

August 19, 2002 See news release 59 for concurrences/dissents
SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA

No. 2002-O-1975

**IN RE: JUDGE SHARON K. HUNTER
CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT FOR THE PARISH OF ORLEANS**

**ON RECOMMENDATION FOR DISCIPLINE
FROM THE JUDICIARY COMMISSION OF LOUISIANA**

JOHNSON J., Concurring

We take no satisfaction from removing an elected official from public office. However, we must recognize that our responsibility as supervisors of Louisiana's judiciary is to ensure justice for victims of violent crimes and the witnesses who often times put their lives at risk when they come forward to testify in criminal trials. They are entitled to diligence and competence. The errors committed by this Judge have resulted in eleven reversals of criminal convictions by the appellate court, with some other cases filed and awaiting disposition that may also be reversed because of lost transcripts.

Judge Hunter concedes that as administrator of her Section of Court, she is ultimately responsible for the failure to produce transcripts. The record demonstrates a failure to respond to orders from the Court of Appeal, and a failure to ask for help from her colleagues at Criminal District Court, the appellate court judges or this Court when she first became aware of the problem and before we reached these disastrous consequences.

I write separately to express my view that the court reporters who recorded testimony and failed to produce transcripts of these trials share some responsibility for this debacle, and they should have their licenses revoked.