UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE ELEVENTH CIRCUIT
1729 FIFTH AVENUE NORTH
SUITE 900
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35203

William H. Pryor Jr.
Chief Judge

Telephone: (205) 278-2030
Facsimile: (205) 278-2025

June 10, 2026

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

The Honorable Eleanor Louise Ross
United States District Court
Richard B. Russell Federal Building and United States Courthouse
75 Ted Turner Drive, Room 1788
Atlanta, GA 30303

Re: Second Inquiry Under Judicial-Conduct Rule 5

Dear Judge Ross:

In connection with Judicial Complaint No. 11-25-90212, you voluntarily agreed to send letters of apology to six former law clerks interviewed by investigation counsel. Your admission of misconduct, expression of remorse, and promise to take voluntary corrective action informed the discipline imposed by the Circuit Judicial Council—a private reprimand. With respect to the letters of apology, the Special Committee's Report, which was adopted by the Judicial Council and affirmed by the Judicial Conference Committee on Judicial Conduct and Disability, stated as follows:

> … The special committee recommends that the Judicial Council instruct the Subject Judge to use the judge's best judgment in drafting letters of apology that communicate the judge's sentiments without risking undue embarrassment to the Subject Judge or the judiciary. **Any apology should be sufficiently specific so as to make clear to the recipient the sexual misconduct for which the judge is apologizing.**

Attached Report at 20 n.92 (Emphasis added).

On June 8, 2026, I received a letter addressed to the Judicial Council from four of your former law clerks. The letter states that the former clerks each received identical letters of apology from you dated May 27, 2026, that state as follows:

> Thank you for your contributions to our Court during your clerkship. I convey my deepest apology for not taking steps to ensure that it was a more positive experience. I wish you all the best in your future legal endeavors and in life.

The letter states that the former clerks "do not believe the letters of apology we received from Judge Ross comply with the remedial measures recommended by the Special Committee and adopted by the Council. Specifically, the apologies fail to 'make clear to the recipient the sexual misconduct for which the judge is apologizing.'"

Rule 5(a) of the Rules for Judicial-Conduct and Judicial-Disability Proceedings states, "When a chief judge has information constituting reasonable grounds for inquiry into whether a covered judge has engaged in misconduct …, the chief judge may conduct an inquiry, as he or she deems appropriate, into the accuracy of the information even if no related complaint has been filed."

Please respond to the above allegations and state whether you failed to send adequate letters of apology to your former clerks. *See* Commentary on Rule 11 (stating, about voluntary corrective action, "Where a subject judge's conduct has resulted in identifiable, particularized harm to the complainant or another individual, appropriate corrective action should include steps taken by that judge to acknowledge and redress the harm, if possible, such as by an apology … or a pledge to refrain from similar conduct in the future."). Please send your response about these matters to me in writing on or before June 12, 2026. Your response should clearly explain whether your letters of apology "acknowledge and redress the harm" you caused and are "sufficiently specific so as to make clear to the recipient the sexual misconduct for which [you are] are apologizing."

Sincerely,

William H. Pryor Jr.