

King County judge being investigated for allegedly threatening staff, others

The Associated Press

The state Supreme Court is investigating a King County district judge for allegedly threatening to harm court staff members and others, a Seattle newspaper reported Saturday.

As part of the concerns raised by Judge Rosemary Bordlemay's actions, her office was searched for guns and the locks were changed at the Redmond courthouse where she worked, officials told The Seattle Times. No guns were found.

Bordlemay, 39, has been on medical leave. She returned to her Kirkland home last week after a brief stay at a mental health facility in Idaho, Supreme Court Chief Justice Barbara Durham said Friday.

Bordlemay has not worked on the bench since December, when she was named assistant presiding judge of the nine-court system. Her friends say she has exhausted herself on administrative matters.

It was not immediately known how long Bordlemay has been on medical leave.

Bordlemay is being investigated by Durham and the presiding judge

of the King County District Court, Darcy Goodman, because of concerns the state Commission on Judicial Conduct can't act fast enough. The commission typically handles complaints about judges.

* Durham said she is considering ordering Bordlemay to stay home, or suspending or removing her from office.

"When threats are involved, it's the classic paradox of the judicial system," Durham said. "You have to act before someone's hurt, but you also have to watch out that you don't hurt their reputation unfairly."

The nature of Bordlemay's medical diagnosis and her treatment weren't available.

Bordlemay, a judge since 1991, told the Times in a brief interview last week that she has been on medical leave for several weeks.

"I'm on sick leave right now due to stress and exhaustion, and I'm under a doctor's care," she said. "I'm looking forward to returning to the bench next week or the week after."

Bordlemay said she had not been aware the chief justice was investigating her. She has an unlisted number and could not be reached for fur-

ther comment Saturday.

Mary Ann Ottinger, an Issaquah District Court judge and a friend of Bordlemay's, said Bordlemay's husband, Richard Schurman, told Kirkland police that she made specific threats against him and court personnel.

Police wrote up a report on the June 10 domestic incident but have refused to release it. They also notified other police departments that Bordlemay could not be found and was believed to have a gun.

Capt. Jon Hartley, acting police chief, said the domestic incident was the result of a misunderstanding. "She just sort of lost it," he said.

Bordlemay dropped from sight shortly after the June 10 incident. Ottinger said she was talking only with a Redmond police lieutenant, who apparently helped her get into the Idaho treatment facility.

County records show the locks at the Redmond courthouse were changed five days after the domestic incident. Goodman, the presiding judge, said she ordered the change.

Ottinger said Bordlemay has shown no improper behavior on the bench.