

State of Arizona
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Disposition of Complaint 26-144

Judge:

Complainant:

ORDER

A superior court judge self-reported a delayed ruling in a civil 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 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)

26-144

Attachments: [image004.png](#) [Order Granting Motion to Extend Joint Report Deadline](#) [rtf](#)
[image002.png](#)

From:
Sent: 1
To:
Subject: FW: Delayed ruling-Extension Requested

This sender is trusted.

Good morning, Please see below re my delayed ruling and please deem this my self-report. If additional information is needed for the self-report, please advise.

Best regards,

Hon.

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From:
Sent:
To:
Cc:
Subject: RE: Delayed ruling-Extension Requested

I approve the extension.

Best,

From:
Sent:
To:
Cc:
Subject: Delayed ruling-Extension Requested

On _____, I learned I have not complied with the 60-day rule in _____ and therefore submit a request for an extension until _____, for my ruling, as described below:

On _____, Third-Party Defendants _____ and _____ through counsel, electronically filed a Motion to Dismiss “_____.” A proposed Order was not submitted, and the filing did not indicate judicial action.

Prior to the filing of this _____, Motion, on _____, this Court issued an Order, ordering the parties to file their Joint Report and proposed Scheduling Order on or before _____.

On _____, Plaintiffs _____ and _____, through counsel, then electronically filed a Motion to Extend Deadlines. Plaintiffs’ counsel also properly lodged a proposed Order regarding extending the joint report filing deadline.

After the response time to the _____, motion had passed, on _____, my Judicial Administrative Assistant (“JAA”) forwarded the proposed Order to me for review and action. I decided the motion was moot and saw in the electronic file that a motion to dismiss was pending. I wrote instructions on the proposed order to my JAA, and stated:

“

”

[Copy retrieved by Court IT and attached hereto].

Thus, instead of preparing the In Chambers Order setting the hearing and addressing the extension motion, my JAA focused only on the first sentence, “ . . .” and erroneously deleted the Order from her electronic system. Hence, the hearing on the Motion to Dismiss and Motion to Extend Deadlines was not set.

I failed to track my JAA’s compliance with my written instructions. Moreover, a subsequent Motion for Status Conference, filed , was not accompanied by a proposed Order and, therefore, not set.

My failure to act in this case on the pending filings was brought to my attention by Third-Party Defendants’ counsel contacting Presiding Judge on . My judicial assistant has no recollection or notes of counsel calling our chambers inquiring regarding status and/or setting a hearing.

I immediately issued an In Chambers Order, apologized to the parties for the delay in that Order, and set oral argument on Defendant’s *Motion to Dismiss* for , .

My ruling on the Motion to Extend Deadlines was due on or before , with or without setting oral argument. The Motion to Dismiss, not properly filed nor accompanied by a proposed Order, however, would have nevertheless been timely decided if the hearing had been set. I anticipate being able to rule on the record at the , oral argument hearing or at the latest, on or before . Accordingly, I am requesting an extension to .

Regarding why I neglected to identify a pending motion and rule timely:

My Judicial Administrative Assistant, , and I have worked together for more than beginning before my , and afterwards at the Court. We work very well with each other, and she has a system wherein she tracks the “next event” for each filing by printing the filing and placing it in a hanging folder corresponding to the response date. As noted above, there was no next event date pursuant to my instructional notes. In the future, I will include a “next event” with instructions that do not otherwise have a due date.

Our system works well but as shown here, is not foolproof. This delay in ruling is inexcusable on my part and my judicial administrative assistant and I had previously implemented a quarterly review of pending matters to enhance review and action on my pending matters. Given this matter reflects a significant delay, I will also self-report this matter to the Judicial Conduct Commission.

I am available to answer any questions and/or submit information needed to consider this request.

With regret and apologies to the Court,

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4 **DEFENDANTS' ATTORNEY**

5 **SUPERIOR COURT OF ARIZONA**
6 **COUNTY**

Case No.

7 Plaintiff,
8 v.
9 husband and wife,
10 Defendants.
11 husband and wife,
12 v. Third-Party Plaintiffs,
13 Third-Party Defendant.
14 _____
15 Third-Party Plaintiffs,
16 v.
17
18 Third-Party Defendants.

**ORDER EXTENDING JOINT
REPORT FILING DEADLINE**

*(Modified by the Court as shown by
~~strikethroughs~~ and underline)*

Assigned: Hon.

19 Upon the Motion of counsel for _____ and _____, and good cause
20 appearing, now therefore:

21 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED extending the deadline for counsel to file their Joint Report
22 and proposed Scheduling Order to and including [the motion is mute re how much time
23 they're seeking]. There is MTD pending??? filing. NEEDS ico re pending, Jud action?,
24 and set for hearing. We can address this Motion for ext in same ICO.

25 DATE: _____.

26 X
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**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.**