

State of Arizona
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Disposition of Complaint 25-626

Judge:

Complainant:

ORDER

March 3, 2026

The Complainant alleged a superior court judge was unfair and had inappropriate demeanor in a criminal 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).

Commission member Regina L. Nassen did not participate in the consideration of this matter.

Copies of this order were distributed to all appropriate persons on March 3, 2026.

2025-626

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.

The most recent misconduct by Judge _____ occurred on _____, during a session of Mental Health Court which occurred in the _____ County Court, _____. During this session Judge _____ displayed behavior which I found to be lacking the professionalism of a court judge. I also found it to be a display of his failure to remain fair and impartial.

The lack of professionalism was a result in his demeanor towards _____. He took an aggressive posture by holding his arms folded across his chest and scowled at her during her appearance. He insinuated she was lying on multiple occasions when he asked her, "_____. He did not provide an adequate explanation of the matter at hand and failed to allow her an adequate opportunity to provide an explanation. Rather than explain the situation and inquire into any mitigating circumstances and the potential outcome in a manner expected of a superior court judge, he belittled her and threatened her with incarceration for _____ hours. His behavior left _____ in tears. _____ was able to obtain documentation from the _____ Medical Center to absolve her matter within approximately one hour. This documentation was provided to her probation officer and the court within the approximate same time period.

The failure of Judge _____ to remain fair and impartial was reflected in his demeanor and threat of incarceration of _____ for _____ hours in comparison to his resolution of _____ and demeanor towards the two defendants which appeared before for _____. The defendants in the proceedings prior to _____ were both confined to the _____ County jail for 24 hours for their use of non-prescription drugs. One of the defendants had additional violations stemming back to _____ of _____ (as stated by Judge _____). During his proceedings with these two subjects, he made inquiry's as to their improper behaviors and made no threats, nor did he leave them emotionally upset.

For the information of this commission, I am currently employed as a _____ for the Arizona _____. I have served in _____ for more than _____ years. Of recent I have taken it upon myself to become more knowledgeable in the role of the various treatment courts with an emphasis on mental health. With this, I hardly find Judge _____ behavior to be acceptable to preside over the mental health court in _____ County, AZ.

There have been other instances of unprofessional behavior by Judge _____ during mental health and open court sessions. On one occasion he openly acknowledged he was aware I, _____ father, was employed as a _____ for the Arizona _____. This came while I was seated in the courtroom, in an _____ status, directly behind a subject which I had _____ Of concern is not that Judge _____ acknowledged of my position in _____ in open court, before other defendants. My concern is, he pointed out the familial relationship between myself and _____ while acknowledging my position in _____ before subjects who may attempt to take out their aggressions towards me on _____.