

Judge Nottingham Under Fire



Friday, 14 Mar 2008, 9:19 PM MDT

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By JOHN ROMERO, Reporter

DENVER -- A judicial source tells Fox 31 that things look, in his words, grim for the federal judge Edward Nottingham.

Press reports have linked Nottingham to a high-priced call girl ring. And it raises new questions about what will happen to his job as judge, and his past rulings.

Nottingham's troubles started last August shortly after he sentenced former Qwest CEO Joe Naccio to six years in prison.

Parts of Nottingham's divorce hearing were made public, indicating Nottingham spent over \$3,000 in one night at the Diamond Cabaret strip club.



Judge Edward Nottingham.

Then this spring, press reports linked the judge to the Denver Sugar, Denver Players, call girl ring.

It was enough, evidently, to lead Denver's chief Circuit Court judge to "take under advisement" an ethics complaint that Nottingham had "brought disrespect to the judiciary." The ruling could lead to a court investigation.

Legal analyst Craig Silverman says even if Nottingham is charged or cited in the call girl ring, it likely won't reverse his prior rulings.

"I doubt that any appellate court will reverse a case that Judge Nottingham presided over just on the basis of this," he told us. Silverman also doubts the scandal will cost the judge his job. "We know that some judges have remained on the bench after DUI's or other personal problems, he says.

But then again, this isn't an ordinary case at all.

"There may be enough embarrassment that he will have to leave the bench, it will put him to the test," silverman said.

If the 10th Circuit Judicial Council finds Judge Nottingham guilty of any ethical violations, it can choose to censure him, suspend him, or reduce his case load.

If they find the offense is severe enough Nottingham could go before the US House of Representatives and face impeachment.