

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

November 3, 2016

# Press Release

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## **JUDICIAL ETHICS CHARGES FILED AGAINST DESERT RIDGE JUSTICE OF THE PEACE**

PHOENIX. The Arizona Commission on Judicial Conduct announced today that the commission's disciplinary counsel has filed formal ethics charges against Desert Ridge Justice of the Peace Clancy Jayne.

The statement of formal charges alleges that the judge violated a number of rules contained in the Arizona Code of Judicial Conduct and other applicable judicial conduct standards. A copy of the formal complaint and the judge's response to the formal charges can be obtained from Heather Murphy, Communications Director, Arizona Administrative Office of the Courts.

Judge Jayne filed a response to the formal complaint through his attorney, David P. Brooks. April Elliott will serve as disciplinary counsel for the commission during the proceedings. Commission Member George H. Foster, Judge, Maricopa County Superior Court, 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 the informal sanction of a public reprimand or recommend the judge be formally sanctioned by censure, suspension without pay, or removed from office. Public reprimands are not reviewed by the Arizona Supreme Court. Absent an appeal to the Supreme Court of a censure by the judge or disciplinary counsel, a censure is final. A recommendation of 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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