

State of Arizona
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Disposition of Complaint 25-602

Judge:

Complainant:

ORDER

February 20, 2026

The Complainant alleged a superior court judge failed to follow the law in multiple ways including by issuing unsigned orders and allowing errors in court documents.

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).

Commission member Colleen E. Concannon did not participate in the consideration of this matter.

Copies of this order were distributed to all appropriate persons on February 20, 2026.

CONFIDENTIAL

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

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

2025-602

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 executive summary provides an overview of the judicial misconduct complaint against the Honorable _____ arising from dissolution proceedings in In re Marriage of _____ and _____ Case No. _____ in the _____ County _____ Court. The complaint identified an ongoing pattern of procedural violations, improper case management, and constitutional due process failures occurring between _____ and _____.

The complainant is a retired _____ veteran with _____ years of service and a 90% service-connected disability rating. At the outset of the proceedings, the complainant was serving on active duty and subsequently retired before entry of the decree.

While the complainant acknowledges the Commission's jurisdictional and procedural limitations, the conduct at issue is presented as especially serious because it reflects a deliberate disregard for mandatory legal requirements and includes conduct perceived as retaliatory. Due to financial constraints, the I proceeded pro se, studying the Arizona Rules of Family Law Procedure, seeking clarification from court staff on procedural obligations, and submitting filings in accordance with governing rules.

Alleged Violations: The misconduct includes violations of mandatory procedural requirements, the issuance of defective and unsigned orders, and infringements of fundamental state constitutional rights, with additional violations arising under federal law. Collectively, the conduct reflects 28 distinct state-level violations across multiple legal categories.

Supporting Documentation: The complete case file has been incorporated by reference for the Commission's review. Court transcripts have not yet been requested but may be obtained if necessary.

The complainant also requests that the Commission review this complaint with just "black letter of the law" enforceable. Judge _____ prior responses to other complaints previously submitted to the Commission.

Attachments: The complete complaint package includes an two pages from the AZCJC complaint form eight-page narrative, one Excel attachment.

-----END OF STATEMENT-----

FORMAL COMPLAINT AGAINST JUDGE

. (continued)

TO: Arizona Commission on Judicial Conduct
1501 W. Washington Street, Suite 229, Phoenix, AZ 85007
Phone: (602) 452-3200 | Email: judicialconduct@azcourts.gov

FROM:

Phone: | Email:

CASE: - *In re Marriage of*
COURT: County Court,
PERIOD:

THREE LEGALLY DEFECTIVE ORDERS IN MONTHS

Judge issued three orders denying my procedural challenges all three are legally defective under ARFLP Rule 78 and Arizona case law because they contain no judicial signature or e-Signature.

Date	Order	Fatal Defect	Status
	Motion for Reconsideration	(1) Prepared by " , JAA" (2) Completely unsigned	Legally Ineffective
	Motion to Set Aside	(1) Prepared by " , JAA" (2) Completely unsigned	Legally Ineffective
	Contempt	(1) Minute entry only (2) Completely unsigned	Legally Insufficient

The unsigned order contains Judge written admission:

"

"

Despite admitting the decree contained false statements and procedural defects, he denied my motion through an unsigned order. months later he enforced this defective decree through a contempt ruling issued only as an unsigned minute entry.

COMPLAINANT BACKGROUND

Compliant is a retired _____ veteran with _____ years of honorable service and a 90% service-connected disability rating. After studying the Arizona Rules of Family Law Procedure, Defendant represented himself pro se throughout these proceedings. Despite properly exercising his legal rights, Defendant was systematically subjected to retaliatory actions. I was never afforded my day in court on the merits of the underlying dissolution case.

I. JURISDICTIONAL STATEMENT

Filed pursuant to Article 6.1 of the Arizona Constitution and Arizona Supreme Court Rules 81–85.

II. CRITICAL FACTS

A. Case Dismissal Trigger (_____)

The case was dormant nine months. After I contacted the clerk, the Court dismissed the action for lack of prosecution on _____ .

B. The Defective Decree (_____)

_____ : While the case remained dismissed, the court lacked authority to enter orders other than ruling on the Motion to Reinstate, and I received no notice of a “Lodged” decree of dissolution,

_____ : Judge _____ reinstated case.

_____ : My Motion for Reconsideration was denied by a document prepared by a JAA and completely unsigned legally ineffective. Judicial authority cannot be delegated. *State v. Superior Court (Estelle)*, 192 Ariz. 129 (1998). “document has affixed to it in some form the name of the judge that evidences an *intention of authentication*”.

_____ : Judge _____ signed a decree containing six violations of ARFLP Rule 44.1:

1. False “default” language despite my Response being filed.
2. No Application for Default.
3. No Entry of Default.
4. No certificate of mailing; I received no notice.
5. No Form 6 submitted for the _____ spousal maintenance award.
6. Awarded unrequested relief (SBP).

C. Judge's Written Admission (_____)

My Motion to Set Aside (_____) identified these issues.

Critical admissions in this unsigned order:

- Decree "miss-states" facts
- "This is not a 'default' Decree"
- I had appeared and participated.
- My timeline was correct.

Complainant's request for an evidentiary hearing was denied. Judge _____ then conducted an evidentiary proceeding through the court's Judicial Administrative Assistant (JAA), entirely outside complainant's presence and without notice. The Court relied upon Petitioner's alleged 'mail log'—a document never properly admitted into evidence, never authenticated under oath, and never subjected to cross-examination or any form of adversarial testing. Complainant was denied any opportunity to examine this evidence, challenge its authenticity, or present contrary evidence. This ex parte evidentiary proceeding constitutes a violation of due process.

His reasoning: claimed Petitioner's document preparer's mail log showed service to me.

Problems:

- I never received anything
- Only "proof" was Petitioner's own mail log (not proper certificate of mailing USPS)
- Service shown to wrong address despite my _____ Change of Address filing
- Order improperly delegated fact-finding to JAA regarding service

D. Contempt Enforcement (_____)

: Contempt hearing regarding nonpayment spousal maintenance/arrearages.

What Happened:

1. At start of hearing, Judge stated to court reporter " _____ " referencing case and " _____ ," proceeded by " _____ " to discuss decree. (Legally incorrect; *Lehtinen v. Lehtinen*, 197 Ariz. 600 (App. 2000) holds validity is always a proper defense)
2. Judge engaged in conduct that appeared to abandon neutrality by questioning only one party and presenting the case on Petitioner's behalf. Petitioner offered no evidence presented no case
3. I submitted to court updated affidavit of financial information and testified about inability to pay:
 - Unemployed
 - 90% VA disability
 - Only income: VA disability compensation and Pension

4. Judge's response: " ..."
 5. Constitutional violation: Judge made no *Bearden v. Georgia* inquiry into willfulness versus inability to pay before threatening incarceration, 461 U.S. 660 (1983) requires this inquiry.
 6. He imposed _____ under threat of jail. I borrowed from family to avoid incarceration.
 7. He signed a QDRO without notice, opportunity to review, or hearing.
 8. Statement ending hearing: " _____ " I asked for clarification; Judge refused.
 9. No formal order issued only minute entry signed by Deputy Clerk _____. The contempt ruling was issued only as an unsigned minute entry, making it legally ineffective under Rule 78.
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III. PATTERN OF RETALIATION

Timeline Evidence:

cted Activity	Judge	Response
: Called clerk about deadlines → Case dismissed		: Accepted improper filings during dismissal, signed defective decree
: Filed Motion to Set Aside exposing violations→		: Acknowledged defects in unsigned order but denied relief
: Raised validity defense at contempt hearing→		Acted as advocate, threatened jail, warned " _____ "

Three-Phase Pattern:

Phase 1 (_____): Give Petitioner procedural advantages

- Accept filings during dismissal (no jurisdiction)
- No notice to me of notice of lodging final decree
- Deny my reconsideration in one day via JAA
- Sign defective decree

Phase 2 (_____): Deny legitimate challenges

- Acknowledge defects in writing
- Deny relief anyway through unsigned order

Phase 3 (_____): Escalate to coercion

- Refuse validity defense

**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.**