

Reminding State of Arizona
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Disposition of Complaint 24-267

Judge:

Complainant:

ORDER

The Complainant alleged a justice of the peace set Defendant's bail inappropriately, refused to assign her a public defender despite the potential for jail time, and required the Defendant to pay attorney's fees to the public defender.

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.

The Commission reviewed all relevant available information and concluded there was not clear and convincing evidence of ethical misconduct in this matter. The Commission approved sending the judge an advisory letter reminding him to be careful with his choice of words when conducting general advisories, and mindful of the duties under Rule 1.2 to promote confidence in the judiciary. The complaint is therefore dismissed pursuant to Commission Rules 16(b) and 23(a).

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

2024-267

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.

[] was arrested on bogus charges when her teenage daughter refused to give her phone back and they had a skirmish over it. Her friend and her called 911 and said she was slamming her head against the wall. The cops never asked the two adults that were in the house what happened. Instead, they took the word of a [] old and a [] old. [] was arrested and taken to jail. When it was time for her IA hearing in the jail, [] picked up her folder and without hesitation, stated \$ [] cash bond only. He ignored that she is disabled and has no job. He stated if [] was able to bond out, she would not get an attorney for her defense. I and my son posted bond. This totally wiped out my Soc Sec check, leaving me with \$ [] for the month. I made a motion that day asking [] to release her OR as she is my caretaker and with her in jail, which is where [] wanted her to stay, would have left me alone. I got all this information as we asked for a recording of [] s IA hearing. When appearing in court on [] for arraignment, [] stated it would be a bench trail and would not be assigned an attorney. He also stated that the attorney that supposedly was at her IA hearing was released and could bill [] for his services. [] warning clearly states that she has a right to an attorney and if she couldn' t afford one, one would be appointed for her. The 6th Amendment of the Constitution states she has the right to a speedy trial by a jury, and the right to defense council if she could not afford one. As [] already told her she would be going to jail for at least 7 months, this is beyond the 6 month sentencing that would have precluded giving her an attorney, she is entitled to defense council appointed by the courts. [] clearly shows his disdain for [] and myself in his rulings and statements.