

State of Arizona
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Disposition of Complaint 25-547

Judge:

Complainant:

ORDER

January 30, 2026

The Complainant alleged a superior court judge improperly awarded attorney fees in a civil 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 does not have jurisdiction to overturn, amend, or remand a judicial officer's legal rulings. 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).

Copies of this order were distributed to all appropriate persons on January 30, 2026.

CONFIDENTIAL

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

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

2025 - 547

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.

Judge _____ awarded _____ in attorney fees and costs as a discovery sanction against a non-party witness. The non-party witness was a witness in an ongoing class action case in _____ This simple discovery dispute occurred in a _____ class action case where the presiding judge has issued certain orders including case management orders governing discovery disputes. Despite the fact that Judge _____ was made aware that the dispute involved a _____ class action case where there was no Arizona case pending, after the deposition of the non-party, the Arizona resident witness had already taken place Judge _____ awarded an outrageous _____ in fees and costs against a witness who voluntarily had appeared for his deposition prior to the hearing. Aside from the fact that Judge _____ was making rulings on an active _____ not Arizona case he awarded an entirely unreasonable unnecessary, and egregious sanction amount. The Arizona code of Judicial conduct, Rule 2.5 governs "competence, diligence, and cooperation" of Arizona judges. Rule 2.5 (B) states: " A judge shall reasonably cooperate with other judges and court officials in the administration of court business." Judge _____ did not bother to comply with this Arizona judicial canon On _____ in the hearing related to this matter, Judge _____ was informed that this case had been deemed a complex class action lawsuit presided over by the _____ Court of _____ Further that there were in place numerous case management orders and discovery orders that had been put in place by two _____ Court Judges. It was explained to Judge _____ that not only had a good faith discovery dispute occurred, but that he should defer any rulings back to the _____ presiding judge. Arrogantly, needlessly, and frankly foolishly Judge _____ awarded _____ in sanctions against a non-party Arizona resident witness. Judge _____ decision was appealed to the Arizona _____ . Although the _____ case was settled which also resolved Judge _____ outrageous decision, this commission should respectfully evaluate the fitness of its judicial officer. The undersigned has practiced law for over _____ years with an impeccable record , is A-V rated, and has never issued a judicial complaint regarding conduct of a judicial officer prior to this matter. Arizona Code of Judicial Conduct, rule 2.5, contains comment #4 which provides: "In disposing of matters promptly and efficiently, a judge must demonstrate due regard for the rights of parties to be heard and to have issues resolved without unnecessary costs or delay. A judge should monitor and supervise cases in ways that reduce or eliminate dilatory practices, avoidable delays, and unnecessary costs". In this instance, not only did Judge _____ make a punitive ruling in a case he neither presided over nor understood, his ruling only served to promote dilatory practice and caused entirely unnecessary costs. He should be admonished for his arbitrary and unreasonable decision in this discovery motion.