

State of Arizona
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Disposition of Complaint 26-003

Judge:

Complainant:

ORDER

A superior court judge self-reported a delayed ruling 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 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 reminding the judge of the duty to issue rulings timely under Rules 1.1 and 2.5(A) of the Code of Judicial Conduct, along with Art. 2, § 11, and Art. 6, § 21 of the Arizona Constitution. The complaint is therefore dismissed pursuant to Commission Rules 16(b) and 23(a).

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.

Comp (Self-Report)

26-003

Arizona Commission on Judicial Conduct

Dear

I am writing to self-report that I erroneously submitted a Judicial Certification when I had a matter pending beyond the 60-day period. The matter is a Petition for Post-Conviction Relief. On , I held an oral argument and took the matter under advisement. Based on that date, the due date for my ruling was .

Last year, my that required

was serious, and I worked to manage my criminal calendar. With everything that was going on, I neglected ruling on the PCR was due. We don't take many matters under advisement on the criminal assignment, and while my clerk maintains a UA report, he did not share with me that the ruling was coming due. I did not realize my error until the Clerk's Office sent my division a notice in that the ruling was overdue. I promptly addressed the ruling and it has since been issued.

I recognize that it is not my clerk's responsibility to track my rulings that are under advisement. But he and I have spoken and he has agreed as a safeguard going forward to monitor the report more regularly and to advise me if I have rulings due. I have implemented my own safeguards to prevent a recurrence through a system of calendaring due dates directly into my work calendar with multiple reminders at six weeks, four weeks and two weeks. I have every confidence that I will not again find myself in this situation, and apologize for my oversight. Please advise if the Commission needs any further information.

I have also advised office of these circumstances.

Cordially,

Superior Court Judge