

State of Arizona
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Disposition of Complaint 24-360

Judge:

Complainant:

ORDER

The Complainant alleged a superior court judge made inappropriate comments about a litigant's attire and now the recording for the hearing no longer exists.

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 the judge made inappropriate comments regarding a litigant. While this was improper under Rules 1.2 and Rule 2.8(B) 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 to be mindful of statements made about litigants and how such comments can undermine public confidence in the judiciary, as well as reminding the judge of the obligation to be dignified and courteous to litigants. The Commission noted that the judge has apologized for the comments about the litigant in the response provided to the Commission.

Commission members Roger D. Barton and Colleen E. Concannon did not participate in the consideration of this matter.

Dated: April 2, 2025

FOR THE COMMISSION

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

Copies of this order were distributed to all appropriate persons on April 2, 2025.

CONFIDENTIAL

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

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

2024-360

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.

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SUPERIOR COURT OF ARIZONA
COUNTY

HONORABLE

v.

JUDGE
JUDGE

MINUTE ENTRY

On the Court's own Motion, the Court will recuse itself from this case. Therefore,
IT IS ORDERED referring this matter to the Civil Presiding Judge for reassignment.

Judicial Commission Complaint

Attorneys who have appeared on this case, cont'd

In addition to the current lawyers on this case, the following lawyers also have been involved in this case. They were not present at the hearing.

Because the complaint form asks for any attorneys who have appeared in this case, these lawyers are being listed in an abundance of caution

(co-counsel for the Defense)

represented at 30b6 deposition)

(withdrew from representing in

withdrew from representing in

(prior defense counsel)

(prior defense counsel)

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Office:

Fax:

Arizona State Bar No

Attorney for:

Office:

Fax:

State Bar No.

Co-Attorney *Pro Hac Vice* for Plaintiff

Office

Bar No.

Co-Attorney *Pro Hac Vice* for Plaintiff

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE STATE OF ARIZONA
COUNTY**

)	Case No.
Plaintiff,)	
)	PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR
v.)	CHANGE OF JUDGE,
)	PURSUANT TO A.R.S. 12-
)	409(B)(5)
Defendants.)	

**THE COMMISSION'S POLICY IS
TO POST ONLY THE FIRST FIVE
PAGES OF ANY DISMISSED
COMPLAINT ON ITS WEBSITE.**

**FOR ACCESS TO THE
REMAINDER OF THE
COMPLAINT IN THIS MATTER,
PLEASE MAKE YOUR REQUEST
IN WRITING TO THE
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL
CONDUCT AND REFERENCE
THE COMMISSION CASE
NUMBER IN YOUR REQUEST.**