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8 *Attorney for ERIKA BALLOU, District Court Judge*

9 **BEFORE THE NEVADA COMMISSION ON**  
10 **JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE**

11 **STATE OF NEVADA**

12 IN THE MATTER OF THE HONORABLE,  
13 ERIKA BALLOU, District Court Judge,  
14 Eighth Judicial District Court, Clark County,  
15 State of Nevada,

16 Respondent.

Case No.: 2024-103-P  
2024-105-P

**RESPONDENT'S VERIFIED ANSWER**

17 COMES NOW, the Respondent, the Honorable Erika Ballou, by and through her  
18 attorney, Thomas F. Pitaro, Esq. of the firm Pitaro and Fumo, Chtd., and pursuant to Nevada  
19 Commission on Judicial Discipline Rule 17 submits her Verified Answer to the Complaint,  
20 including denials, affirmative defenses and mitigating factors, as follows:

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1 **Factual Allegations**

2 Answering the factual allegations contained in Paragraph A:

3 The record in these matters are accurate and speak for themselves. Any adverse conclusions  
4 draw from the specific record are denied.

5 Answering the factual allegations contained in Paragraph B:

6 The record in these matters are accurate and speak for themselves. Any adverse conclusions  
7 draw from the specific record are denied.

8 Answering the factual allegations contained in Paragraph C:

9 The record in these matters are accurate and speak for themselves. Any adverse conclusions  
10 draw from the specific record are denied.

11 Answering the factual allegations contained in Paragraph D:

12 The record in these matters are accurate and speak for themselves. Any adverse conclusions  
13 draw from the specific record are denied.

14 Answering the factual allegations contained in Paragraph E:

15 The record in these matters are accurate and speak for themselves. Any adverse conclusions  
16 draw from the specific record are denied.

17 Answering the factual allegations contained in in Paragraph F:

18 The record in these matters are accurate and speak for themselves. Any adverse conclusions  
19 draw from the specific record are denied.

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21 **Denials**

22 Count One:

23 Respondent denies that the actions contained in Allegation A violate Rules 1.1, 1.22, 2.2 and 2.5.  
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25 Count Two:

26 Respondent denies that the actions contained in Allegation B violate Rules 1.1, 1.22, 2.2 and 2.5.  
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1 Count Three:

2 Respondent denies that the actions contained in Allegation C violate Rules 1.1, 1.22, 2.2 and 2.5

4 Count Four:

5 Respondent denies that the actions contained in Allegation D violate Rules 1.1, 1.22, 2.2 and 2.5

7 Count Five:

8 Respondent denies that the actions contained in Allegation F violate Rules 1.1, 1.22, 2.2 2.3A,  
9 2.3B, 2.5 , 2.16(A) and 2.11.

11 Count Six:

12 Respondent denies that the actions contained in Allegation G violate Rules 12, and 2.16(A)

14 **Affirmative Defenses and Mitigating Factors**

15 Respondent's Action as alleged this complaint were in conformity with:

16 **Rule 2.7. Responsibility to Decide.** A judge shall hear and decide matters assigned to the  
17 judge, except when disqualification is required by Rule 2.11 or other law and

18 **Rule 2.6. Ensuring the Right to Be Heard.**

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20 (A) A judge shall accord to every person who has a legal interest in a proceeding, or that  
21 person's lawyer, the right to be heard according to law.

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23 (B) Respondent's rulings were based upon motions and/or requests filed by the Defendant's  
24 attorney

25 (C) Respondent did not refuse to cooperate with the investigator from the Judicial Discipline  
26 Commission.

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The motion to disqualify that was dismissed by Respondents has been filed under the wrong case number.

**DATED** this 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

**PITARO & FUMO, CHTD.**

By: /S/ Thomas F. Pitaro, Esq.  
THOMAS F. PITARO, ESQ.  
Nevada State Bar No. 1332

**VERIFICATION**

I, ERIKA BALLOU, being fully sworn, deposes and says:


I am the Respondent in the above entitled action;

I have read the foregoing RESPONDENT'S VERIFIED ANSWER and know the contents thereof;

The same is true of my own knowledge, except for those matters contained therein which are stated upon information and belief, and as to those matters, I believe them to be true.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated this 14<sup>th</sup> day of May 2025.

  
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ERIKA BALLOU  
DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

