

State of Arizona  
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

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Disposition of Complaint 25-500

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Judge:

Complainant:

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**ORDER**

The Complainant alleged a superior court commissioner was rude and failed to follow the law in a protective order proceeding.

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 refrain from the practice of law and the duty to act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the judiciary in compliance with Rules 1.2 and 3.10. 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: January 28, 2026

FOR THE COMMISSION

/s/ Christopher P. Staring

Hon. Christopher P. Staring  
Commission Chair

Copies of this order were distributed to all appropriate persons on January 28, 2026.

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25-500

**Arizona Commission on Judicial Conduct**

1501 W. Washington St., Suite 229

Phoenix, AZ 85007

**Formal Complaint and Request for Full Investigation – Commissioner  
County Superior Court**

To the Honorable Members of the Arizona Commission on Judicial Conduct:

I am submitting this formal complaint and request for a full investigation into the conduct of **Commissioner** of the **County Superior Court, Department**, regarding his handling of my **petition for an Order of Protection in case number**

On or around , I appeared **virtually via Zoom** before Commissioner for a hearing on my petition for an Order of Protection. My prior protective order had been dismissed, not on its merits, but because I had been unable to upload my exhibits online at that time. The commissioner who dismissed that earlier petition, **Commissioner** , told me that I could refile once I was able to provide the supporting documentation. Acting on that instruction, I filed a new petition.

During the hearing, Commissioner denied my request **solely because the previous order had been dismissed**, without conducting an independent evaluation of my evidence or circumstances. This was a **direct violation of Rule 19 of the Arizona Rules of Protective Order Procedure**, which mandates:

“A judicial officer must not consider the number of times a protective order has been dismissed as a basis for denying a request for protective relief. Each time a plaintiff petitions for protective relief, the judicial officer must make an independent determination whether there is reasonable cause to issue a protective order under the applicable statute.”

Throughout the Zoom hearing, Commissioner repeatedly **interrupted me** and **refused to allow me to speak**. Each time I believed he had finished and tried to ask a question or clarify something, he **cut me off sharply** and became visibly **angry and impatient**. I tried to explain that I thought it was my turn to speak, but he continued to speak over me and accused me of being disrespectful.

He further accused me of **lying about what Commissioner had told me** and of “ .” His tone was harsh, dismissive, and demeaning. I felt humiliated, silenced, and emotionally devastated. Commissioner conduct was **cruel and inappropriate**, particularly toward someone seeking protection in a time of great personal vulnerability and fear.

As a survivor seeking legal protection from stalking and harassment, I had a right to a fair, impartial, and trauma-informed hearing. Instead, I was treated with hostility and bias. His conduct demonstrated a lack of compassion, professionalism, and understanding of the court’s duty to protect victims of violence and intimidation.

For these reasons, I respectfully and urgently request that the **Arizona Commission on Judicial Conduct investigate Commissioner to the fullest extent of its power and authority**. His conduct violated the **Arizona Code of Judicial Conduct** and **Rule 19** of the **Arizona Rules of Protective Order Procedure**, and it undermines public trust in the fairness and integrity of the judiciary.

I ask that the Commission review the **audio and transcript of the Zoom hearing** in case , and take all appropriate disciplinary or corrective actions—including, if warranted, formal reprimand, suspension, or removal from the bench.

Thank you for your time, attention, and dedication to judicial accountability. I trust that this matter will receive a full and fair investigation consistent with the Commission’s authority.

Respectfully submitted,

Complainant

County Superior Court, Case No.