrollton, MO 64633

Missouri Attorney General, Andrew Bailey, Supreme Court Building - 207 West High Street, PO Box 899 - Jefferson City, MO 65102