

State of Arizona
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Disposition of Complaint 25-589

Judge:

Complainant:

ORDER

February 13, 2026

The Complainant alleged a superior court commissioner had poor decorum and demeanor during a family law 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 members Denise K. Aguilar and Cathy Riggs did not participate in the consideration of this matter.

Copies of this order were distributed to all appropriate persons on February 13, 2026.

2025-589

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.

This complaint concerns (1) failures by Judge _____ chambers to provide timely and accurate case-related communication. and (2) hostile and unprofessional conduct displayed by Judge _____ during the _____ court proceeding. Together, these actions appear inconsistent with judicial standards requiring professionalism, impartiality, competence, and adequate court administration.

Facts Occurring Outside the Courtroom
I filed materials with the court on _____, and received no communication for nearly a month regarding any scheduled hearings.
On _____, I contacted Judge _____ chambers by telephone to ask whether a court date had been set.
Judge _____ secretary, _____ informed me that a hearing had been scheduled for _____, and that this date had been set on _____. I was not notified of this hearing date.

The lack of notice caused confusion because I reside in _____, which is in a different time zone from Arizona, and I had no official written confirmation of the hearing time.
This failure to provide timely notice interfered with my ability to prepare for and attend the hearing and reflects a lack of adequate communication from the judge's chambers.

Conduct During the Courtroom Proceedings (_____)
Judge _____ began the proceeding with an openly hostile tone toward both parties. Throughout the hearing, she repeatedly raised her voice and instructed the parties to stop talking even when they were directly answering questions she had asked.
She demonstrated limited familiarity with the underlying facts of the case. Both parties were required to correct the judge multiple times regarding key details. When corrections were offered, she responded with visible frustration or anger.
A valid restraining order exists involving myself as the defendant and _____ as the plaintiff. Judge _____ stated that she had requested information about this order in advance, yet she appeared unaware of its key details during the hearing. Both parties had to correct her statements regarding the restraining order.
Based on these interactions, it appeared that the judge had not adequately reviewed the case materials and therefore was unable to make fully informed or accurate rulings.
Her conduct created an impression of partiality and raised concerns about her commitment to ensuring a fair and competent evaluation of matters involving the children at issue.

Concerns Regarding Judicial Ethics
The duty to maintain professionalism and dignity in the courtroom.
The requirement to perform judicial duties competently and with adequate preparation.
The requirement to treat litigants and witnesses with respect.
The requirement to ensure proper court administration and communication, including providing timely notice of hearings.
The obligation to act impartially and avoid conduct that creates the appearance of bias or hostility

CONFIDENTIAL

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

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

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