

State of Arizona
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Disposition of Complaint 25-502

Judge:

Complainant:

ORDER

December 16, 2025

The Complainant alleged a justice court hearing officer had poor demeanor and did not allow him to fully be heard in a small claims 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 complaint is therefore dismissed pursuant to Commission Rules 16(a) and 23(a).

Commission member Michael J. Brown did not participate in the consideration of this matter.

Copies of this order were distributed to all appropriate persons on December 16, 2025.

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

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

2025-502

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.

IN THE HEARING CONDUCTED OF , I AS THE PLAINTIFF CAME TO THE HEARING UPON WOULD BE PRESIDING. DURING THE ONSET OF THE HEARING THE OFFICER GAVE FIRM INSTRUCTIONS THAT I UNDERSTOOD AND WOULD FOLLOW DURING THE HEARING. IT WAS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE OFFICER WAS SEEKING STRUCTURE AND ADHERENCE TO HIS DIRECTION SO I COMPLIED.

AS THE HEARING BEGAIN I WAS INSTRUCTED BY OFFICER TO GIVE MY ACCOUNT FOR WHY I SEEK CLAIM AGAINST THE OTHER PARTY. AS I BEGAN TO PROVIDE THIS INFORMATION THE OFFICER WOULD INTERJECT ALMOST SO FREQUENTLY IT WOULD INEVITABLE DISRUPT MY ABILITY TO ACCURATELY DESCRIBE THE PROPER SEQUENCE OF EVENTS AS TO WHY I HAD PROPER CLAIM OF GRIEVANCE TOWARDS THE DEFENDANT'S BUSINESS PROCESSES. THE NATURE OF HIS BASIC INQUIRIES BEGAN TO RAISE QUESTION IN MY MIND IF THE OFFICER HAD A LANGUAGE BARRIER, COMPREHENSION DIFFICULTY, OR TECHNICAL AVERSION TO THE TOPIC OF CONVERSATION. DUE TO THIS ENCOUNTER I HAD EXPRESSED PLAINLY AND EXPLICITLY TO HIM I DID NOT KNOW HOW TO MOVE FORWARD IN MY ACCOUNT AS HE CONTINUED TO EXPRESS FRUSTRATION.

BECAUSE OF THE TECHNICAL NATURE OF AN AUTOMATIVE REPAIR SPANNING SEVERAL MONTHS WITH MULTIPLE INTERVENTIONS AND PARTIES INVOLVED IT WAS NECESSARY TO PROVIDE AN ACCOUNT THAT PROVIDED CONTEXT AND CORRABORATION OF THE THIRD PARTY INDUSTRY EXPERTS. WHEN I ATTEMPTED TO TAILOR MY COMMUNICATION, IT DID NOT FULFILL HIS EXPECTATION AND ONLY LED TO THE OFFICER BECOMING MORE AGGRESSIVE IN DIALOGUE AS HIS TONE WOULD BE ELEVATED-ALMOST YELLING. THIS WOULD LEAD TO MANY PAUSES DURING THE HEARING WHICH ULTIMATELY LEAD TO UNWARRANTED BERATEMENTS FROM THE HEARING OFFICER THAT REFLECTED THAT OF A MOTHER AND A CHILD. A DYNAMIC UNFIT FOR A COURT.

THIS WOULD CONTINUE THROUGHOUT THE HEARING. ULTIMATELY, I WAS NEVER ALLOWED THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE A TESTIMONY THAT WAS INCLUSIVE OF THE NECESSARY INFORMATION FOR A PROPER DECISION. THE JUDGE COULD NOT EVEN LOCATE PAGE NUMBERS OR FOLLOW VERY READILY IDENTIFIABLE DOCUMENTATION AS NOTED ON THE FTR. MOREOVER, IN SEVERAL ATTEMPTS TO GUIDE THE JUDGE TO THE ANALYSIS' SUBMITTED BY MULTIPLE THIRD PARTY OBJECTIVE TECHNICAL EXPERTS- HE CHOSE TO NOT ENGAGE IN THE MATERIAL AND WOULD CONTINUE FORWARD IN HIS TRAIN OF THOUGHT.

IN CONCLUSION, THE CONDUCT DEMONSTRATED DURING THIS HEARING BY OFFICER WAS DEMEANING, HOSTILE, AND UNBECOMING. IT IS MY BELIEF THAT THIS FALLS SHORT OF THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARD MAINTAINED BY THE JUSTICE COURT AND THE COUNTY JUSTICE COURT SYSTEM. IT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER FOR THE BASIC CITIZENRY TO SEE THESE UPHELD. ESPECIALLY IN THEIR LOCAL JUDICIAL SYSTEMS.

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