

State of Arizona
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Disposition of Complaint 06-055

Complainant:	William Rehkow	No. 1279200074A
Judge:	Robert Budoff	No. 1279200074B

ORDER

An initial review of the complaint filed in this matter reveals that the issues raised are groundless and unsupported.

The complainant alleges the court is biased because the opposing party and the judge attended the same state university. There is no evidence that they knew one another at any time, and there is no evidence of an ex parte contact. The sealing of a court record to protect a minor is a legal decision made by a court and outside the commission's jurisdiction.

Because the contents of the complaint do not support the claims, the complaint is dismissed pursuant to Rule 16(a).

Dated: February 28, 2006.

For the Commission

/s/ Keith Stott
Executive Director

Copies of this order were mailed to the complainant and the judge on February 28, 2006.

This order may not be used as a basis for disqualification of a judge.

CJC-06-055

February 15, 2006

State Of Arizona
Commission on Judicial Conduct
1501 W. Washington Street, Suite 229
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: Judge [REDACTED]

This is to inform that I have filed a complaint against a [REDACTED] Judge who has developed a personal bias towards me as a litigant in a family court case. I have forwarded the Presiding Judge of [REDACTED] a letter indicating a summary of this judges conduct and appearance of a bias, herein enclosed in this complaint.

Specifically, Judge [REDACTED] has for whatever reason developed a personal bias that would inhibit the judge's ability to remain impartial and deal fairly with the parties, the judge must recuse himself, pursuant to Advisory opinion 98-02 pg 2.

In addition, the situations described in Canon 3E generally covers instances where: (a) a judge has a personal bias or knowledge of disputed facts in a proceeding.

On [REDACTED] Judge [REDACTED] was presented with a filed pleading requesting his determination of the parties vacations for year [REDACTED] Judge [REDACTED] was presented with a [REDACTED] letter as Exhibit A in the pleading from a female litigant who indicated she was traveling to [REDACTED] For reasons of an apparent bias and a conflict of interest, this judge has extensive ties with the female litigant who is also from [REDACTED] the judge was able to determine from his personal knowledge of the litigant that this trip was a business trip and deemed as such.

The [REDACTED] letter does not even hint a word about a business trip and this judges knowledge and personal bias for whatever reason, determined it as a business trip.

There is not an IRS agent in the land that would determine this letter and the contents as a business trip, yet this [REDACTED] judge apparently has personal knowledge that the rest of us do not. It is assumed that judge [REDACTED] has an interest or knowledge of this one litigant and has shown an impartiality. Both the judge and the litigant have extensive ties to [REDACTED] with numerous family members still residing there.

If this judicial committee would like to assert that this judge's determination was just a lucky guess, it may do so. Complainant believes this determination resulted from an ex-parte communications or knowledge with the female litigant, [REDACTED]

In short, this [REDACTED] judge has given this female litigant whatever she wants and has never sanctioned her for anything.

Complainant also believes that the recent minute entry enclosed in the [REDACTED] letter shows a hostile and developing bias in that this judge actually listed in the [REDACTED] minute entry that because the Complainant believed the judge had lost control of the case as an elected official, he sealed the case one day after receiving the [REDACTED] pleading indicating this assertion. Notably in complainant's [REDACTED] motion, was notification that complainant was going to include the [REDACTED] Judge [REDACTED] in this case to oversee this judges conduct.

Judge [REDACTED] lists his reason for sealing the case as his effort in protecting my child from emotional abuse from reading the court transcripts and pleadings. My child is four years old does not drive and cannot read. Clearly this judge is not thinking out his rulings and is clearly showing his developing bias which is a reason to recuse a judge.

If Judge [REDACTED] was only trying to protect my child, would he not seal all cases in [REDACTED] family courts that are attempting to paint the other parent as mentally ill, abductors and molesters so that the children would not be emotionally harmed if they read these pleadings? Judge [REDACTED] reasoning is ridiculous and shows a personal bias.

Complainant concedes Arizona's family courts are a *MESS* and refers to the Arizona Supreme Court ordering the [REDACTED] to clean up the courts.

The test before the judiciary committee according to Advisory Opinion 98-02 is whether an objective, disinterested, fully informed observer would reasonably question the impartiality of the judge. Clearly, Judge [REDACTED] does not belong in family court.

Very truly yours,

[REDACTED]