

State of Arizona
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Disposition of Complaint 25-418

Judge:

Complainant:

ORDER

A superior court judge self-reported delayed rulings in multiple civil cases.

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. The complaint is therefore dismissed pursuant to Commission Rules 16(b) and 23(a).

Commission members Roger D. Barton, Joseph C. Kreamer, and Cathy Riggs did not participate in the consideration of this matter.

Dated: December 9, 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 December 9, 2025.

Via Email at cjc@courts.az.gov

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

Re: Judge's Self-Reporting of Delayed Rulings in

Dear Members of the Commission:

I write to self-report to the Commission that I missed the 60-day deadline on several rulings during the months of _____ and one ruling in _____ and that my judicial certification forms did not accurately reflect the delayed rulings. I am profoundly embarrassed to have to write this letter, and I hope to convey two additional points in the paragraphs below: (1) my recognition that I am responsible for managing my calendar regardless of my workload; and (2) my efforts to ensure that this will not happen again.

By way of background, I have served as a judge on _____ in _____ County for approximately _____ years. I am currently assigned to a rotation. In addition to my _____ calendar, I also serve as the sole judge for all _____ throughout the state of Arizona. Over time, management of both calendars became challenging, but I was certain that I could continue to handle both calendars if my _____ calendar could be slightly reduced to account for the _____ calendar. I submitted my request to the Presiding Judge – _____ – who agreed to reduce my _____ calendar by 20% to begin after the _____ rotation. Regrettably, I did not inform the Presiding Judge or anyone that I was falling behind on my rulings during _____ and going into _____. It was my intention to catch back up while the 20% reduction was implemented – a process that would take some months.

I then received an email from Judge _____ on _____. Judge _____ asked me about two cases that had been reassigned during the 20% reduction from me to _____

different judges. In each case, there was a fully briefed motion for which I should have issued a ruling in and both rulings had been pending for more than 60 days. She asked me to look into the issue and get back to her. I immediately did some research with my staff and discovered that I had 16 matters for which a ruling was due in but for which I had not issued a timely ruling. All of these unresolved motions were from – they were not matters that I had taken under advisement after oral argument or evidentiary hearing. My staff and I also discovered one matter for which a ruling was due in I had issued a ruling in that matter, but not until the first week of The matters are as follows:

Matters Due in

Case Number	Filing at Issue	60-Day Due Date	Date of Ruling
	Def Motion to Dismiss		
	Plaintiff Motion to Set Trial		
	Def Motion for Summary Judgment		
	Def Motion for New Trial and Def Motion to Strike		
	Plaintiff Motion for Summary Judgment		
	Plaintiff Motion for Summary Judgment		
	Def Motion to Dismiss		
	Notice of Lodging Form of Judgment		
	Plaintiff Motion for Summary Judgment		
	Plaintiff Motion for Summary Judgment		
	Def Motion to Amend Answer		
	Def Motion to Compel Compliance w/statute		
	Plaintiff Motion to Introduce		

	Additional Evidence		
	Plaintiff Motion for Judgment on Pleadings		
	Plaintiff Motion for Judgment on the Pleadings		
	Motion to Introduce Additional Evidence		

Matter Due In

	Def Motion to Dismiss and Refer to Binding Arbitration		
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Within 48 hours of Judge _____ initially contacting me, I issued substantive rulings in 14 of these overdue matters and informed Judge _____ of the results of my research. I additionally issued rulings in the remaining two matters just two days later. I also separately contacted _____ on the _____ Court on _____ disclosed the issue of my late rulings, and asked whether she wanted me to file amended judicial certifications for _____. Finally, I informed _____ that I intended to self-report the delayed rulings and inaccurate certifications to the Commission on Judicial Conduct by _____

_____ responded to my disclosure on the same day (_____ and told me that amended certifications were not necessary. I have therefore not amended the certifications but stand ready to do so if appropriate.

I have implemented multiple process changes to ensure that this does not happen again, including:

1. As mentioned above, I requested and obtained approval for a 20% reduction in my caseload to account for my _____ court calendar. Some of these cases were transferred to other divisions after the _____ rotation, but the full effect of the reduction will start to be felt in _____ and _____ of this year as a reduced number of _____ filings are assigned to my division.

2. I have spoken to my staff and designated Tuesdays as law and motion day; on which I will meet with my Judicial Assistant to confirm deadlines and to rule on notions, and
3. I have instructed my staff to begin automatically scheduling oral argument for motions for summary judgment from when either party has requested oral argument. This will help to avoid the clustering of due dates for dispositive motions.

I want to be clear that I raise the issue of my dual service as judge and judge only for background purposes and only to demonstrate one of the steps I am taking to ensure that I do not fall behind again. The 20% reduction of the calendar will help tremendously. But my dual role is not an excuse. I volunteered for the judge position, and I accepted responsibility for the additional workload. I should have been able to manage both calendars and, when it became clear to me that I was falling behind, I should have disclosed that fact to the Presiding Judge. The two judicial certifications that I submitted should have listed these late rulings.

Additionally, I want to clarify that my staff bears no responsibility for this issue. I have excellent staff members that are always responsive and professional. They provide me with all the support that a judge can reasonably ask for, but they are not judges and they cannot issue rulings. My failure to properly manage the workload, my failure to ask for assistance before missing several 60-day deadlines from and my failure to note the missed deadlines on the certifications are entirely on me. I am proud to have served as a judicial officer for the last years and, again, am profoundly embarrassed to have to write this letter. I do not have the words to adequately express the value I put on my professional reputation.

I have attached copies of my latest Judicial Performance Review results for the Commission's review, if the Commission determines that they are relevant to the present issue. Please let me know if there is any other information that I can provide to the Commission.

Very truly yours,

Judge of the
In County

ATTACHMENT A

Most Recent JPR Information

1. Most Recent JPR Comments
2. JPR Raw Scores for Judge
3. JPR Raw Scores for All Judges
4. Most Recent JPR Report from JPR Committee
(dated)
5. Prior JPR Report from JPR Committee (dated
)

**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.**