

State of Arizona  
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

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Disposition of Complaint 25-428

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Judge:

Complainant:

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**ORDER**

A superior court commissioner self-reported a delayed ruling in a criminal matter.

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 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, Delia R. Neal, 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.

**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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**From:**

**Sent:**

**To:** Commission on Judicial Conduct <CommissionJudicialCo@courts.az.gov>

**Subject:** Self Report, Delinquent Order

I am a \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ County Superior Court. On \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_, defendant, \_\_\_\_\_ filed a Motion for restoration of civil rights. Neither the clerk's file, nor the defendant's motion were forwarded to my division. However, the clerk did send an email to my Judicial Assistant informing her of the defendant's request. At that time, my judicial assistant had been working in that position for roughly four months. My judicial assistant has a challenging assignment, because I am assigned to \_\_\_\_\_, and caseloads. She receives well over 200 emails a day. For some reason that she is currently unaware of, she did not forward the request to me.

I became aware of the request at \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_. My Judicial Assistant immediately called defense counsel and apologized. I issued an order granting the request on \_\_\_\_\_. This order was delinquent.

I am aware that Code of Judicial Conduct Rule 2.5 requires that I perform "judicial and administrative duties competently, diligently, and promptly." I am also aware the comment to Rule 2.5 requires that I "seek the necessary docket time, court staff, expertise, and resources to discharge all adjudicative and administrative responsibilities. . . ." I am further aware that "[a] judge should monitor and supervise cases in ways that reduce or eliminate dilatory practices, avoidable delays, and unnecessary costs."

I am aware that Rule 2.12. of the Arizona Rules of Judicial Conduct directs a judge to "require court staff, court officials, and others subject to the judge's direction and control to act in a manner consistent with the judge's obligations under this code."

I have provided direction to my Judicial Assistant regarding the timeline that a judicial officer must follow when a matter has been assigned to them for decision. I have emphasized the importance of notifying me whenever our division receives notice of an assignment. I believe this has been an eye-opening experience for her. Together, we will work more diligently to ensure that future requests are processed appropriately. We are beginning discussions with the clerk's office to determine if an alternative or additional communication process may be more effective in these situations.

I greatly appreciate the opportunity to serve my community as a \_\_\_\_\_. I will work diligently to ensure that my staff and I fulfill our responsibilities in a timely manner.

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