

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON IMPEACHMENT  
RELATING TO RONNIE LEE GOLDY, JR.  
FINAL REPORT**

On January 4, 2023, the Committee on Committees of the House of Representatives of the General Assembly appointed a committee of seven members to investigate the matter of Ronnie Lee Goldy, Jr., Commonwealth's Attorney for the 21<sup>st</sup> Judicial Circuit consisting of Rowan, Bath, Menifee, and Montgomery counties, and upon completion of its investigation, report its findings and recommendations to the House of Representatives. The members included the Gentleman from Boyle 54, the Lady from Fayette 75, the Lady from Shelby 58, the Lady from Mercer 55, the Lady from Jefferson 40, the Lady from Daviess 7, and the Gentleman from Jefferson 33.

At its initial meeting the committee adopted Rules of Procedure to govern its proceedings. The committee met in both open and executive sessions with the open sessions being broadcast live and recorded. The agendas and minutes of those meetings have been posted on the Legislative Research Commission's website for public access.

On January 9, 2023, the committee requested the Chair to send a letter to Ronnie Lee Goldy, Jr. inquiring as to whether he wished to address the matter before the committee. This letter was sent on January 9, 2023, and included a request for a response by 4:30 p.m. on January 16, 2023. When the committee met on January 17, 2023 no response had been received, but the respondent contacted the Chair following the meeting and requested additional time to respond.

The committee reviewed numerous documents including one hundred ninety-nine (199) pages of Facebook Messenger messages between the respondent and a defendant in the 21<sup>st</sup> Judicial Circuit; the report of a Special Commissioner appointed by the Supreme Court of

Kentucky; and orders of the Supreme Court including an Order of Temporary Suspension from the practice of law in the Commonwealth. In that Order, the Supreme Court noted the authority of the General Assembly to remove a commonwealth's attorney by impeachment as provided under Section 68 of the Constitution of Kentucky.

The committee also reviewed the minutes of the August 25, 2022 meeting of the Commonwealth's Attorneys Association meeting where a motion was made to expel the respondent from membership. The motion passed by unanimous vote conducted by secret ballot.

The committee reviewed several hours of testimony from an evidentiary hearing conducted by the Special Commissioner under order of the Supreme Court of Kentucky to create a record from which the Supreme Court could determine whether probable cause existed to believe that the respondent's alleged professional misconduct posed a substantial threat of harm to his clients or the public. The hearing was recorded. The respondent was represented by counsel in that hearing, offered testimony on his own behalf, and was given the opportunity to present witnesses.

These records confirm the Findings of Fact of the Special Commissioner, adopted by the Supreme Court of Kentucky in ordering suspension of the respondent from the practice of law for an indefinite period of time. It is also found that Ronnie Lee Goldy, Jr. engaged in personal communications with a defendant in the 21st Judicial Circuit regarding her various criminal cases. He discussed these criminal matters with her directly without her counsel being present and intervened on her behalf in various criminal proceedings. The Special Commissioner found that the respondent also requested and received inappropriate communications from this defendant

as *quid pro quo* for his actions. The Special Commissioner determined that the evidence established probable cause to believe that Mr. Goldy abused his power by using his official position as Commonwealth's Attorney for his personal interests.

Additionally, at the committee's request, this committee heard testimony from three (3) Commonwealth's attorneys who testified that upon their review of the evidence, they believed that the respondent's conduct is a violation of the public trust and rises to the level as to merit impeachment, removal from office, and disqualification to hold any office of honor, trust or profit under Section 68 of the Constitution of Kentucky.

The committee finds sufficient evidence to conclude that the alleged conduct did occur, and that the conduct constitutes a misdemeanor in office under Section 68 of the Constitution of Kentucky. This is based upon the findings of the Special Commissioner, as well as the committee's independent review of the evidence. The committee finds that the conduct is sufficient to warrant impeachment; removal from office, and "disqualification to hold any office of honor, trust, or profit under this Commonwealth." (Section 68 of the Constitution of Kentucky)

The committee hereby recommends that the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky accept this Final Report of the House Committee on Impeachment, that the Resolution and Articles of Impeachment be adopted, and that the Articles of Impeachment, accompanied with the original record of the committee's actions, be laid before the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky as provided by law.

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Representative Daniel Elliott, Chair

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Representative Lindsey Burke

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Representative Jennifer Decker

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Representative Kim King

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Representative Nima Kulkarni

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Representative Suzanne Miles

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Representative Jason Nemes