

ATTEST A TRUE COPY

Kathleen J. Gibson
Clerk of the Supreme Court
of the State of New Mexico

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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

May 16, 2011

NO. 32,557

INQUIRY CONCERNING A JUDGE
NOS. 2009-124/2010-009/2010-019/2010-064

IN THE MATTER OF SAM B. SANCHEZ,
Eighth Judicial District Court Judge,
Taos County, New Mexico

RECEIVED

MAY 17 2011

**NM JUDICIAL
STANDARDS COMMISSION**

ORDER

WHEREAS, this matter came on for consideration by the Court upon petition for discipline after a full evidentiary hearing and entry of findings and conclusions of the Judicial Standards Commission, this Court having considered the record of the Commission proceedings, the pleadings and oral arguments of the parties, and being sufficiently advised, Chief Justice Charles W. Daniels, Justice Petra Jimenez Maes, Justice Richard C. Bosson, Justice Edward L. Chávez, and Judge A. Joseph Alarid (sitting by designation) concurring, and Justice Patricio M. Serna recusing;

THIS COURT FINDS that clear and convincing evidence was introduced to establish that Respondent intentionally and without any justification in law or fact convicted and jailed without any determination of individual guilt or any semblance of providing due process of law a total of 32 courtroom spectators,

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an unknown fraction of whom had created a brief courtroom disturbance; that he thereby intentionally convicted and jailed indefinitely an unknown number of innocent people; and that he knowingly violated the due process rights of all of the jailed spectators;

THIS COURT CONCLUDES that by intentionally jailing innocent people and by entering criminal convictions and depriving persons of their liberty without any effort to conform to even the most fundamental requirements of due process of law, Respondent abused his judicial powers and committed serious willful misconduct in office;

THIS COURT FURTHER CONCLUDES that, in light of Respondent's filed statement with this Court that as of April 29, he has resigned and permanently retired from judicial service, this Court need not reach the question whether it is necessary to enter an order of removal pursuant to Article 6, Section 32 of the constitution of New Mexico;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that Respondent's permanent resignation is accepted and that he shall never again be permitted to hold, become a candidate for, or be permitted to accept appointment to any judicial office in the future, nor be permitted to seek, accept appointment to, or serve pro tempore for any judicial office;

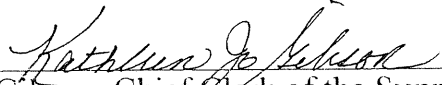
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IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent is ordered to pay, within ninety days of this date, assessed costs in the sum of \$1,115.16.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

WITNESS, Honorable Charles W. Daniels, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New Mexico, and the seal of said Court this 16th day of May, 2011.

(S E A L)


Kathleen Jo Gibson, Chief Clerk of the Supreme Court of the State of New Mexico