

State of Arizona
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Disposition of Complaint 26-133

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.

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent:

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

Subject: Felony Charges needed!

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

On _____, _____ County Court Commissioner _____ sentenced _____ to just _____ 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 a 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. We 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 _____ -of which I am ONE of them-raised their voices for _____ by signing our petition to _____ County Attorney _____, urging full prosecution, conviction, and meaningful consequences in this case. We are deeply grateful to everyone who took action to demand justice and stand up for animals who cannot speak for themselves.

Behavior like this MUST be considered a RED flag for more serious crimes against Humans-there are CLEAR links to Animal abuses and domestic violence, child abuse, homicides, serial killings and mass shooters!!!

This sentence was LAME & ABSOLUTELY NOT ADEQUATE- _____ FAILED EVERYONE IN THAT COUNTY & PUT EVERYONE AT RISK!!!!!!

I REJECT this LAME sentence for such a VILE, VIOLENT murder of an INNOCENT Animal-YOU have let a demented, sadistic, violent mentally ill creep to walk FREE!!!!!!!!

I am sure _____ will end up BACK in court and when he does-I HOPE that YOU implement the FULLEST EXTENT OF THE LAW-deranged, violent individuals like _____ ARE a THREAT to society as a whole and should NOT be allowed to walk freely!!!

That entire country and surrounding area is NOT safe with such a vile evil cretin!!!!!!

YOU FAILED-DON'T NEXT TIME!!!!!!

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent:

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

Subject: Re: Felony Charges needed!

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Yes, that is my intention to file a complaint. What information do you need?

Sent from my iPhone

> On , at , Commission on Judicial Conduct <CommissionJudicialCo@courts.az.gov>
wrote:

>

> Hello:

>

> Is it your intention that this email serve as a judicial conduct complaint against Judge ? If so, would you like to provide additional contact information?

>

> Please note that this agency does not have jurisdiction over attorneys. The decision on what class of felony to charge is solely within the purview of the County Attorney, not the Court. Please note that the Commission is not able to intervene in a pending matter or change a legal ruling. Only an appellate court can overturn a legal decision.

>

> Thank you.

>

> Arizona Commission on Judicial Conduct

> 1501 W. Washington, Suite 229

> Phoenix, AZ 85007

> 602-452-3200

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>

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