

State of Arizona
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT
1501 W. Washington St., Suite 229
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

May 29, 2015

Press Release

JUDICIAL ETHICS CHARGES FILED AGAINST FLAGSTAFF JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

PHOENIX. The Commission on Judicial Conduct announced today that commission disciplinary counsel has filed formal ethics charges against Flagstaff Justice of the Peace Howard Grodman.

The statement of formal charges alleges that the judge violated a number of rules contained in the Arizona Code of Judicial Conduct and Article 6.1, Section 4, of the Arizona Constitution in connection with his successful reelection campaign in 2014.

Judge Grodman is represented by attorney Robert B. Van Wyck of the Scottsdale firm of Goldman & Zwillinger, PLLC. Meredith Vivona will serve as disciplinary counsel for the commission during the proceedings. Commission Member and Arizona Court of Appeals Judge Margaret H. Downie has been appointed to serve as the presiding member of the commission hearing panel that will hold a hearing on the formal charges. No date has been set for the formal hearing.

The commencement of formal proceedings against a judge does not mean that the charges have been proven; it only means that a commission investigative panel has found reasonable cause to file charges, which still must be proven by clear and convincing evidence in a formal hearing.

If the panel of commission members hearing the charges finds that the judge is guilty of judicial misconduct, it can impose a public reprimand or recommend the judge be censured, suspended without pay, or removed from office. No appeal exists from the imposition of a public reprimand. Absent an appeal of a censure by the judge or disciplinary counsel, a censure is final. A recommendation of a suspension without pay or removal from office is subject to review and approval by the Arizona Supreme Court. Charges that are not proven are dismissed.

The commission is an independent state agency composed of six judges, two attorneys, and three public members. Its office is located in the Arizona State Courts Building at the State Capitol complex in Phoenix. It is charged with investigating and resolving complaints that allege judicial misconduct by Arizona judges.

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