

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

May 9, 2017

Press Release

JUDICIAL ETHICS CHARGES FILED AGAINST PIMA COUNTY 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 Pima County Justice of the Peace Paula Aboud. The statement of formal charges alleges that the judge violated a number of rules contained in the Arizona Code of Judicial Conduct for conduct that occurred during the January 2017 session of New Judge Orientation for limited jurisdiction judges. A copy of the formal charges and the judge's response to the formal charges can be obtained from Heather Murphy, Communications Director, Arizona Administrative Office of the Courts.

Judge Aboud filed a response to the formal charges through her attorney, John Tully. April Elliott will serve as disciplinary counsel for the commission during the proceedings. Judge Lawrence F. Winthrop, Arizona Court of Appeals, Division One, has been appointed as the hearing officer in this case. 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. The formal charges must be proven by clear and convincing evidence presented at the formal hearing.

If the hearing officer finds that the judge is guilty of judicial misconduct, he can impose the informal sanction of a public reprimand or recommend the judge be formally sanctioned by censure, suspension without pay, or removal 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 by clear and convincing evidence 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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