

**IN THE SUPREME COURT  
OF THE  
STATE OF INDIANA**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**THEODORE E. ROKITA  
Attorney number 18857-49**

**Cause No 25S-DI- 29**

**DISCLOSURE OF WILLIAM G. HUSSMANN JR.**

William G. Hussmann Jr., having been appointed as a Hearing Officer in this matter makes the following disclosure to the Court and the Parties:

1. After having been appointed as a Hearing Officer in this matter I began reviewing documents related to a discovery dispute between the Commission and the Respondent.
2. One of those documents included responses from the Commission that identified Hon. John Tinder as a person with knowledge of the facts of this matter.
3. Prior to my review of the materials, I had no knowledge that Judge Tinder was involved in this matter and had never discussed this matter with him.
4. During my tenure as a United States Magistrate Judge from April 4, 1988 until Judge Tinder was appointed to the United States Court of Appeals in 2007, Judge Tinder, as a District Court Judge, and I, as a Magistrate Judge served in the same court. Judge Tinder maintain his chambers in Indianapolis. His cases were primarily located in Indianapolis, though he also had cases in Terre Haute, New Albany and –rarely-- in Evansville divisions of the Court. My chambers were in Evansville. My cases were primarily in Evansville, Terre Haute and New Albany divisions and occasionally but fairly rarely in Indianapolis. Nevertheless, in each year of my tenure, I was assigned to work as the

Magistrate Judge on some cases in which Judge Tinder was the assigned District Judge. During those 19 years we communicated on a frequent and regular basis with respect to those cases. I also was on the Local Rules Committee of the Southern District of Indiana and communicated with Judge Tinder on those rules as needed.

5. During his tenure as a District Court Judge, Judge Tinder was one of five District Court Judges who had the power to appoint and retain Magistrate Judges. Judge Tinder would have voted on my initial appointment in 1988, and on two reappointments in 1996 and 2004. I was never advised of the vote of the Judges when I was initially appointed in 1988 and I do not know how any of those Judges voted. I was told that both of my reappointments were based on unanimous votes of all five District Court Judges.
6. Since Judge Tinder was appointed to the United States Court of Appeals in 2007, I have had very little communication with him. I would have brief conversations as we met on various bar activities, but I have never discussed any other case related matters with him.
7. Since my retirement from the bench on January 31, 2016, I have had perhaps a handful of verbal communications with Judge Tinder—none of them about any pending legal matters.
8. I have never appeared before Judge Tinder when I functioned as an attorney after my resignation from my position as a Magistrate Judge.
9. I have never had any discussions with Judge Tinder about this matter or any of the facts which underlie the dispute.
10. I believe that I can evaluate any testimony from Judge Tinder in a manner that is fair and impartial to both parties to this case. However, I feel that under the circumstances, I should disclose my relationship for such action as the Supreme Court deems appropriate.

11. I have had some contact with Donald Lundberg and Lauren Robel during my career.

These contacts generally involved being a part of panels at Continuing Legal Education Seminars. I have never had any communication with either of these individuals about this case or the subject matter which underlies this case. I believe I can fairly and impartially evaluate any testimony from these witnesses.

12. Mr. William Groth appeared before me as counsel in some cases during my tenure as U.

S. Magistrate Judge. I have not had any contact with him since my retirement on January 31, 2016. My relationship with him is purely professional and has never been social. I have never had any communication with him about this case or the subject matter which underlies this case. I believe I can fairly and impartially evaluate any testimony from him.

13. I have no knowledge of or relationship with any other person listed in the discovery to date.

Submitted this the 13<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2025

*S/ William G. Hussmann*