

State of Arizona  
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

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Disposition of Complaint 25-647

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Judge:

Complainant:

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**ORDER**

April 21, 2026

The Complainant alleged a superior court judge was biased because the judge previously worked for the prosecuting agency at the time a criminal defendant was charged whom the judge later sentenced.

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 Joseph C. Kreamer and Delia R. Neal did not participate in the consideration of this matter.

Copies of this order were distributed to all appropriate persons on April 21, 2026.

# **FORENSIC RECORDS & ACCOUNTING REQUEST REQUEST FOR FULL ADMINISTRATIVE TRANSPARENCY**

**Requestor:**

In fiduciary capacity related to

**Related Case:**

County Court  
Case No.

**Recipients (Service Requested):**

- Clerk of the Court, County (Records Division)
- Court Administration, County Court
- Court Finance / Accounting Department

## **I. GOOD-FAITH & NON-HARASSMENT NOTICE**

This request is submitted in good faith for the sole purpose of obtaining public and administrative records necessary to ensure accuracy, transparency, and integrity of court records. It is not intended to harass, intimidate, threaten, or interfere with any judicial, clerical, or administrative officer.

## **II. AUTHORITY FOR REQUEST**

This request is made pursuant to, inter alia:

- Arizona Public Records Law, A.R.S. §§ 39-121 through 39-128 (presumption of disclosure of public records)
- Arizona Constitution, Article 2, § 11 (Justice shall be administered openly)
- Arizona Rules of Criminal Procedure (record accuracy and access)
- Due Process Clauses of the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution
- Canon 1 and Canon 2 of the Arizona Code of Judicial Conduct (integrity,

- transparency, and public confidence)
- United States Supreme Court precedent recognizing a qualified right of access to judicial records, including *Nixon v. Warner Communications, Inc.*, 435 U.S. 589 (1978), and *Press-Enterprise Co. v. Superior Court*, 478 U.S. 1 (1986)

This request seeks administrative and financial records and does not seek deliberative judicial materials or privileged communications.

### **III. SCOPE OF FORENSIC RECORDS REQUESTED**

Please produce or make available for inspection copies of the following records relating to Case No. \_\_\_\_\_ :

#### **A. Case Record Systems & Logs**

- Complete CRIS (or equivalent internal case information system) entries
- Docket history, audit trails, and metadata
- Exhibits Unit intake, custody, transfer, and release logs
- Index of sealed, restricted, or administratively held filings

#### **B. Financial & Accounting Records**

- Case-specific accounting ledgers
- Any court-held trust, registry, or suspense accounts
- Receipts, disbursements, and internal transfers
- Vendor or contractor payments associated with the case

#### **C. Bonds & Surety Instruments**

- Appearance bonds
- Performance bonds
- Appeal bonds
- Payment or fiduciary bonds
- Any bond numbers, sureties, underwriting entities, and bond amounts

#### **D. Tax & Reporting Instruments**

- Any Forms 1099, W-9, or related reporting documents generated or received
- IRS reporting entries or references associated with the case

#### **E. Administrative & Personnel Interfaces**

- Records identifying administrative departments responsible for handling restricted filings
- Policies governing exhibits marked 'To Be Opened Only Upon Order of a Court Judge'

#### **IV. SEALED OR RESTRICTED MATERIALS**

If any requested records are withheld, please provide a written index identifying:

- The nature of the record
- The date created
- The statutory or rule-based authority for restriction
- Whether partial disclosure or redaction is available

This request does not seek disclosure of sealed judicial deliberations, but rather confirmation of administrative custody, authority, and existence of such materials.

#### **V. RESPONSE TIMEFRAME**

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 39-121.01(D), the undersigned respectfully requests acknowledgment of this request within ten (10) business days and production of responsive records within a reasonable time thereafter.

#### **VI. CERTIFICATION**

I certify that this request is made in good faith, for lawful purposes, and in furtherance of record accuracy, transparency, and public confidence in the judicial system.

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date:

# **JUDICIAL CONDUCT COMPLAINT**

## **ARIZONA COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

### **Complainant:**

In a fiduciary capacity related to the interests of

### **Respondent:**

Hon.

Judge of the                      Court of Arizona  
County                      Court

### **Related Criminal Case:**

County                      Court  
Case No.

## **I. GOOD-FAITH NOTICE**

This complaint is submitted in good faith for the sole purpose of requesting an ethics review and ensuring compliance with the Arizona Code of Judicial Conduct. It is not intended to harass, intimidate, threaten, or interfere with the lawful duties of any judicial officer or agency.

## **II. PURPOSE OF COMPLAINT**

This complaint seeks formal review and clarification regarding potential judicial ethics concerns arising from prior prosecutorial leadership involvement and subsequent judicial participation in the above-referenced criminal matter. The concern centers on impartiality, disclosure obligations, and the appearance of impropriety under the Arizona Code of Judicial Conduct.

## **III. BACKGROUND AND TIMELINE**

1.                                              was arrested and prosecuted in                      County, Arizona, under Case No.                      .
2. At the time of arrest, charging, and early prosecution,                      served in a

senior leadership role within the \_\_\_\_\_ County Attorney's Office, with supervisory and administrative authority over criminal prosecutions.

3. Although a line prosecutor handled courtroom proceedings, those actions occurred within the organizational and supervisory structure overseen by the prosecutorial leadership.

4. Privately retained defense counsel \_\_\_\_\_ advised the complainant that Judge \_\_\_\_\_ held supervisory authority and institutional knowledge over prosecutions during the relevant period.

5. Judge \_\_\_\_\_ was later appointed to the \_\_\_\_\_ Court of Arizona and presided over proceedings in the same matter, ultimately imposing a sentence of approximately ( ) years.

6. The public record does not reflect any disclosure, waiver, or on-the-record determination addressing prior prosecutorial leadership involvement in Case No. \_\_\_\_\_.

#### **IV. ETHICS CONCERNS PRESENTED**

The facts described raise the following ethical concerns warranting review:

A. Appearance of Impropriety — Whether a reasonable person could question impartiality where a judge previously held supervisory authority over the prosecuting office responsible for the case.

B. Disclosure Obligations — Whether disclosure was required regarding prior prosecutorial leadership or institutional involvement under Rule 2.11 of the Arizona Code of Judicial Conduct.

C. Institutional Participation — Whether supervisory authority constitutes substantial involvement necessitating disclosure or disqualification.

D. Public Confidence — Whether the absence of disclosure undermines confidence in the judiciary.

#### **V. RECORD HANDLING OBSERVATIONS**

The complainant further observed that certain filings in Case No. \_\_\_\_\_ were placed in restricted custody within the court's Exhibits Unit, marked 'to be

**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.**