

State of Arizona
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Disposition of Complaint 25-591

Judge:

Complainant:

ORDER

The Complainant alleged a superior court commissioner failed to rule on motions and improperly closed an estate in a probate 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 Commission approved sending the judge a confidential advisory letter advising to adhere to procedures and policy when administratively closing an estate in order to comply with the law as required by Rule 1.1 of the Code. The complaint is therefore dismissed pursuant to Commission Rules 16(b) and 23(a).

Commission member Joseph C. Kreamer did not participate in the consideration of this matter.

Dated: June 9, 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 June 9, 2026.

JUDICIAL MISCONDUCT COMPLAINT

To:

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

Comp**Re:** Formal Complaint Against Superior Court Judge**Case:****25-591****Complainant:** Personal Representative

I. INTRODUCTION

I submit this formal complaint against **Judge** regarding her conduct in the above-captioned probate matter. Her actions demonstrate a **pattern of judicial mismanagement, procedural violations, and disregard for Arizona probate law**, resulting in the **unlawful closure of an estate, the refusal to issue a required final order, and the obstruction of my right to appellate review.**

This complaint is supported by the official minute entry closing the estate dated (attached as **Exhibit A**)

Minute entry

II. SUMMARY OF MISCONDUCT

Judge

1. **Closed the estate based solely on a filing by an heir**, who has no statutory authority to close an estate under A.R.S. 14-3931.
2. **Ignored my properly filed fraud motion**, never issuing any ruling.
3. **Closed the estate without a Personal Representative's Closing Statement**, violating A.R.S. 14-3931 and 14-3933.
4. **Issued an unsigned minute entry**, lacking Rule 54(b) or Rule 54(c) finality language required for appealability.
5. **Refused to correct the error**, ignoring two motions requesting a signed final order with Rule 54 language.
6. **Blocked appellate review**, resulting in the Arizona Court of Appeals dismissing the appeal for lack of jurisdiction.
7. **Failed to exercise required judicial duties**, creating a procedural deadlock and denying access to due process.

These actions constitute **judicial misconduct, dereliction of duty, and a systemic failure to follow Arizona probate law**, and they undermine public confidence in the judiciary.

III. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

A. The Minute Entry

The minute entry states the court granted:

“ _____ ”

Minute entry

This request was made by **an heir**, _____, who does not have authority to close an estate under Arizona law.

The minute entry further states:

“ _____ ”

Minute entry

This was done:

- Without a PR closing statement
- Without accounting approval
- Without statutory compliance
- Without a signed final order
- Without Rule 54(b) or 54(c) language

This is NOT a lawful closure of an estate.

B. No Final Order Issued

Despite multiple requests, Judge never signed a final order.
The closure exists only in a Docket Code minute entry, which is not appealable.

C. Two Motions Ignored

I filed two motions requesting:

- A signed order
- Rule 54(b)/(c) finality language
- Correction of jurisdictional defects

Judge ignored both filings.

No hearings were set.

No rulings were issued.

No acknowledgement was made.

This left the case in judicial limbo.

D. Court of Appeals Rejected Appeal

Because Judge refused to issue a final order:

- The Court of Appeals dismissed my appeal
- No appellate review is possible
- The estate is “ ” on paper but not in law
- My fraud motion was never ruled on
- The estate was closed prematurely and improperly
- Statutory rights were denied

This constitutes **obstruction of appellate rights**.

IV. STATUTORY AND PROCEDURAL VIOLATIONS

A. Violation of A.R.S. 14-3931

Only the Personal Representative may close an estate.

Judge ignored this statute and closed the estate based on an heir's filing.

B. Violation of A.R.S. 14-3933

The court must review the PR's final accounting and closing statement.

No such filing existed. No review occurred.

C. Violation of ARCAP 9 & Rule 54

A final, appealable order requires:

- A judge's signature
- Rule 54(b) or 54(c) language

The judge refused to issue both.

D. Failure to Rule (ARPP Rule 7)

Judges must rule on motions.

She refused to rule on:

- My fraud motion
- A Rule 60(c)(1)&(3) and Rule 17
- My (2) two Rule 54 correction motions

E. Denial of Due Process

By refusing to issue a final order, the judge denied:

- Access to appellate courts
- The right to challenge the closure
- The right to have fraud allegations adjudicated
- The Statutory Rights of a Personal Representative

V. PATTERN OF MISCONDUCT & ADMINISTRATIVE FAILURE

Judge conduct demonstrates:

- Lack of impartiality
- Failure to follow statutory probate requirements
- Failure to perform mandatory judicial functions
- Disregard for litigant filings
- Obstruction of appellate review

This is not a simple clerical oversight.
This is a systemic failure and misuse of judicial authority.

VI. RELIEF REQUESTED

I respectfully request that the Commission:

1. **Open a formal investigation** into Judge handling of
 2. **Review her failure to issue required orders**, sign judgments, or follow Rule 54.
 3. **Examine her improper acceptance of an heir's request to close an estate**, contrary to Arizona law.
 4. **Evaluate her refusal to rule on properly filed motions**, including the fraud motion.
 5. **Determine whether disciplinary action or remedial training is appropriate.**
 6. **Recommend procedural corrections**, including issuance of a proper final order.
-

VII. ATTACHMENTS

Exhibit (A)

Court of Appeals dismissal notice.

Copies of my motions requesting Rule 54 corrections (2 request).

Minute Entry Closing the Estate (

Copies of Motion Rule 60(c)(1)&(3) and Rule 17

Exhibit (B)

Copy of Motion for Fraud, Concealment, Failure Inventory, Falsification of Documents, Request for damages that went without a ruling from the court.

Exhibit (C)

Official Transcript Court Hearing

**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.**