

State of Arizona
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Disposition of Complaint 24-164

Judge:

Complainant:

ORDER

The Complainant alleged a justice of the peace publicly endorsed another candidate and let his dog roam about the courthouse.

The role of the Commission on Judicial Conduct is to impartially determine whether a judicial officer has engaged in conduct that violates the Arizona Code of Judicial Conduct or Article 6.1 of the Arizona Constitution. There must be clear and convincing evidence of such a violation in order for the Commission to take disciplinary action against a judicial officer.

After review, the Commission found that the judge had made a public endorsement of a candidate for public office. While this was improper under Rule 4.1(A)(3) of the Code of Judicial Conduct, the Scope Section of the Code provides that not every transgression will result in the imposition of discipline. The Commission decided, after considering all the facts and circumstances, to dismiss the Complaint pursuant to Commission Rules 16(b) and 23(a), but to issue a warning letter to the judicial officer reminding him of the restrictions under Canon 4 of the Code, including the inability to publicly endorse a candidate for public office.

Commission members Denise K. Aguilar and Barbara Brown did not participate in the consideration of this matter.

Dated: October 28, 2024

FOR THE COMMISSION

/s/ Christopher P. Staring
Hon. Christopher P. Staring
Commission Chair

Copies of this order were distributed to all appropriate persons on October 28, 2024.

CONFIDENTIAL

Arizona Commission on Judicial Conduct
1501 W. Washington Street, Suite 229
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

2024-164

COMPLAINT AGAINST A JUDGE

Name: Judge's Name:

Instructions: Use this form or plain paper of the same size to file a complaint. Describe in your own words what you believe the judge did that constitutes judicial misconduct. Be specific and list all of the names, dates, times, and places that will help the commission understand your concerns. Additional pages may be attached along with copies (not originals) of relevant court documents. Please complete one side of the paper only, and keep a copy of the complaint for your records.

In the *Newspaper article dated*
it stated that *endorsed*
for *It is*
my understanding that a sitting judge cannot
endorse or oppose political candidates. I believe he
should be reprimanded because of failing to adhere
to rules set down by the Commission. This has
caused quite a stir in our area so I
hope something is done.
It has also come to my attention that he brings his
dog to work inside the courtroom almost
everyday. He also lets the dog run off-lease
in the courtyard complex consisting of the
legal, justice, and Sheriff's departments. This is
another example of a law that doesn't apply
to him.
attachment Enclosed

What's the uproar over

?