

State of Arizona
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Disposition of Complaint 26-120

Judge:

Complainant:

ORDER

May 28, 2026

The Complainant alleged a superior court commissioner failed to follow the law in a criminal case by issuing a lenient sentence and was biased.

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. In this instance, the Commission found no evidence of any violation.

The Commission received multiple complaints regarding the sentence issued by the judicial officer in an animal abuse/cruelty case. Additionally, an animal rights website urged individuals who disagreed with the decision to file complaints with the Commission. Due to the volume of complaints and the web criticism, the Commission has chosen to issue this explanatory statement.

The sentence issued by the commissioner was within the lawful sentencing range for the crime of which the defendant was convicted, a class 5 felony. The commissioner's sentence exceeded the recommended sentence requested by the State. The defendant has appealed his conviction, and it will be up to an appellate court to determine if the conviction/sentence in this matter should be affirmed or reversed.

The complainants generally expressed that they felt the sentence in the defendant's case was too lenient. The Commission is not a reviewing or appellate court. It is a regulatory body. The Commission has no power to reverse judicial decisions or to direct any court to do so.

After reviewing all relevant evidence available, the Commission concluded that there was no evidence of any Code violation. The complaint is therefore dismissed pursuant to Commission Rules 16(a) and 23(a).

Dated: May 28, 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 May 28, 2026.

From:**Sent:****To:** Commission on Judicial Conduct <CommissionJudicialCo@courts.az.gov>**Subject:** Beat to death with shovel will spend, only, days in jail!

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

[Allow sender](#) | [Block sender](#)

A man who beat his neighbor's to death with a shovel will spend, only, days in jail! Despite a jury finding guilty of, felony, animal, cruelty for the, brutal, killing of " ", the court imposed a sentence that many believe fails to reflect the severity of the crime! On " " County Court Commissioner", " , sentenced to, only, days in jail, and, " , years of probation, despite a jury finding him guilty of, felony, animal, cruelty after trial! The punishment falls, far, short of the consequences allowed under, Arizona, law for such a, brutal, crime. Although, only, one, felony, count was filed, struck the, terrified, dog, multiple, times with a shovel, leaving " ", so, gravely, injured that he had to be euthanized! Under, Arizona, law, this offense qualifies as "Class 5" felony, which carries a, potential, sentence of up to 2.5 years in prison, and, fines of up to \$150,000. " " urged prosecutors to pursue the, strongest, penalties available under the law. They, also, called for a, permanent, prohibition on " having contact with animals, along with a, court-ordered, psychological, evaluation, and, any, necessary, treatment before his release. Anything less fails to reflect the severity of this, deliberate, act of cruelty! " supporters of " " raised their voices for " " by signing our petition to " County Attorney", " , urging, full, prosecution, conviction, and, meaningful, consequences in this case.

What Happened to " ": On " , " " wandered into " yard, which was enclosed by a wall, but, not secured with a gate. What happened next was captured on, surveillance, video. The footage showed " , repeatedly, slamming a shovel downward before throwing " "'s body back over the wall as if he were garbage. A neighbor, later, informed " "'s family that the attack had been recorded. " " did not survive his injuries.

On _____, the " _____ Police Department" recommended, felony,
animal, cruelty, charges, and, on _____, a " _____ County" grand jury indicted
_____. Instead of attempting to call authorities, _____ chose, lethal, force!

This lax, meaningless, and, inappropriate, sentence is unacceptable! Justice was NOT
served!

AND FAMILY
_____, AZ

From:

Sent:

To: Commission on Judicial Conduct <CommissionJudicialCo@courts.az.gov>

Subject: Re: Beat to death with shovel will spend, only, days in jail!

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I appreciate your, quick, response, YES, my email serves as a complaint against Judge for assessing such a, very, light, and, meaningless, sentence which, in NO way, addresses the seriousness, and, violence, of the, felony, crime! Justice was not served, and, this man was not punished for a, merciless, crime!

, AZ

On at Commission on Judicial Conduct

<CommissionJudicialCo@courts.az.gov> wrote:

Is it your intention that this email serve as a complaint against Judge ?

If so, can you provide additional contact information for any communication the Commission may need to send to you. Otherwise, all communication will be sent via email.

Arizona Commission on Judicial Conduct
1501 W. Washington, Suite 229
Phoenix, AZ 85007
602-452-3200

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Sent:

To: Commission on Judicial Conduct <CommissionJudicialCo@courts.az.gov>

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