

June 1, 2009

United States House of Representatives
Committee on the Judiciary
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Statement of Judge Samuel B. Kent, provided to The Task Force to Consider the Possible Impeachment of Judge Samuel B. Kent

Dear Honorable Congressional Task Force Members:

My health does not presently allow me to travel to Washington to address you in person. I respectfully request that you, at your discretion, accept this letter as my written statement and afford it any consideration your rules may allow.

As you know, I recently pled guilty to a single felony count of Obstruction as defined in 18 U.S.C. §1512. Furthermore, as part of my plea agreement with the Government, I admitted in open court that I had on several occasions nonconsensual sexual contact with my former case manager, Cathy McBroom, and my former secretary, Donna Wilkerson. I hereby reaffirm my plea of guilty to the Obstruction count, and also my admissions with respect to my conduct toward Cathy McBroom and Donna Wilkerson.

For several years, influenced by misguided emotions that probably stemmed from innate personality flaws exacerbated by alcohol abuse and a series of life tragedies (most notably the emotional horror I endured for years in connection with my first wife, Mary Ann's slow, excruciating death from brain cancer), I began relating to Mrs. McBroom and Mrs. Wilkerson in inappropriate ways. Perhaps I was attempting to meet an unfulfilled need for affection. In doing so, I allowed myself to maintain unrealistic views of how they perceived me and my actions. I sincerely regret that my actions caused them and their families so much emotional distress.

I am not proud of the way I have conducted myself in relation to Mrs. McBroom, Mrs. Wilkerson, and the Fifth Circuit Special Investigative Committee. Nevertheless, I remain proud of other aspects of my 18-year record of service on the federal bench. From 1990 through 2008, I closed almost 13,000 cases. I always took an active role in seeking to fairly level the playing field for many, many families who sought justice against large corporations and business interests.

I believe that if I had sought and received proper therapy following the death of my first wife, Mary Ann, and proper treatment for my alcohol abuse, none of these problems would have ever occurred. I hope that in the future, the federal judiciary may take steps to proactively promote and safeguard the emotional and mental health of its members. This is particularly important since federal judges naturally become alienated from many friends and colleagues upon undertaking service to the judiciary. Some of us faced with this isolation and altered identity bear the weight of our obligations and responsibilities in self-destructive ways. I am sure I am not the only federal judge who has faced severe emotional and mental problems as well as substance abuse.

In conclusion, I stand before you humbly and shamefully knowing that you must now consider me for impeachment. I ask that you take into account not only my acute failings, but also, my years of dedication to the service of my Country. Unlike other federal employees, I have no vested pension or retirement if I am removed from office. As a practical matter, given the state of my personal affairs, removal from office will render me penniless and without the health insurance I desperately need to continue treating my diabetes and related complications, as well as my continuing mental health problems. Please take these realities into consideration to the extent you may.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Samuel B. Kent', written in a cursive style.

Samuel B. Kent