

United States Court of Appeals
for the Federal Circuit



THE NATIONAL COURTS BUILDING
717 MADISON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20439

CHAMBERS OF
CHIEF JUDGE RANDALL R. RADER

(202) 275-8500

May 23, 2014

The Honorable Pauline Newman
The Honorable Haldane Robert Mayer
The Honorable S. Jay Plager
The Honorable Alan D. Lourie
The Honorable Raymond C. Clevenger, III
The Honorable Alvin A. Schall
The Honorable William C. Bryson
The Honorable Richard Linn
The Honorable Timothy B. Dyk
The Honorable Sharon Prost
The Honorable Kimberly A. Moore
The Honorable Kathleen M. O'Malley
The Honorable Jimmie V. Reyna
The Honorable Evan J. Wallach
The Honorable Richard G. Taranto
The Honorable Raymond T. Chen
The Honorable Todd M. Hughes

Dear Colleagues,

During the past few weeks I have recused myself from certain cases on which I previously sat. I feel it necessary to create a public record concerning the circumstances that led to those recusals. More importantly, I wish to apologize for creating the need for the recusals. I will immediately release this letter publicly in order to convey my apologies and protect the court's integrity.

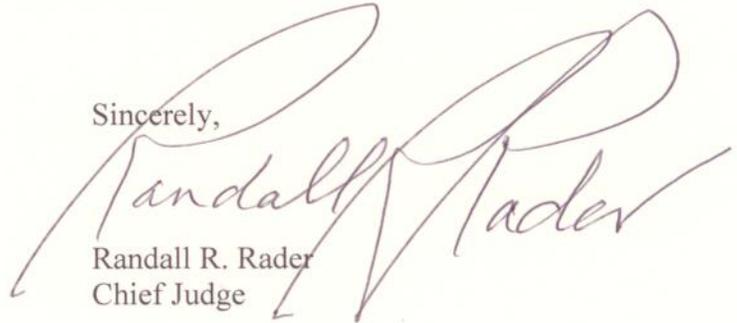
I have come to realize that I have engaged in conduct that crossed lines established for the purpose of maintaining a judicial process whose integrity must remain beyond question. It is important to emphasize that I did not and would never compromise my impartiality in judging any case before me. But avoiding even the appearance of partiality is a vital interest of our courts, and I compromised that interest by transgressing limits on judges' interactions with attorneys who appear before the court. I was inexcusably careless, and I sincerely apologize.

I particularly regret an email message I sent to an attorney who had argued before the court. The email reported, with certain inaccuracies, a conversation I had with another member of the court who had praised the attorney's performance. I added my own praise and urged the attorney to show the email to others. While I never expected that email to emerge as it did, I

realize in retrospect that the email constituted a breach of the ethical obligation not to lend the prestige of the judicial office to advance the private interests of others. I apologize for that error, which may have led to the perception that the attorney in question was in a position to influence me in my performance of judicial duties.

Working with the court, I have taken steps to remedy the breaches for which I was responsible by recusing in cases as to which a question might be raised as to my impartiality. I am committed to adhering carefully to the requirements of the Code of Conduct for United States judges in making any necessary recusal decisions. I am truly sorry for the lapse and will work diligently to ensure that it does not recur. Again, the judiciary's most treasured attribute is its integrity. I will work diligently with my colleagues to ensure and protect our court's standing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Randall Rader". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Randall R. Rader
Chief Judge