

State of Arizona  
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

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Disposition of Complaint 25-124

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Judge:

Complainant:

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**ORDER**

The Complainant alleged a superior court judge made delayed rulings, had a conflict of interest, failed to require the opposing party to comply with the law, failed to allow cross-examination of the opposing party, and made improper rulings in a family law case.

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 of the duty to issue rulings timely under Rules 1.1 and 2.5(A) of the Code of Judicial Conduct, along with Art. 2, §11, and Art. 6, §21 of the Arizona Constitution, and A.R.S. §12-128.01, relating to payroll and certifications of compliance. The complaint is therefore dismissed pursuant to Commission Rules 16(b) and 23(a).

Commission member Roger D. Barton did not participate in the consideration of this matter.

Dated: October 3, 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 October 3, 2025.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

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

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

2025-124

**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.

Complaint and Documents attached below



I, \_\_\_\_\_ am submitting this complaint regarding Judge \_\_\_\_\_ as I believe she has engaged in the below judicial misconduct in my family law matter. I have included a summary of facts in support of what I believe to be judicial misconduct, and the known rules/laws I am aware of, in support of my position. I apologize for the length – I am trying to be as thorough as I can. I respectfully request the Commission thoroughly review the below and my case history and pleadings, which I believe to be in support of my complaint.

### SUMMARY

1. I submitted my Motion for Reconsideration for the award of attorney fees and costs to opposing party (respective to the \_\_\_\_\_ hearing) on \_\_\_\_\_, based on the fact that Judge issued this award based on a “ \_\_\_\_\_ ” (See Under Advisement Ruling, filed \_\_\_\_\_). It was later found at the \_\_\_\_\_ hearing that, in fact, there was not a \_\_\_\_\_ as supported by the evidence submitted at both the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ hearings showing that opposing party had not disclosed her true financials in compliance with Judge’s order that she submit a complete AFI after the \_\_\_\_\_ hearing – opposing party did not submit one at all prior to this hearing. (See Matter Under Advisement, filed \_\_\_\_\_). Judge \_\_\_\_\_ did not make a ruling on this motion until \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_\_ calendar days) later.
2. Leading up to our \_\_\_\_\_ hearing, I was granted an award for attorney fees as a result of my Motion to Compel financial disclosures from opposing party prior to this hearing as she continued to refuse to comply with the disclosure requirements, I submitted my China Doll Affidavit on \_\_\_\_\_. Judge \_\_\_\_\_ did not make a ruling on this matter until \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_\_ days). Whereas opposing party’s China Doll Affidavit was filed on \_\_\_\_\_ was responded to by Judge on \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_\_ calendar days).
3. After the 60-day timeframe for ruling, I reached out via email and phone to Judge \_\_\_\_\_ department, as well as the main line to the courthouse and spoke with a courthouse clerk, to inquire as to status of my China Doll Affidavit and Motion for Reconsideration, as summarized below. (See attached PDF of emails and call logs.)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ : Emailed Judge’s judicial assistant directly regarding status of China Doll Affidavit and Motion for Reconsideration. No response received.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ : Judge issued ruling on my China Doll Affidavit.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ : Phone call to court clerk regarding status of Motion for Reconsideration. Was informed by the clerk that my Motion was filed appropriately and was unsure why it had not been ruled on.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ : Emailed Judge’s judicial assistant directly regarding status of Motion for Reconsideration. No response received.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ : Phone call to Judge’s judicial assistant regarding status of Motion for Reconsideration – left voicemail. No response received.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ : Emailed Judge’s judicial assistant directly regarding status of Motion for Reconsideration. No response received.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ : Phone call to court clerk regarding status of Motion for Reconsideration. Was informed by the clerk that she would ensure Judge’s department received the Motion again.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ : Phone call to court clerk and was transferred to Judge’s judicial assistant regarding status of Motion for Reconsideration – left voicemail. No response received.

- : Emailed Judge's judicial assistant directly regarding status of Motion for Reconsideration. No response received.
  - : Judge issued ruling denying my Motion for Reconsideration in its entirety issued.
4. Based on the below, Rule 91(e), *"Each superior court clerk shall report to the Administrative Director of the Courts, in writing, on the last day of March, June, September and December, in each year, all matters in that court submitted for decision sixty days or more prior to the date of such report and remaining undecided on the date of the report. The report shall contain the title of each action or proceeding, the matter submitted, the judge to whom submitted, and the date of submission."* I am not aware if disclosure that my unresolved motions that were past the 60-day timeframe were included in this report, or not.
  5. It is unclear why, even after my email was received by Judge's department bringing their attention to the still pending Motion for Reconsideration, a ruling was still not issued until nearly another two months later on .

I believe these delays in ruling on my motions are in violation of:

- Rule 1.1 which states, *"A judge shall comply with the law, including the Code of Judicial Conduct."*
  - Rule 2.5(A) which states, *"A judge shall perform judicial and administrative duties competently, diligently, and promptly."*
  - Article 2, Section 11 of the Arizona Constitution which states, *"Justice in all cases shall be administered openly, and without unnecessary delay."*
  - Article 6, Section 21 of the Arizona Constitution which states, *"Every matter submitted to a judge of the superior court for his decision shall be decided within sixty days from the date of submission thereof. The supreme court shall by rule provide for the speedy disposition of all matters not decided within such period."*
  - Rule 91(e), Arizona Rules of Supreme Court which states, *"Every matter submitted for determination to a judge of the superior court for decision shall be determined and a ruling made not later than sixty days from submission thereof, in accordance with Section 21. Article VI of the Arizona Constitution. Each superior court clerk shall report to the Administrative Director of the Courts, in writing, on the last day of March, June, September and December, in each year, all matters in that court submitted for decision sixty days or more prior to the date of such report and remaining undecided on the date of the report. The report shall contain the title of each action or proceeding, the matter submitted, the judge to whom submitted, and the date of submission."*
6. I believe it is important to note, Judge and her judicial assistant ( , if I recall correctly) were made aware that my live in partner knew, was friends with and worked directly (in ) with a clerk that worked directly with Judge and her judicial assistant – informed my partner and I that she had submitted some sort of complaint about the conduct within the Judge's department, stated that Judge's clerk was completing work on behalf of Judge and that Judge was not fully reviewing the cases, instead simply signing off on what her judicial assistant drafted. Further, that she felt that she was treated very poorly by Judge and her judicial assistant and that this would be the reason for her impending departure

from employment. Subsequently, after [redacted] disclosed to Judge that she knew my partner in order to prevent any potential conflicts of interest, she said was made to sign some sort of document, and ultimately was no longer employed by the court for her position. It is not clear if this was a factor in the below. However, I believe this is important to consider and research, since the appearance of prejudicial rulings are a concern, as outlined below.

7. As mentioned above, leading up to the [redacted] hearing, opposing party refused to comply with the rules of disclosure and did not submit an updated Affidavit of Financial Information even though the hearing was respective to financial issues. At the hearing, and only on request of my then counsel, Judge [redacted] ordered: “

[redacted].” (See Matter Under Advisement, filed [redacted]).

8. Instead of complying with this order, opposing party submitted a significantly deficient AFI claiming \$ [redacted] /month in income with \$ [redacted] /month in living expenses. And, that she only had one source of income – her self-employment income. Her second employer ([redacted]) and consistent and ongoing additional tax-free income of \$ [redacted] /month she received to pay for her rent and utilities was not included in the “expenses paid by others” section.
9. In fact, opposing party intentionally removed the statement “ [redacted] ” regarding the income she was consistently receiving from her parents to pay her living expenses from her first submitted AFI after the order to produce the same was made. ([redacted] Hearing Exh. RESP 3 & 5)
10. The deficiencies in this AFI were significant – 1.) Second employer was not listed. 2) Only tax returns for [redacted] included. 3.) Consistent and on-going funds from parents not disclosed. There were NO current paystubs, NO [redacted] tax return, NO Profit & Loss Statements from self-employment, or records of *current* income whatsoever.
11. Even though enforcement of child support was at issue, Judge elected to allow the non-compliance with the order she made for opposing party to submit a complete AFI *with all required attachments*, and accepted the significantly deficient AFI, even though an issue at hand was specific to financial issues. And, even though evidence was submitted ([redacted] Hearing Exh. PET 5) that opposing party had multiple sources of income, and her bank statements and paystubs and work schedule from her second employer (Attached – submitted by opposing party but not admitted) submitted clearly supported that she had multiple sources of income and an actual income of approximately \$ [redacted] /month.
12. This did not include the funds opposing party’s obtained from her parents to pay her attorney fees, which was approximately \$ [redacted] /month pursuant to her submitted China Doll Affidavit. It was brought to Judge’s attention that, instead of complying with the child support order - opposing party’s share was approximately \$ [redacted] /month - but instead opposing party elected to expend several thousand dollars in attorney fees instead of simply complying with the order, and the I believed this was in an effort to hide her true income and finances.
13. Judge denied my counsel the opportunity to question opposing party at the [redacted] hearing, only allowing opposing party’s counsel the opportunity to question me, rendering my counsel unable to question opposing party as to her non-compliance with the court orders regarding child support, undisclosed financials and conflicting information within her own submitted exhibits. Then, issued a ruling in favor of opposing party awarding her attorney fees and costs

**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.**