

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VALPARAISO - Judge Buckley, in his official capacity as a Judge of Porter Superior Court 4 as well as a candidate for Porter Superior Court 4 makes the following official statement:

On the evening of August 15, 2026 I made a series of poor decisions that ultimately led to an arrest by the Michigan City Police Department for Operating While Intoxicated. I was treated as any other suspect would be and I fully cooperated with all law enforcement efforts and was compliant in every way. I would like to thank the officers who investigated this case in their professional and courteous attitude that would be given any member of the general public accused of an offense.

I have taken full responsibility for all allegations and this morning in open court entered a plea agreement with the State of Indiana taking full legal responsibility for my actions and have received an appropriate sentence. I was treated fairly and with the same dignity and respect due any citizen in a court of law and was not given any special treatment whatsoever. I certainly appreciate this and I would not have accepted any special treatment had it been offered. I was/am a full-time judicial officer, and I feel strongly that officers of the court should be held to a higher standard of conduct than an ordinary citizen—much higher than the standard of conduct I displayed this past Saturday night.

In addition to taking full legal responsibility, I am taking all moral and professional responsibility as well. I self-reported this conduct to the Indiana Judicial Qualifications Commission as early as I possibly could this morning, availing myself to professional sanctions as the Commission deems appropriate.

I can place no blame on anyone but myself for this weekend's actions. I am however grateful for the opportunity that this created to get help. I have struggled with alcohol since my service in the Marine Corps more than twenty years ago, and I will take the advice I've given countless others in their recovery in the course of my work. I have availed myself to all treatment options before/despite not being required to and will comply with all rules and regulations.

I realize that my family is terribly disappointed and hurt, as are my dear friends and ardent, faithful supporters. I feel truly awful that their pain and embarrassment is because of my actions. Because of this, I have decided to temporarily suspend my campaign for judicial office until further notice.