

State of Arizona
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Disposition of Complaint 07-060

Complainant: No. 1304710689A

Judge: No. 1304710689B

ORDER

The commission reviewed the complaint filed in this matter and found no ethical misconduct on the part of the judge. The divorce decree reflects that the judge did consider the effects of the domestic violence on the children. The complainant's concerns about attorney fees, support, and property are legal matters that can only be addressed by an appellate court. The commission is not a court and cannot decide legal matters.

The complaint is dismissed pursuant to Rules 16(a) and 23(a).

Dated: June 11, 2007.

FOR THE COMMISSION

/s/ Keith Stott
Executive Director

Copies of this order were mailed
to the complainant and the judge
on June 11, 2007.

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

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Feb 14, 2007

Dear Judicial Committee,

As a battered woman & a survivor of domestic violence, seconds away from another statistic... murder by strangulation. Yes I am a SURVIVOR. God gave me a voice & I will be heard.

I am baffled that a family court judge [redacted] could make a statement in my initial court appearance that she "did not understand domestic violence." So at my expense of a [redacted] dollar retainer fee I was instructed by my attorney [redacted] I needed an expert witness. You have got to be kidding. After [redacted] in my own attorney fees I'm suppose to come up with an expert on D.V. She stated that my husband was tried & convicted of D.V. & D.V. didn't need to be brought up in family court. I am astounded at this remark as this is why I am getting divorced. I lived a life time of [redacted] yrs in a D.V. home. What about the importance of keeping D.V. victims & their children free from the abuser? Domestic violence does belong in family court. [redacted] needed to handle my divorce in a totally different manner. She should have vigorously enforced child support #1 (it took me 1yr & 6mon. to get designated child support all at the hands of my work.) Not the least, not the help from my [redacted] dollar attorney. It was me going to the child support office & filling out the paper work. As a woman of D.V. I should have been expedited through

the court system. Instead I was looked upon as an "educated woman" "earns a good living as a [redacted]" "had the financial means to pay for food, clothing, and utilities." I was making mortgage payments with no help from [redacted]. [redacted] has the nerve to condemn me as an educated woman. Feel sorry for the women who aren't. Pray for them as it's those women who are so distraught that go back to their abusers. (2) She should have enforced batterers compliance & protect me & my children's safety, with custody, visitation & injunctive orders. I have a question for [redacted].

Have you ever been at the hands of a man with his fingers wrapped around your trachea to the point you couldn't breathe to unconscious? With that man yelling "I'm going to kill you, you fucking bitch! Have you? On top of that in front of your 2 children? As he continued to beat me in front of my 2 children. I had his hand marks on my neck for over a month. I had to wake up every morning & see what that monster did to me. You want to know why I'm bitter? It's about my life & the lives of my children & to be safe. Free of this abuser once & for all. I'm suppose to pay for reunification counseling on my back because why? I really need an explanation to this? I did what? I just took it & took it. Year after year.

Please incorporate D.V. awareness training to Judge [redacted]. I am extremely concerned for myself & other women. How uncompassionate she is towards a woman whose life was almost taken in front of her [redacted] up, old child & continue to be slapped & hit in front of my [redacted] up old child. Offenders need to be held accountable for the crime they have committed. Strangulation in my husband's trial was assault - misdemeanor. He got a max sentence of 40 days jail on his terms, a work release program & probation. Again he's in control.

This has left a lifetime of emotional scars. It can be deeper & longer-lasting than physical abuse I received on my neck. You can hide a bruise but rebuilding a person's self-esteem is difficult. More victims need to come forward.

I want concrete action taken to improve the judicial system & for starters that is Judge [redacted] needs to be removed from her position in family court. I trusted the system & I have been so betrayed. Most important my children need to be protected from further harm. The mother "me" has created a "safe haven" for them. I had to walk away from this violent haven to turn back.

Every 9 sec a woman is beaten

Every 40 min. a child witnesses a D.V. incident

1 in 4 women will experience D.V. in their lifetime

A woman is murdered by her husband - boyfriend every 4 days in AZ.

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I lived & survived a very scary and dangerous event. I will never forget [redacted]

This was not my fault & I should never have to pay my husband's attorney fees. He should be paying mine for what he's done to me & the children. I don't need to suffer any longer. I was ordered to pay the majority of my husband's attorney fees. He paid [redacted] my husband was rewarded for what he did to me. I want my life back!!! You wonder why women stay? This is the question I get asked all the time. It was easier than why. Look at all the energy that's been focused on the D.V. case - Divorce - custody eval - psych eval, counsel - the AZ. Coalition against D.V.

50% of D.V. cases where men batter their wives they also abuse their children. My children were bruised & hit by their father. The children were interviewed by police but because no photos - nothing could be done. "they were" brain washed. Emotionally abusive - intimidation - coercion & threats. I show this man operated.

It was my children who were eye-witness to his abuse, my middle son intervened & saved my life from murder. We have experienced the violence behind closed doors. It takes 8 sec. for strangulation to unconscious.

I also take exception to [redacted] use of the term "anger management". Spousal abuse has little to do with stress or anger and everything to do with significant

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character flaws & psychopathology.

I should note that such men rarely beat anyone but their wives & girlfriends. If their aggression was rooted only in "anger" the violence would be directed at everyone. Domestic violence perpetrators are winning & often use treatment as a means of manipulating their victims back into a relationship. Why do you think my children are so spaced apart? Power & control. D.V. is not about the inability to control one's temper, it is about control over the victim.

The State, Police & Courts need to take D.V. very seriously. There is so much work & effort to have the perpetrator charged criminally. I am exhausted in all my efforts. The best apology I could get is letting me get on with my life!!!

Judge [redacted] inflicted emotional distress. She was cruel & intimidating. I have suffered extreme emotional upset. She was extreme & out raged beyond the bounds of acceptable conduct in a civilized society.

I suffered silently without anyone knowing it. [redacted] is always charming, likeable on the surface but he caused me fear & pain which could have lead to death.

I deserve to feel safe & supported.

I poured my energies into the criminal trial & now the civil trial. Along with divorce, custody evals, psych evals & trying to keep children well & maintain some type of "normal" life. [redacted] stated to me the children were fine & adjusting well. I didn't need to keep bringing them back. The children were sick to death of all this counseling. But I got looked at like "a bad mom" in all of this divorce. I'm here by myself. NO family here. all in [redacted] I need help!!!! I did the best I could trying to work full time & keep up with all the demands from attorneys - courts etc.

Grudgingly, I've had to make room in my life for the abuser. Because he has an obscene ability to grab everyones attention. I never knew when he will pop up. I could be at church - school - work - grocery store & he's there. It's not worth a response. Do I have the strength today? The courtroom was his attorney's show, his dance. He would glory in it & never confess a thing. Most people don't think their voices matter, yet when you actually stand up for something you believe in, the results can be phenomenal. I spoke before the [redacted] on the strangulation bill.

Wow! what an experience. My bill passed. How awesome is that? This time, I fought the right fight, & in a tragic story that has had few moments of triumph. But I can say I did something truly amazing!!

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Not only does the cycle of violence invade every aspect of a victim's life, but it also shapes the children who have witnessed it, perpetuating more violence & antisocial behaviors down the road. D.V. is a "real problem & crime". It links to child abuse. Substance abuse & other crimes with in & outside the family.

Addiction was also a huge problem in this marriage but his 4x in treatment & the fact he's a prescription drug addict is never mentioned in the divorce. He's a drug addict. He was fired at [redacted] for percoet diversion. (his drug of choice). Through his probation he was to go back to jail 50 more days. Did he go? NO!! Why? It's called his probation officer at least 10x.

"The jails are full". His drug addiction created a huge disturbance in the family. "Red flag" [redacted] denies & minimizes what he did to me. He is so charming "in charge" & sincere in his commitment to his family even when his behavior, if you knew it, would tell another story.

Physical violence at home hurts children & when they hear it. Substance abuse while it does not cause or excuse D.V. often co-occurs with it, & can certainly precipitate particular incidents. Substance abuse on the part of an abused partner can be a form of self medication.

For Judge [redacted] to condemn me about alienation I had to ensure the ongoing safety of me & the children. I was diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder - I have nightmares - sleep deprived - pre-occupations - anxiety

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wondering if he saw me would he get it right this time. Talk about anxiety!!! I feared this man.

It was stated that "D.V. didn't belong in her court" per [redacted]... AS poor old boy already paid a price. What about the price I paid & my children. Time off work - constant court dates - custody evals - psych evals. Oh boy this was right up my ally. I had nothing better to do. Why? Who caused all this?

- ① D.V. at every point in custody & visitation negotiations. Judge [redacted] You needed to consider the evidence. This is one of the many reasons I'm divorcing him. He showed my divorce attorney. Violence played a significant role in my divorce.
- ② He harassed to maintain control over me - false police reports - stalking - him being engaged with a new girl is the best thing that happened to me as he stayed focused on her.
- ③ my restraining order & the fact I don't have to speak to him (the abuser) having to communicate with him just provides excuse opportunities the batterer to continue his abuse.
- ④ [redacted] ignored the abuse. She privileged the father-child relationship despite the danger, conceiving that father estrangement is more traumatic to children

that paternal abuse & ground visitation of children to the abuser. I have to pay for the reunification counseling of my sons with Dad All on my back with another retainer fee of [redacted]. Excuse me!!! I'm the victim here. Yet Judge [redacted] must think I have a money tree out in the back yard. I'm not the criminal here.

[redacted]: maxed out a home equity of [redacted] to purchase a new car. 1 day prior to filing the divorce.

- ⑥ But I get stuck paying the interest on this loan. Because why???
- ⑦ In the divorce I get Lenox China. He never owned Lenox China in my life.
- ⑧ What happened to the cabin furniture? Nothing mentioned about that. [redacted] cleaned it out. But I owe him [redacted] for furniture. Excuse me???
- ⑨ I paid mortgage on the marital residence for one year [redacted] [redacted] is not responsible for any of it. I also made a cabin payment for 4 mon.
- ⑩ I had to move out of the house with 3 children. I lost [redacted] in the buying of a new house because [redacted] stated "He didn't give me permission to buy a new one." Excuse me. He is no longer controlling me!!!

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(10)

[redacted] has [redacted] Explorer ? blue book
[redacted] Soma [redacted]
[redacted] expect [redacted]

[redacted] ARE you
Kidding / I want the money for the expect
let [redacted] have it.

Let's worry about where my child support
was for the last year & lemon.

My attorney made more money on my
payroll for the last year than I
did take home pay.

The Quad valued @ [redacted] Give me a break.
[redacted] Quad blue book is [redacted]

Where on earth did these figures come from??

I explained that garage sale was what
the children put out. Toys - Videos, etc.

I get a green apple computer --- what?
There is no green apple computer.

Why do I have to pay [redacted] for varnishing
cabin. This is on my back again.

①

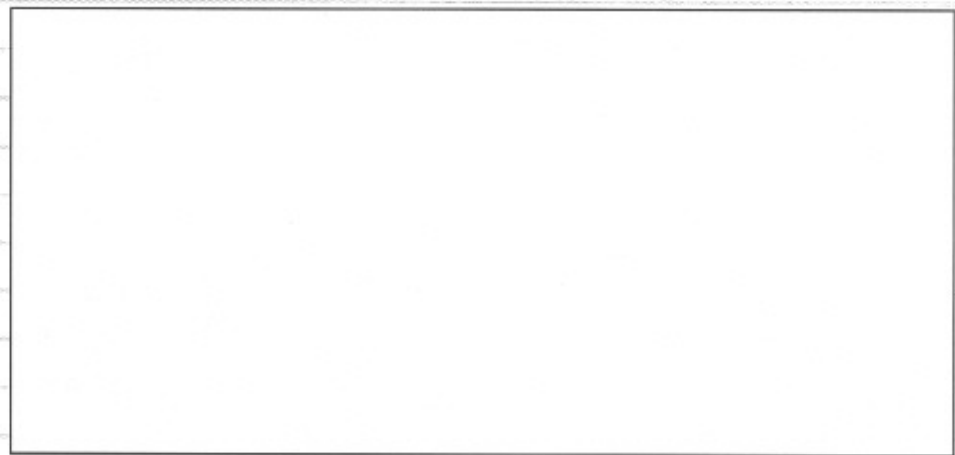
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It goes without saying that since the best interests of the children must always be the judges highest priority. We need to be safe.

I have felt so intimidated by the criminal justice system. After being victimized, & revictimized losing my job over a publication on D.V. & my husband working at the same place.

It all boils down to my children will end up paying the price. What a travesty.

Thank you in advance for reading my letter. This is so very, very important. I need someone's support in this.



If you can not help me, please forward this to someone who will make a difference.