

(No. 74 CC 6.—Respondent suspended.)

In re ASSOCIATE JUDGE KEITH SANDERSON of
the Ninth Judicial Circuit, Respondent.

Order entered October 15, 1974.

SYLLABUS

On August 14, 1974, the Judicial Inquiry Board filed a complaint with the Courts Commission, charging the respondent with willful misconduct in office, conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice, and conduct that brings the judicial office into disrepute. The complaint alleged that during a five-month period in 1974, the respondent "knowingly, willfully, and intentionally caused" the costs of prosecution to be assessed and collected from defendants in traffic violation cases after the complaints had been either dismissed or had resulted in not guilty findings, and that the respondent knew that said assessments and collections were contrary to Illinois law.

Held: Respondent suspended for one month without pay.

William J. Scott, Attorney General, of Springfield,
for Judicial Inquiry Board.

Martin D. Coghlan, of Chicago, for respondent.

Before the COURTS COMMISSION: SCHAEFER,
J., chairman, and EBERSPACHER, STAMOS, DUNNE
and FORBES, JJ., commissioners. ALL CONCUR.

ORDER

The Complaint filed by the Judicial Inquiry Board in
this case is as follows:

"1. During the period from January 1, 1973, to May 31, 1974, the Respondent, while a Judge of the Ninth Judicial Circuit of Illinois and while acting in the capacity of a judicial officer, knowingly, willfully, and intentionally caused the costs of the prosecution to be assessed upon and collected from the defendants in the following cases after the complaints against said defendants had been either dismissed or had resulted in a finding of not guilty:

<u>CASE NUMBER</u>	<u>DEFENDANT</u>	<u>COURT COSTS ASSESSED ON OR ABOUT</u>
<u>HANCOCK COUNTY</u>		
72-TR-3066	Bret C. Longnecker	12/4/73
73-TR- 378	Randall Welch	5/7/73
73-TR- 379	Kirby Todd	5/7/73
73-TR- 381	Jan J. Carpenter	4/9/73
73-TR- 461	Randy M. Cameron	4/23/73
73-TR- 843	Robert L. Kerr	8/20/73
73-TR-1068	Donald E. Sullivan	10/10/73
73-TR-1072	Leonard V. Starr	10/10/73
73-TR-1078	William L. Brereton	9/17/73
73-TR-1102	Christine L. Neff	9/17/73
73-TR-1180	Herbert A. Betts, Jr.	12/12/73
73-TR-1253	Steven R. Schlatter	11/7/73
73-TR-1307	Francis H. Hentges	11/19/73
74-TR- 102	Charlotte S. White	2/4/74
74-CM-103	Deanna Taylor	5/27/74
<u>WARREN COUNTY</u>		
73-TR- 180	Henry R. Bresnahan	2/16/73
73-TR- 634	Betty J. Kick	4/10/73
73-TR- 635	Kay E. Martin	4/10/73
74-TR- 680	Charles R. Hutson, II	5/27/74

2. The Respondent caused the costs of prosecution to be assessed and collected in the above cases knowing that such assessment was contrary to Illinois law."

The charge concerning Hancock County Case No. 72-TR-3066 involving defendant Bret C. Longnecker was withdrawn by the Judicial Inquiry Board. The Commission finds from the evidence that the other charges have been proved by clear and convincing evidence, and that the conduct of the respondent was prejudicial to the administration of justice.

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Commission under section 15(e) of article VI of the Constitution, it is

ordered that the respondent, Keith Sanderson, be suspended for a period of one month commencing November 1, 1974.

Respondent suspended for one month without pay.
