



**BEFORE THE STATE COMMISSION
ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

CJC Nos. 24-0092, 24-0789 & 24-0890

**PUBLIC ADMONITION
AND
ORDER OF ADDITIONAL EDUCATION**

**HONORABLE STEVE DUBLE
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PCT. 1, PL. 2
HOUSTON, HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS**

During its meeting on April 8-9, 2026, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct concluded a review of the allegations in these matters against the Honorable Steve Duble, the Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1, Pl. 2 in Houston, Harris County, Texas. Judge Duble was advised by letter of the Commission's concerns and provided a written response.

After considering the evidence before it, the Commission enters the following Findings and Conclusion:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. At all relevant times, the Honorable Steve Duble served Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1, Pl. 2 in Houston, Harris County, Texas.
2. Kasey Bozhuk, a Court Appointed Receiver, was appointed in the matters, *Scil Texas, LLC b/d/a Speedy Cash vs. Juan Francisco Cruz III*, Cause Number 191200430613, (the "Cruz Case") and *Scil Texas, LLC b/d/a Speedy Cash vs. Endia Smith*, Cause Number 191200131596, (the "Smith Case").
3. Bozhuk began working on the Cruz and Smith Cases when Judge Duble's predecessor was serving as Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1, Pl. 2 in Houston, Harris County, Texas. His predecessor had previously extended Bozhuk's receiverships in the Cruz and Smith Cases until the debts were satisfied, as the debtors had signed payment agreements.

4. On May 15, 2024, Judge Duple signed an *Order Terminating Receivership* in the Cruz Case without providing notice to any of the parties or conducting a hearing.
5. On May 22, 2024, Judge Duple signed an *Order Terminating Receivership* in the Smith Case without providing notice to any of the parties or conducting a hearing.
6. Also, Judge Duple failed to timely conduct Personal Property exemption hearings within the ten days required by the Texas Rule of Civil Procedure.
7. In his written responses, Judge Duple admitted that no notice was provided and no hearing was held regarding the *Orders Terminating Receiverships* in the Cruz and Smith Cases. Judge Duple stated that he now recognizes that before termination of a receivership he should provide notice to the creditor, debtor, and receiver and a hearing should be held so that all may have the opportunity to be heard.
8. Judge Duple admitted he “dropped the ball” on seven cases wherein he failed to timely hear the protected property exemption claim during his first six months in office and on three cases during his predecessor’s term that he failed to set in a timely manner. Upon learning of the error, Judge Duple stated he promptly set these cases and conducted timely hearings in every such matter since late 2023.
9. However, Judge Duple denied failing to comply with the law and maintaining professional competence in the law by stating, “the failure to conduct hearings had nothing to do with ignoring or not understanding the law. It was an oversight during my initial chaotic months in office.”

RELEVANT STANDARDS AND AUTHORITIES

1. Canon 2A of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct provides, in relevant part, “A judge shall comply with the law...”
2. Canon 3B(2) of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct provides, in relevant part, “A judge...shall maintain professional competence in [the law].”
3. Canon 3B(8) of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct provides, in relevant part, “A judge shall accord to every person who has a legal interest in a proceeding, or that person's lawyer, the right to be heard according to law.”
4. Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 501.4(b) provides, “If a document is served by mail, 3 days will be added to the length of time a party has to respond to the document. Notice of any court proceeding requested by a party must be served on all other parties not less than 3 days before the time specified for the court proceeding.”
5. Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 664a provides, in relevant part, “If the movant seeks to dissolve or modify the writ or order based on personal property exemptions and provides the same information as in the Personal Property Claim Form approved by the Supreme Court, the court must follow the procedures provided by Rule 679b. A motion to dissolve or modify based on other grounds must be heard promptly, after reasonable notice to the plaintiff (which may be less than three days), and must be determined within ten days after the motion is filed, unless extended for good cause shown.”
6. Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 679b(c)(4) provides, “The court must determine the judgment debtor’s exemption claim within 10 days after the judgment debtor files the

exemption claim. The court may extend the time for determining the exemption claim on good cause shown.”

CONCLUSION

Based upon the record before it and the factual findings recited above, the Texas State Commission on Judicial Conduct has determined that the Honorable Steve Duble, Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1, Pl. 2 in Houston, Harris County, Texas, should be publicly admonished and ordered to obtain additional education for: (1) failing to comply with the law and maintain professional competence in the law when he: (a) failed to timely hear protected property exemption claims in approximately ten cases and (b) failed to provide notice or hold a hearing before terminating receiverships in the Cruz and Smith Cases; and (2) failing to allow the parties to be heard regarding terminating receiverships in the Cruz and Smith Cases, in violation of Canons 2A, 3B(2) and 3B(8) of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct.

Pursuant to this Order, Judge Duble must obtain **two (2) hours** of instruction with a mentor, in addition to his required annual judicial education for Fiscal Year 2026. In particular, the Commission desires that Judge Duble receive: **two (2) hours** of this additional education in the areas of timely execution of the business of the court and Protected Property Claims. Pursuant to the authority contained in Section 33.036 of the Texas Government Code, the Commission authorizes the disclosure of certain information relating to this matter to the Texas Justice Court Training Center to the extent necessary to enable that entity to assign the appropriate mentor for Judge Duble.

Judge Duble shall complete the additional **two (2) hours** of instruction recited above within **60 days** from the date of written notification of the assignment of a mentor. Upon receiving such notice, it is Judge Duble’ responsibility to contact the assigned mentor and schedule the additional education.

The Commission has taken this action pursuant to the authority conferred it in Article V, Section 1-a(8) of the Texas Constitution in a continuing effort to promote confidence in and high standards for the judiciary.

Issued this the 23rd day of April, 2026.

Ken Wise

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Vice-Chairman, State Commission on Judicial Conduct