

State of Arizona
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Disposition of Complaint 25-586

Judge:

Complainant:

ORDER

March 23, 2026

The Complainant alleged a municipal court hearing officer failed to follow the law in a protective order 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 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 Christopher P. Staring did not participate in the consideration of this matter.

Copies of this order were distributed to all appropriate persons on March 23, 2026.

FORMAL COMPLAINT AGAINST JUDGE
Arizona Commission on Judicial Conduct

COMPLAINANT INFORMATION:

Name:
Address:

Telephone:
Email:

JUDGE INFORMATION:

Judge Name:
Court: Municipal Court
County: County, Arizona

CASE INFORMATION:

Original Case Number:
Current Case Number:
Violation Trial Date:
Nature of Case: Domestic Violence Order of Protection
Case Number:

STATEMENT OF COMPLAINT

I am filing this formal complaint against Judge _____ for violating federal and Arizona law, demonstrating bias toward my abuser, and endangering my life and that of my minor son through serious judicial misconduct.

BACKGROUND - WHO I AM

I am a _____ with nearly _____ years of experience saving lives. I am the victim of severe domestic violence, including being strangled to unconsciousness by my estranged husband, _____.
I fled _____ to _____ where I obtained a valid Order of Protection against him. _____ subsequently violated that _____ Order of Protection, was criminally prosecuted and convicted, and placed on probation. He now has an active warrant issued by _____ courts for violating his probation. He is required to travel to _____ monthly to report to his probation officer. When I returned to _____ with my young son, I sought an Order of Protection in _____ Municipal Court, where my case was assigned to Judge _____.

FIRST COURT APPEARANCE - TEMPORARY ORDER GRANTED

On approximately _____, I appeared before Judge _____ requesting an Order of Protection. She granted a temporary Order of Protection and scheduled a hearing approximately one week later to determine whether to issue a permanent order.

SECOND COURT APPEARANCE - JUDICIAL MISCONDUCT

Approximately one week later, on approximately _____ I returned to court prepared to present evidence for a permanent Order of Protection. I brought over 30

pages of carefully documented and labeled evidence, including:

- Valid Order of Protection against
- Documentation of active warrant for arrest in for violating that Order
- Evidence of strangulation to unconsciousness (I lost consciousness and urinated during the attack)
- Evidence of severe physical abuse
- Pattern of stalking, harassment, and direct threats
- Photographic evidence of abuse
- Timeline documenting abuse spanning multiple years and across state lines. related to the domestic violence I have suffered.

JUDGE VIOLATIONS OF LAW

Before I could even present my carefully prepared evidence, Judge made the following statements that violated both federal and Arizona law:

1. “ ”
2. “ ” and therefore she would not consider it
3. “ ”

THESE STATEMENTS DIRECTLY VIOLATE THE FOLLOWING LAWS:

A. VIOLATION OF ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES § 13-3602(E)(2)

Arizona law explicitly states: “The defendant has committed an act of domestic violence within the past year OR within a LONGER period of time if the court finds that GOOD CAUSE exists.”

Judge imposed an arbitrary one-year cutoff that does not exist in Arizona law. Good cause clearly existed in my case given:

- Severe abuse including strangulation (the single strongest predictor of domestic violence homicide)
- Interstate pattern of violence showing ongoing danger
- Active warrant proving violated court orders and fled consequences
- Valid out-of-state protection order demonstrating established pattern

B. VIOLATION OF FEDERAL LAW 18 U.S.C. § 2265 (Violence Against Women Act)

Federal law REQUIRES all states, including Arizona, to give “full faith and credit” to valid protection orders issued by other states. Judge refusal to consider my Order of Protection violates federal law.

C. VIOLATION OF ARIZONA INTERSTATE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LAW

My attorney, , was “ ” that Judge and the court system failed to uphold Arizona’s interstate domestic violence law requiring recognition of my protection order.

EMOTIONAL MANIPULATION

During this hearing, sat before Judge crying. Despite:

- His active warrant for violating a protection order in another state
- My documented evidence of strangulation
- The clear and present danger he poses to my life
- Federal and state law requiring protection

Judge appeared sympathetic to based on his emotional display. I

observed what I believe to be inappropriate bias by Judge _____ toward _____, possibly based on his physical appearance and his manipulative crying.

JUDGE _____ PATTERN - DENYING ANOTHER WOMAN'S PROTECTION

On the same day as my hearing, I witnessed Judge _____ deny an Order of Protection to another woman who was crying and clearly in distress, desperately needing protection.

Seeing Judge _____ deny that woman's request made my heart sink - I knew in that moment that my chances of obtaining protection in her courtroom were slim, regardless of my evidence.

This demonstrates that Judge _____ has a pattern of denying protection orders to domestic violence victims, not just in my case but in other cases I personally witnessed.

This raises serious questions about whether Judge _____ :

- _____ Has a pattern of bias against domestic violence victims generally
- _____ Systematically fails to grant protection orders that should be granted under Arizona law
- _____ Has endangered other women beyond just myself

MY RESPONSE UNDER DURESS

I was not prepared to present evidence limited to only " _____ " because:

- _____ I reasonably relied on Arizona law (A.R.S. § 13-3602(E)(2)) allowing consideration of abuse beyond one year when good cause exists
- _____ I reasonably relied on federal law (18 U.S.C. § 2265) requiring recognition of my _____ Order
- _____ The most critical evidence showing pattern and danger (_____ Order and active warrant) was being excluded based on Judge _____ incorrect legal standard I was in shock at Judge _____ misapplication of law.

_____ related to the abuse. Under the stress of being told my evidence was " _____ " while watching my abuser cry and manipulate the judge, I was unable to recall specific dates and details under pressure. Judge _____ continued the hearing.

MY ATTORNEY'S RECOGNITION OF BIAS AND STRATEGIC DECISION

Following this hearing, I immediately contacted attorney _____ to represent me. After reviewing what had occurred in Judge _____ courtroom, _____ stated:

"

."

_____ was so concerned about Judge _____ bias and legal errors that he

- _____ I could not obtain a fair hearing in her courtroom
- _____ We needed to remove the case from _____ Municipal Court entirely
- _____ We should file immediately in _____ County Superior Court
- _____ Judge _____ rulings violated interstate domestic violence law and were legally indefensible
- _____ It was " _____ " in _____ Municipal Court
- _____ The stress and anxiety of appearing before this biased judge - and being in the same room as my abuser - was not worth it

My own attorney - an experienced family law practitioner - recognized judicial bias

so severe that the only solution was to bypass Judge _____ court entirely.
strategy was to get ahead of the game by immediately filing in
County Superior Court while letting the _____ case proceed without me.

CASE DISMISSAL

_____ attended the continued hearing in _____ Municipal Court. On my attorney's advice, I did not attend.
Judge _____ dismissed the case in my absence.
However, by that time, we had already successfully filed for an Order of Protection in _____ County Superior Court using the exact same evidence Judge _____ had called " _____ "

THREATENING STATEMENTS AND CRIMINAL STATUS

_____ has directly threatened me, stating: " _____ ."

This statement suggests:

- _____ He believes he has influence or connections that will protect him from consequences
 - _____ He is threatening me with the implication that his " _____ " will prevent me from obtaining protection
 - _____ There may be improper influence affecting judicial proceedings
- Combined with Judge _____ extraordinary favorable treatment of him despite overwhelming evidence, and my attorney's statement that " _____ " there are serious questions about whether improper influence, relationships, or connections affected Judge _____ rulings.

RESPONDENT IS ON PROBATION IN _____ AND HAS ACTIVE WARRANT

_____ is currently on probation in _____ for violating my Order of Protection. He travels to _____ monthly to report to his probation officer.

Despite being on probation for violating a protection order against me - demonstrating he is under criminal supervision for domestic violence - Judge _____ dismissed my Arizona protection order request and appeared sympathetic to him.
_____ now has an active warrant issued by _____ courts for his arrest. Despite this warrant and his probation status, he continues to violate protection orders and threaten me.

I contacted _____ probation officer in _____ via email to report his violations of the Arizona Order of Protection. The probation officer ignored my email and did not respond.

This demonstrates:

1. _____ is a convicted domestic violence offender - He was found guilty of violating my _____ protection order and placed on criminal probation
2. _____ is actively violating probation - The active warrant proves he has violated terms of his probation
3. Judge _____ dismissed my case despite _____ being a convicted offender on probation - A reasonable judge would consider that a defendant is currently under criminal supervision for the exact same conduct (violating protection orders)
4. Systemic failure extends beyond Arizona - Even _____ probation officer failed to take action when I reported his Arizona violations
5. _____ poses extreme danger - He violates protection orders in multiple

states, has been criminally convicted, is on probation, has an active warrant, and continues threatening me despite all legal consequences
Judge [redacted] dismissal of my case and apparent bias toward [redacted] is even more egregious given that he is a convicted domestic violence offender currently on probation for violating a protection order against me.

FORCED TO SPEND THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS

Following [redacted] advice, and after spending thousands of dollars in legal fees that I could barely afford, we:

- [redacted] Filed for Order of Protection in [redacted] County Superior Court (while case was still pending)
 - [redacted] Successfully obtained an Order of Protection in Superior Court using the exact same evidence Judge [redacted] had called “ [redacted] ”
- This proves Judge [redacted] rulings were legally wrong. A different court, reviewing the same evidence under the same laws, found it sufficient to grant protection. The only difference was the judge.

COMPARISON TO [redacted] AND SUPERIOR COURT’S REACTION

For context: When I obtained my Order of Protection in [redacted], the process was straightforward. I appeared pro se (without an attorney), presented my evidence, and was granted protection based on the same incidents and evidence. I did not need thousands of dollars or legal representation to obtain protection in [redacted]. When we finally appeared before [redacted] County Superior Court to obtain the Arizona Order of Protection, the judges seemed surprised that I had legal representation, commenting that attorneys are not usually present for these types of proceedings. This raises important questions:

- [redacted] Why was [redacted] able to process my protection order routinely without legal representation required?
 - [redacted] Why did Arizona’s system - specifically Judge [redacted] court - make it so difficult that hiring expensive legal representation was necessary?
 - [redacted] Why were Superior Court judges surprised by my attorney’s presence, suggesting that legal representation is unusual for protection order cases?
- The answer appears to be that Judge [redacted] handling of my case was so extraordinarily improper that it forced me into a legal battle that should never have been necessary.

Protection orders are designed to be accessible to victims without requiring legal representation. Judge [redacted] violations of federal and state law effectively denied me that access, forcing me to spend thousands of dollars to obtain in Arizona what I had already validly obtained in [redacted] and what other Arizona victims apparently obtain routinely without attorneys.

PROSECUTOR’S ADMISSION OF JUDICIAL UNPREDICTABILITY

When I spoke with the prosecuting attorney for the City of [redacted] regarding violation trial, the prosecutor told me: “ [redacted] ”

This statement is deeply troubling because:

1. It acknowledges that outcomes depend on which judge presides rather than the evidence - With clear evidence of strangulation, an active warrant, documented violations, and direct threats, the outcome should be predictable based on law and facts, not a “ [redacted] ” based on judicial preference.

**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.**