

SUPREME COURT OF ARIZONA

Inquiry concerning Judge	)	Supreme Court No. JC-10-001
)	
PATTY NOLAN	)	Commission No. 09-088 and 09-244
Justice of the Peace)	
Gila County)	
State of Arizona	)	ORDER ACCEPTING STIPULATED
	)	RESOLUTION AND CENSURE
Respondent	)	FILED 06/30/2010
_____)	

The Court, having reviewed the record of the formal proceedings in this case, hereby approves of the Stipulated Resolution entered into between the Respondent and the Commission and accepts the Commission’s Recommendation. Therefore, pursuant to Paragraph 12 of the Stipulated Resolution, and good cause appearing,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Respondent is censured for violating the Code of Judicial Conduct in accordance with the conditions set forth in the Recommendation and the Stipulated Resolution and that Respondent is enjoined from ever again functioning as a judicial officer in the State of Arizona.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that each party bear their respective fees and costs.

DATED this _____ day of June 2010.

REBECCA WHITE BERCH
Chief Justice

TO:
Mel McDonald, Counsel for Respondent
Jennifer Perkins, Disciplinary Counsel, Commission on Judicial Conduct
Barbara Wanlass, Clerk of the Commission on Judicial Conduct
Jode Ottman, West Publishing Company, Editorial Department, D3-40 #4467
Lexis-Nexis



Patricia R. Nolan
Justice of the Peace
Presiding Globe Magistrate

Deborah Mayo
Globe Magistrate

June 15, 2010

GLOBE REGIONAL JUSTICE COURT

Globe Magistrate Court
1400 East Ash Street
Globe, Arizona 85501
(928) 425-3231



Rebecca Baeza
Miami Magistrate
Judge Pro Tempore

Hon. Peter Cahill
Presiding Gila County Superior Court Judge

After prayerful consideration, and after discussions with my husband, family, and many friends, I have this day decided to retire from my position as Justice of the Peace and Globe Magistrate. My retirement will take effect July 30, 2010.

I have served the people of southern Gila County for the past thirty-one years. Eleven and a half of those years were spent as an elected Justice of the Peace. On three separate occasions, I have been rewarded by the people of this county with their support and their vote. I have built treasured memories of my service to this community, and have created friendships that will last through my lifetime.

I will sorely miss serving the people of Gila County as a judge. I have a genuine affection for the attorneys, officers, and citizens who have come to my court. We live in the greatest country in the world, and enjoy the blessings of a great judicial system. I am grateful that I have been a small part of this great system.

I will always be grateful for the citizens of this county who placed their trust in me. Although I have made mistakes in my years of service, I have tried to work hard and be worthy of the peoples trust. As I retire from public service, I will look back with great affection upon many of the good people who served with me. I wish for Gods blessings upon the interim appointee, and upon the successor who is voted into office in November to fill the vacancy created by my resignation.

Sincerely,

Patricia Roberts Nolan
Justice of the Peace
Presiding Globe Magistrate

Original copies to:

Hon. Robert Duber II,

Gila County Superior Court

Gila County Board of Supervisors

Mike Pastor, Chariman

Globe Mayor Fernando Shipley and Council

Hon. Dorothy Little, Presiding Justice of the Peace

Jennifer Perkins, Disciplinary Counsel (Commission on Judicial Conduct)

Commission on Judicial Conduct
1501 W. Washington St., Suite 229
Phoenix, Arizona 85007
Telephone: (602) 452-3200

STATE OF ARIZONA
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Inquiry concerning Judge)	
	)	Case No. 09-088 and 09-244
Patty Nolan)	
Justice of the Peace	)	TRANSMITTAL OF THE RECORD
Gila County	)	TO THE SUPREME COURT
State of Arizona)	
Respondent)	
)	

1. Notice of Filing with the Supreme Court
2. Notice of Institution of Formal Proceedings
3. Statement of Charges
4. Response to Statement of Charges
5. Stipulated Resolution
6. Recommendation
7. Resignation Letter

DATED this 17th day of June 2010.

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT



E. Keith Stott, Jr.
Executive Director

Commission on Judicial Conduct
1501 W. Washington St., Suite 229
Phoenix, Arizona 85007
Telephone: (602) 452-3200

FILED

JUN 17 2010

**ARIZONA COMMISSION ON
JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

**STATE OF ARIZONA
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

Inquiry concerning Judge	)	Commission No. 09-088 and 09-244
)	
PATTY NOLAN)	
Justice of the Peace)	
Gila County	)	NOTICE OF FILING WITH
State of Arizona	)	THE SUPREME COURT
Respondent)	
)	

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Commission's Recommendation in the above-entitled case, together with all other pertinent pleadings contained in the record, were filed on this date with the Clerk of the Arizona Supreme Court, 1501 W. Washington, Suite 402, Phoenix, Arizona 85007. Copies of the pleadings, along with this notice, were promptly served on Respondent.

The Commission accepted a stipulated resolution in this case in the best interest of the public and pursuant to guidance provided in previous cases in which the Commission was encouraged to pursue alternative resolutions. *In Re Braun*, 180 Ariz. 240, 242, 883 P.2d 996, 998 (1994); *In Re Garcia*, 180 Ariz. 294, 296, 884 P.2d 180, 182 (1994).

The Clerk of the Supreme Court is advised that the Respondent has waived the right in Rule 29(c) of the Rules of the Commission on Judicial Conduct to petition the Court to modify or reject the Commission's recommendations and the right to request oral argument. This matter, therefore, may be deemed submitted pursuant to Rule 29(e).

DATED this 17th day of June 2010.

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT



E. Keith Stott, Jr.
Executive Director

Copies of this notice were delivered and mailed
this 17th day of June 2010 to:

Mel McDonald
Attorney for Respondent
2901 North Central Avenue, Suite 800
Phoenix, AZ 85012

Jennifer M. Perkins
Disciplinary Counsel
Commission on Judicial Conduct
1501 W. Washington, Suite 229
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

By: *Barbara W. Warkless*
Clerk of the Commission

Commission on Judicial Conduct
1501 W. Washington St., Suite 229
Phoenix, Arizona 85007
Telephone: (602) 452-3200

FILED

MAR 18 2010

ARIZONA COMMISSION ON
JUDICIAL CONDUCT

STATE OF ARIZONA
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Inquiry concerning)	
	)	Case No. 09-088 and 09-244
JUDGE PATTY NOLAN)	
Justice of the Peace)	
Globe Regional Justice Court	)	NOTICE OF INSTITUTION OF
Gila County	)	FORMAL PROCEEDINGS
State of Arizona)	
)	
Respondent.)	

TO JUDGE PATTY NOLAN:

You are hereby notified that the Commission on Judicial Conduct has instituted formal proceedings against you in accordance with Rule 24(a) of the Rules of the Commission on Judicial Conduct ("Rule") to inquire into the charges specified in the attached Statement of Charges. You are also notified that a hearing will be held before the Commission to determine whether or not these charges constitute grounds for your censure, suspension, removal from office as a judge, or other appropriate discipline as provided in Article 6.1 § 4 of the Arizona Constitution.

You are further notified that:

1. Jennifer Perkins, Attorney at Law, will act as disciplinary counsel for the Commission in this matter, to gather and present evidence to a hearing panel on the charges, pursuant to Rule 27.
2. You have the right, pursuant to Rule 25(a), to file a written response to the charges made against you within 15 days after personal service of this notice upon you or within 20 days of the date this notice is mailed. An original signed copy of the response must be filed in the Commission's office by 5:00 p.m. on the required date.

3. Upon receipt of your response, or upon expiration of the time in which a response must be filed, the Commission will open and maintain a public file containing the Notice of Institution of Formal Proceedings, the Statement of Charges, and all subsequent pleadings filed with the Commission. This file and the formal hearing in this case shall be open to the public in accordance with Rule 9(a).

4. You have the right to be represented by counsel, to examine and cross-examine witnesses and to require the issuance of subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses or for the production of any evidentiary matters necessary for your defense.

5. During the pendency of these proceedings, you or the Commission may refer to or use prior cases, if any, pertaining to previous complaints or discipline for the purpose of determining the severity of the sanction, a pattern of misconduct, or exoneration.

Dated this 18th day of March 2010.

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT



E. Keith Stott, Jr.
Executive Director

Copies delivered by mail, e-mail,
or hand-delivery on March 18, 2010, to:

Mel McDonald
Attorney for Respondent
2901 North Central Avenue, Suite 800
Phoenix, AZ 85012

Jennifer M. Perkins
Disciplinary Counsel
Commission on Judicial Conduct

By: 
Clerk of the Commission

Jennifer M. Perkins
Disciplinary Counsel (Bar #023087)
Commission on Judicial Conduct
1501 W. Washington St., Suite 229
Phoenix, Arizona 85007
Telephone: (602) 452-3200

FILED

MAR 18 2010

ARIZONA COMMISSION ON
JUDICIAL CONDUCT

**STATE OF ARIZONA
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

Inquiry concerning)
)
Judge Patty Nolan) Case Nos. 09-088 and 09-244
Justice of the Peace)
Globe Regional Justice Court) **STATEMENT OF CHARGES**
Gila County)
State of Arizona)
Respondent.)

An investigative panel composed of members of the Commission on Judicial Conduct (Commission) has determined that there is reasonable cause to commence formal proceedings against Judge Patty Nolan (Respondent) for misconduct in office. This statement of charges sets forth the jurisdiction of the Commission and specifies the nature of the alleged misconduct.

JURISDICTION

1. The Commission has jurisdiction of this matter pursuant to Article 6.1, § 4 of the Arizona Constitution.
2. This Statement of Charges is filed pursuant to Rule 24(a) of the Rules of the Commission on Judicial Conduct (Commission Rules).

3. Respondent has served as a justice of the peace in Gila County since September 1998 and was serving in her capacity as a judge at all times relevant to the allegations contained herein.

4. As a judge, Respondent is and has been subject to all provisions of the Code of Judicial Conduct (Code) as set forth in Supreme Court Rule 81.

ALLEGATIONS COMMON TO ALL COUNTS

5. In July 2004, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) issued a Court Operational Review Evaluation of the Globe Regional Justice Court (2004 Review). The 2004 Review identified, among other problems, significant case processing delays.

6. In the summer and fall of 2007, Gila County Attorney Daisy Flores twice spoke with Respondent, informally alerting her of significant case processing delays.

7. In January 2008, Flores, Respondent, and Presiding Superior Court Judge Peter Cahill met to discuss the continuing case processing delays in Respondent's court.

8. After the January 2008 meeting, Judge Cahill contacted the AOC to request assistance in developing and reviewing a management plan with Respondent to address the ongoing delay problems.

9. Significant delays continued into 2009 and between January and February 2009 the county attorney's office filed motions to dismiss in 178 cases for violations of the time limits set forth in Rule 8.2, Arizona Rules of Criminal Procedure.

10. As of the beginning of 2009, Judge Nolan had thus received notice on four separate occasions over the course of almost five years that significant case processing delays persisted in her court yet she failed to resolve these problems.

11. Judge Cahill again contacted the AOC in 2009, which then conducted a limited on-site assessment in March and April 2009. (2009 Assessment)

12. On April 1, 2009, the Arizona Supreme Court issued Administrative Order 2009-35 giving administrative control and oversight of the Globe Regional Justice Court to Judge Cahill and reassigning Respondent to only those duties authorized by Judge Cahill. After a de facto suspension of two months, Judge Cahill reinstated Respondent to her judicial duties on May 29, 2009.

13. As the justice of the peace presiding over the Globe Regional Justice Court, Judge Nolan is ultimately responsible for the administrative oversight of her court, including the maintenance of court records and supervision of court staff.

COUNT I

FAILURE TO ISSUE WARRANTS AND JUDGMENTS ON A TIMELY BASIS.

14. Respondent has repeatedly failed to issue warrants and default judgments in a timely manner, a pattern that began as early as September 20, 2000. The 2004 Review found delays in the issuance of warrants in 75 percent of the sample examined.

15. Despite the 2004, 2007, and 2008 notices of ongoing and significant delays, Respondent repeatedly failed to promptly issue warrants and default judgments.

16. Based on the 2009 Assessment, the Commission identified eleven specific cases in which Respondent failed to promptly issue warrants or default judgments. Respondent issued the warrants or default judgments in these eleven cases between 50 and 1,782 days after the defendant's failure to appear or failure to comply date. *See Exhibit A*

17. Respondent's delay problem was not, however, limited to these eleven cases. As of March 12, 2009, the 2009 Assessment identified approximately 1,864 warrants and default judgments awaiting issuance, some dating back to 2003.

18. Rule 3.1(a) of the Arizona Rules of Criminal Procedure requires courts to "promptly issue" warrants upon a finding of probable cause or presentment of a complaint.

19. Respondent's actions in repeatedly failing to promptly issue warrants and default judgments violated the Arizona Constitution, which forbids "wilful misconduct in office, wilful and persistent failure to perform [judicial] duties, . . . or conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice that brings the judicial office into disrepute." Article 6.1, § 4. Respondent's actions also violated the Code. *See* Rule 1.2¹, ("A judge shall act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary and shall avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety."); Rule 2.2 ("A judge shall uphold and apply the law[.]"); Rule 2.5(A) ("A judge shall perform judicial and administrative duties competently, diligently, and promptly."); and Rule 2.13(A) ("A judge shall require court staff, court officials, and others subject to the judge's direction and control to act in a manner consistent with the judge's obligations under this code."). *See also* Code Rule 2.12(A), Comment 2 ("Public confidence in the judicial system depends on timely justice.").

¹ Citations will be to the 2009 Code provisions, which do not differ in material aspects with regard to the particular rules at issue in these cases.

COUNT II

FAILURE TO TIMELY SET HEARINGS OR TRIALS

20. Respondent has repeatedly failed to calendar hearings and trials on a timely basis. The 2004 Review, as well as the meetings with the county attorney in 2007 and 2008, alerted Respondent that the significant case processing delays in her court included delays in calendaring hearings and trials.

21. Despite multiple notices of ongoing and significant problems with calendaring delays, Respondent continued to significantly delay calendaring hearings and trials.

22. Based on the 2009 Assessment, the Commission identified seven specific cases in which Respondent failed to calendar a hearing or trial within a reasonable time once a defendant pled not guilty or a party requested a continuance. The parties in these seven cases waited between 110 and 251 days for a trial or hearing setting. The court ultimately dismissed two of the cases because of the significant delay in calendaring. *See Exhibit A.*

23. Altogether, the 2009 Assessment identified 80 cases involving significant delays and awaiting a hearing or trial date as of March 25, 2009. Sixty percent of the cases pending a trial or hearing on March 25, 2009, had been awaiting calendaring for at least two years.

24. Respondent's actions in repeatedly failing to calendar trials and hearings in a timely manner violated the Arizona Constitution, which forbids "wilful misconduct in office, wilful and persistent failure to perform [judicial] duties, . . . or conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice that brings the judicial office into disrepute." Article 6.1, § 4. Respondent's actions also violated the Code. *See Rule 1.2,* ("A judge shall act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the

judiciary and shall avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety.”); Rule 2.5(A) (“A judge shall perform judicial and administrative duties competently, diligently, and promptly.”); and Rule 2.13(A) (“A judge shall require court staff, court officials, and others subject to the judge's direction and control to act in a manner consistent with the judge's obligations under this code.”). *See also* Code Rule 2.12(A), Comment 2 (“Public confidence in the judicial system depends on timely justice.”)

COUNT III

FAILURE TO ISSUE RULINGS ON A TIMELY BASIS

25. Respondent has repeatedly failed to issue timely rulings on matters taken under advisement. Arizona law requires justices of the peace to issue rulings within 60 days of the date on which the matter was submitted to the court. *See* A.R.S. § 11-424.02(A).

26. In the 2004 Review, the AOC identified 86 cases awaiting a judicial decision since June 2001. Despite this notice of her failure to issue timely rulings, Respondent continued to delay ruling on matters taken under advisement.

27. The 2009 Assessment identified four specific cases in which Respondent failed to issue a ruling for more than 60 days. The parties in these four cases waited between 624 and 2,847 days for a ruling. *See* Exhibit A.

28. On June 16, 2009, shortly after returning to the bench from her two-month de facto suspension, Respondent held a bench trial and took the matter under advisement. Court staff warned Respondent of the approaching deadline twice, yet Respondent still failed to issue her ruling for 79 days, 19 days past the 60-day deadline.

29. By repeatedly failing to issue timely rulings, Respondent violated the Arizona Constitution, which forbids “wilful misconduct in office, wilful and persistent failure to perform [judicial] duties, . . . or conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice that brings the judicial office into disrepute.” Article 6.1, § 4. Respondent's actions also violated the Code. *See* Rule 1.2, (“A judge shall act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary and shall avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety.”); Rule 2.2 (“A judge shall uphold and apply the law[.]”); Rule 2.5(A) (“A judge shall perform judicial and administrative duties competently, diligently, and promptly.”); and Rule 2.13(A) (“A judge shall require court staff, court officials, and others subject to the judge's direction and control to act in a manner consistent with the judge's obligations under this code.”). *See also* Code Rule 2.12(A), Comment 2 (“Public confidence in the judicial system depends on timely justice.”); *In re Braun*, 180 Ariz. 240, 241, 883 P.2d 996, 997 (1994).

COUNT IV

REPEATEDLY FILING FALSE AFFIDAVITS

30. A.R.S. Sec. 11-424.02(A) provides that a justice of the peace shall not receive her salary unless she certifies that no cause remains pending and undetermined for sixty days after it has been submitted.

31. At all times between April 15, 2001, and January 12, 2010, Respondent had at least one matter awaiting a ruling beyond 60 days. In *State v. Weatherman*, CR-2000-000809, trial concluded on April 25, 2001, and Respondent took the case under advisement. Almost eight years later, on February 9, 2009, the State filed a motion to dismiss, which was granted

on March 31, 2009. In *State v. Domina*, CR-2006-000762, the pretrial conference was reset three times in the fall of 2006, but never held. On April 25, 2007, the Defendant filed a motion to dismiss based on excessive delay to which the State filed a response on June 12, 2007, stating it did not object to dismissal. Respondent then failed to issue the dismissal order until January 12, 2010.

32. Between 2001 and 2010, Respondent filed more than 100 inaccurate monthly salary affidavits and collected her paychecks for those months. Respondent did not ever certify that her delayed rulings were excused by the Chief Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court, as required by law. Every affidavit Respondent signed contained the explicit requirement that she obtain an excuse from the Chief Justice regarding any pending matters.

33. By signing a series of affidavits that inaccurately reflected no matters were pending and undetermined for 60 days, Respondent violated the Arizona Constitution, which forbids “wilful misconduct in office, wilful and persistent failure to perform [judicial] duties, . . . or conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice that brings the judicial office into disrepute.” Article 6.1, § 4. Respondent's actions also violated the Code. *See* Rule 1.2, (“A judge shall act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary and shall avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety.”); and Rule 2.2 (“A judge shall uphold and apply the law[.]”). *See also In re Weeks*, 134 Ariz. 521, 525, 658 P.2d 174, 178 (1983) (“The signing of a series of false affidavits by a judge brings the integrity of the entire judicial system into question and is prejudicial to the administration of justice.”).

COUNT V

FAILURE TO DILIGENTLY ADMINISTER THE COURT

34. Respondent failed to institute proper administrative controls to ensure significant case processing delays did not occur in her court.

35. Respondent received notice on multiple occasions and was given ample opportunities to alter her administrative oversight and procedures and remedy the problems with delay in her court. Despite these repeated notices and opportunities over a period of five years, Respondent failed to resolve the delay problems or to seek assistance in doing so.

36. Respondent's inaction violated the Arizona Constitution, which forbids "wilful misconduct in office, wilful and persistent failure to perform [judicial] duties, . . . or conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice that brings the judicial office into disrepute." Article 6.1, § 4. Respondent's actions also violated the Code. *See* Rule 1.2, ("A judge shall act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary and shall avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety."); Canon 2, Rule 2.2 ("A judge shall uphold and apply the law[.]"); Rule 2.5(A) ("A judge shall perform judicial and administrative duties competently, diligently, and promptly."); and Rule 2.12(A) ("A judge shall require court staff, court officials, and others subject to the judge's direction and control to act in a manner consistent with the judge's obligations under this code."); *see also* Rule 2.12(A), Comment 2 ("Public confidence in the judicial system depends on timely justice.").

REQUESTED RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Commission, upon conclusion of a hearing and a finding of good cause, may recommend to the Supreme Court that Respondent be publicly censured, suspended or removed from judicial office; that costs be assessed against Respondent pursuant to Commission Rule 18(e), and that the court grant such other relief as may be deemed appropriate.

Dated this 18th day of March 2010.

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer M. Perkins", is written over a solid horizontal line.

Jennifer M. Perkins
Disciplinary Counsel

Copies of this pleading mailed by certified mail on March 18, 2010, to:

Mel McDonald
Attorney for Respondent
2901 North Central Avenue, Suite 800
Phoenix, AZ 85012

EXHIBIT A

COUNT I
FAILURE TO ISSUE WARRANTS AND JUDGMENTS ON A TIMELY BASIS.

1. ***State v. Melchor, CR 2005-00542***: Defendant Michael Melchor failed to appear at pretrial conference on August 25, 2008, and a bench warrant was ordered. The warrant first issued on October 3, 2008, 40 days later. On January 16, 2009, there was no entry in ACJIS showing the Gila County Dispatch had received or entered the warrant, which was then re-issued on February 2, 2009, 161 days after the original failure to appear date.
2. ***State v. Wilson, CR 2003-000989***: Defendant Toey Wilson failed to regularly make payments consistent with his sentence, and then failed to appear at a review hearing on March 31, 2008, and a bench warrant was ordered. The warrant did not issue. On May 15, 2008, 45 days later, Wilson made a payment so another review date was set for June 15, 2008. Wilson failed to make that payment, and a bench warrant was ordered on June 15, 2008, and then again on July 15, 2008. The warrant issued seven days after the last review date, 37 days after the June 15 order, and 113 days after the court first ordered the issuance of a warrant for failure to comply.
3. ***State v. Tessay, TR 2003-010718***: Defendant Linus Robert Tessay was ordered to begin payments on his traffic fine on November 4, 2003. He never made any payments. On April 25, 2008, more than four years later, Tessay's case was assigned to collections. On November 5, 2008, the court sent Tessay an order to show cause and set a hearing for November 18, 2008. Tessay's mail was returned, unable to forward. Tessay failed to appear on November 18, 2008, failed to make payments, and a warrant was ordered. The warrant issued on February 2, 2009, 76 days after the court ordered the warrant and five years after Tessay's initial failure to comply.
4. ***State v. Page, TR 2005-007540***: Defendant Mary Elizabeth Page, failed to make her first agreed payment on April 22, 2006, and then filed a motion for extension of time for payments on June 26, 2006. The court did not rule on the motion. On January 9, 2008, the court issued an order to show cause or pay by January 31, 2008, which was returned. On January 31, 2008, the court ordered a bench warrant, which did not issue until November 3, 2008, 276 days after it was ordered and almost three years after the initial failure to pay.
5. ***State v. Ailak, TR 2008-001091***: Defendant Jonathan Ailak failed to appear at his pretrial conference on June 11, 2008, and a bench warrant was ordered. The warrant issued on August 8, 2008, 58 days later.
6. ***State v. Best, CR 2008-000280***: Defendant Vincent Shawn Best failed to appear at his pretrial conference on June 25, 2008, and a bench warrant was ordered. The warrant issued on August 19, 2008, 55 days later.
7. ***State v. Fleischaker, CR 2007-000923***: Defendant Jerry Fleischaker failed to appear at his initial appearance on October 2, 2007. On March 13, 2008, the court issued an order to appear on April 14, 2008, and Fleischaker failed to appear so a warrant was ordered. The

warrant issued on September 12, 2008, 151 days after it was ordered and 346 days after the original failure to appear date.

8. ***State v. Yazzie*, TR 2008-002288**: Defendant Garrett Yazzie failed to appear on July 22, 2008. The court did not issue the default judgment until 232 days later on March 11, 2009.
9. ***State v. Taylor*, TR 2008-003636**: Defendant Sarah Taylor failed to appear on October 7, 2008. The court did not issue the default judgment until 316 days later on August 19, 2009.
10. ***State v. Hinton*, TR 2008-004673**: Defendant Ethleena Hinton failed to appear on January 13, 2009. The court entered a civil sanction as to two counts on August 18, 2009, and entered default judgment as to remaining two counts on August 26, 2009. The court issued the default judgment 205 days after the failure to appear date.
11. ***State v. McDaniel*, TR 2009-000414**: Defendant Danny McDaniel failed to appear at his re-set initial appearance on January 20, 2009, and the court issued a default judgment 181 days later on July 20, 2009.

COUNT II FAILURE TO TIMELY SET HEARINGS OR TRIALS

1. ***State v. Lehnen*, TR 2008-3719**: Defendant Mark Alton Lehnen pled not responsible on September 22, 2008. On March 31, 2009, 171 days later, the court calendared a trial date for April 24, 2009.
2. ***State v. Greenwall*, TR 2008-2722**: Defendant Ryan Allen Greenwall pled not responsible on September 9, 2008. On March 31, 2009, 184 days later, the court calendared a hearing for May 11, 2009.
3. ***State v. Serb*, TR 2008-3074**: Defendant Jason E. Serb pled not responsible on August 28, 2008. On March 31, 2009, 203 days later, the court calendared a hearing for April 24, 2009.
4. ***State v. Smith*, TR 2008-898**: Defendant Robert Bradley Smith pled not responsible on April 14, 2008. On April 21, 2009, 362 days later, a pro tem judge dismissed the case due to the delay.
5. ***State v. O'Leary*, TR 2008-4374**: Defendant Timothy O'Leary pled not responsible on December 11, 2008. On March 31, 2009, 110 days later, the court set a hearing for April 24, 2009.
6. ***State v. Bowyer*, TR 2008-4032**: Defendant Patricia Ann Bowyer pled not responsible on October 29, 2008. On March 31, 2009, 153 days later, the court set a hearing for May 4, 2009.
7. ***State v. Anzaldva*, TR 2008-2397**: Defendant pled not responsible on July 22, 2008, and advised he would be gone in September and October, so hearing to be set after October. On

March 30, 2009, 251 days later, the court set a hearing for April 8, 2009, and then dismissed the case on April 8 due to the delay.

COUNT III
FAILURE TO ISSUE RULINGS ON A TIMELY BASIS

1. ***State v. Domina, CR 2006-000762:*** On August 17, 2006, Defendant Dawn Domina pled not guilty and the pretrial conference was set for October 18, 2006. The pretrial conference was re-set three times in 2006: October 18, November 15, and December 13. On April 25, 2007, Domina filed a motion to dismiss for time, and the State file its response on June 12, 2007, indicating no objection to a dismissal. The court dismissed the case on January 12, 2010, 941 days after the motion to dismiss was submitted.
2. ***State v. Burgett, CR 2003-000189:*** On March 17, 2003, Defendant Brandon Wayne Burgett pled not guilty, and on April 19, 2004, the court granted a motion to continue the trial, released the court appointed counsel, and appointed new counsel. On November 15, 2007, the state filed a motion to dismiss, which the court granted 624 days later on July 31, 2009.
3. ***State v. Weatherman, CR 2000-000809:*** On July 11, 2000, Defendant Jamie Weatherman pled not guilty and a pretrial conference was held September 20, 2000, although a trial date was not then set. On April 4, 2001, the court set a trial date and held trial on April 25, 2001, taking the matter under advisement. On February 9, 2009, the state filed a motion to dismiss due to the delay, which the court granted on March 31, 2009, more than seven years (2,847 days) after taking the matter under advisement.
4. ***State v. Lambert, TR 2001-000854:*** On March 3, 2001, Defendant Dameon Lambert pled not guilty. The trial was held October 23, 2001, and you took the case under advisement. On February 11, 2009, the state filed a motion to dismiss due to the delay, which you granted on March 31, 2009, more than seven years (2,668 days) after taking the matter under advisement.
5. ***State v. Garlinghouse, CR 2008-836:*** On June 16th, 2009, the court held a bench trial, and took the matter under advisement. On August 7 and again on August 14 court staff alerted Respondent that the case was pending a ruling and nearing the sixty day deadline. On September 1, Judge Cahill alerted Respondent to the past-due ruling, which was issued on September 3, 2009, 79 days after taking the matter under advisement.

FILED

APR 05 2010

ARIZONA COMMISSION ON
JUDICIAL CONDUCT

1 A. Melvin McDonald, Bar #002298
2 JONES, SKELTON & HOCHULI, P.L.C.
3 2901 North Central Avenue, Suite 800
4 Phoenix, Arizona 85012
5 Telephone: (602) 263-1747
6 Fax: (602) 200-7847
7 mcdonaldm@aol.com

8 **STATE OF ARIZONA**

9 **COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

10 Inquiry concerning

NO. 09-088 and 09-244

11 JUDGE PATTY NOLAN
12 Justice of the Peace
13 Globe Regional Justice Court
14 Gila County
15 State of Arizona,

**RESPONSE TO STATEMENT OF
CHARGES**

Respondent.

16 COMES NOW Judge Patty Nolan, by and through counsel undersigned, and
17 respectfully submits her response to the Commission on Judicial Conduct's Statement of
18 Charges, as follows:

JURISDICTION

19 1. Respondent Patty Nolan admits paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the
20 Jurisdictional claims.

ALLEGATIONS COMMON TO ALL COUNTS

21 2. Admits to allegations in paragraphs 5, 6, 7 and 8.
22 3. As to Paragraph 9, Respondent Judge is without sufficient
23 information to know the number of cases where the county attorney's office filed motions
24 to dismiss and therefore denies that claim.

25 4. As to Paragraph 10, Judge Nolan has had meetings with various
26 personnel including the County Attorney, the Superior Court, the Gila County Board of
27 Supervisors, and others over the previous four years. Because the allegation fails to
28 identify the specific meetings, Respondent judge denies the claim and requests strict proof

1 there. Respondent also denies the claim that “significant case processing delays persisted
2 in her court.”

3 5. As to Paragraph 11, Respondent believes that Judge Cahill contacted
4 the AOC in 2009, but since she was not a party to the conversation, denies the same.
5 Respondent does admit that on-site assessment was conducted in March and April of
6 2009. She is without sufficient information to determine whether the assessment was
7 “limited” and therefore denies the same.

8 6. As to Paragraph 12, Respondent judge admits that the Arizona
9 Supreme Court, on April 1, 2009, issued Administrative Order 2009-35 giving
10 administrative control and oversight of the Globe Regional Justice Court to Judge Cahill.
11 Respondent judge denies that she received a de factor suspension for four months. During
12 her time away from the court, she was reassigned to the Payson Justice Court and did
13 work in that court.

14 7. As to paragraph 13, Respondent admits that she is ultimately
15 responsible for administrative oversight of her court, including the maintenance of court
16 records and supervision of court staff. However, Respondent also believes that when the
17 court is inadequately staffed, has ineffective and outdated computer equipment, and a high
18 turnover rate, when employee replacement is thwarted because of county mandated
19 freezes, and when the County Attorney’s office has a staggering turnover that affects the
20 management of cases, that others share in that responsibility.

21 **COUNT I**

22 **FAILURE TO ISSUE WARRANTS AND JUDGMENTS ON A TIMELY BASIS**

23 8. As to Paragraph 14, Respondent admits that she has failed to issue
24 warrants and default judgments in a timely manner She denies that the failure is repeated
25 or deliberate.

26 9. As to paragraph 15, Respondent admits that there were delays in
27 processing warrants and judgments, as there are in probably all courts with the caseload of
28 this court. Respondent denies that the delays were willful, or were caused by

1 incompetency or from a lack of willingness to work to the best of her ability. Many of the
2 delays were caused by events beyond her control.

3 10. As to paragraph 16, Respondent admits that the Commission
4 identified eleven specific cases where Respondent failed to issue warrants or default
5 judgments. Respondent admits that the selected eleven cases did have delays between 50
6 and 1,782 days. Many of the delays were caused by events beyond her control.

7 11. As to paragraph 17, Respondent admits that the assessment involved
8 delays beyond the eleven cases. Without admitting or denying the accuracy of the
9 Assessment, Respondent admits that the assessment identified an estimated 1,864 cases
10 involving warrants and default judgments.

11 12. Respondent admits paragraph 18.

12 13. Respondent denies all allegations set forth in Paragraph 19. The cited
13 rules suggest misconduct and malfeasance. In truth, Judge Nolan is the hardest working
14 judge that has filled the position of Justice of the Peace in Globe in over two decades.
15 Any suggestion that the delays in issuing warrants or deciding issues are due to laziness,
16 incompetency, or insufficient commitment to her duties are untrue. While in fact delays
17 have existed, and prior complaints about the delays have been made, the fault does not
18 arise from a lack of competence, commitment, or effort. The reasons for the delays are
19 eightfold:

20 a. In 1999, the Board of Supervisors consolidated five separate
21 courts into two courts. Judge Nolan presides over BOTH the municipal court and the
22 justice court.

23 b. The caseloads filed in her court are staggering. There is not
24 enough time in a day to remain current on the staggering quantities of cases filed in her
25 court.

26 c. Pleas for help to the Board of Supervisors to assist her in
27 remaining current on the staggering demands of her court have been ignored. To make
28 matters worse, Hiring Freezes have complicated catching up to the case load.

1 d. Many of the delays were occasioned by procedures that made
2 it almost impossible to comply with the 30 day requirements. If a person cited for a traffic
3 citation failed to appear, the practice of the court was to send out a letter warning the
4 person to appear and pay the fine. The court was trying to collect revenues without
5 issuing warrants against otherwise responsible citizens.

6 e. Another enormous contributor to the delays were the turnover
7 in Judge Nolan's office. Because of low pay and exhaustive demands of the job, the judge
8 had an almost impossible task of keeping up with the caseload with new personnel.

9 f. Another factor contributing to the delay was the turnover in
10 the County Attorney's office. In a period of only a few years, nine separate prosecutor's
11 came and left her court.

12 g. Judge Nolan has regularly worked 60-70 hours/week,
13 including weekends and holidays, trying to process the case load with her court.
14 Witnesses called by the defense will affirm that when all others have left the courthouse,
15 she remains there working into the night.

16 h. The computer system was antiquated and disturbingly slow.

17 **COUNT II**

18 **FAILURE TO TIMELY SET HEARINGS OR TRIALS**

19 14. As to paragraph 20, Respondent denies that she has repeatedly failed
20 to calendar hearings and trials on a timely basis. Respondent admits that as part of the
21 2004 Review and the 2007 and 2008 meetings, the issue of case processing delays was
22 discussed including delays in "calendar (sic) hearings and trial."

23 15. As to paragraph 21, Respondent denies the allegations as set forth in
24 that paragraph.

25 16. As to paragraph 22, Respondent admits that the Commission
26 identified seven specific cases in which the Commission believed that the Respondent
27 failed to calendar a hearing or trial within what the Commission deemed to be a
28 reasonable time once the defendant had pled not guilty or a party requested a continuance.

1 The Respondent admits that the seven cases had a range between 110 and 251 days for a
2 trial or hearing setting. The Respondent admits that two of the cases were dismissed
3 because of delays.

4 17. As to paragraph 23, Respondent admits that the Assessment
5 identified 80 cases involving delays. Respondent has not broken down or calculated the
6 percentage of cases that had been awaiting calendaring for at least two years and therefore
7 denies the same.

8 18. As to paragraph 24, Respondent denies that allegation in its entirety
9 for the same reasons as set forth in the answer in Paragraph 18.

10 **COUNT III**

11 **FAILURE TO ISSUE RULINGS ON A TIMELY BASIS**

12 19. As to paragraph 25, Respondent denies that she has repeatedly failed
13 to issue timely rulings on matters taken under advisement. Respondent admits to the
14 remaining allegations in paragraph 25.

15 20. As to Paragraph 26, Respondent admits that the AOC identified 86
16 cases awaiting judicial decision. She does not recall the age of those 86 cases and
17 therefore denies that they went back to 2001. Respondent admits that since 2004, she has
18 delayed ruling on matters taken under advisement. She maintains that these delays were
19 not caused by incompetence, laziness, or lack of commitment but were caused by issues
20 set forth in Paragraph 18.

21 21. As to paragraph 27, Respondent admits that the 2009 Assessment
22 identified four cases in which Respondent failed to issue a ruling for more than 60 days.
23 Respondent admits that the four cases selected in the Assessment had ranges between 624
24 days and 2,847 days. In a court that handles the staggering caseload of Respondent's
25 court, Respondent believes that other courts similarly situated would face the same type of
26 delays.
27
28

1 a. In 1999, the Board of Supervisors consolidated five separate
2 courts into two courts. Judge Nolan presides over BOTH the municipal court and the
3 justice court.

4 b. The caseloads filed in her court are staggering. There is not
5 enough time in a day to remain current on the staggering quantities of cases filed in her
6 court.

7 c. Pleas for help to the Board of Supervisors to assist her in
8 remaining current on the staggering demands of her court have been ignored. To make
9 matters worse, Hiring Freezes have complicated catching up to the case load.

10 d. Many of the delays were occasioned by procedures that made
11 it almost impossible to comply with the 30 day requirements. If a person cited for a traffic
12 citation failed to appear, the practice of the court was to send out a letter warning the
13 person to appear and pay the fine. The court was trying to collect revenues without
14 issuing warrants against otherwise responsible citizens.

15 e. Another enormous contributor to the delays were the turnover
16 in Judge Nolan's office. Because of low pay and exhaustive demands of the job, the judge
17 had an almost impossible task of keeping up with the caseload with new personnel.

18 f. Another factor contributing to the delay was the turnover in
19 the County Attorney's office. In a period of only a few years, nine separate prosecutor's
20 came and left her court.

21 g. Judge Nolan has regularly worked 60-70 hours/week,
22 including weekends and holidays, trying to process the case load with her court.
23 Witnesses called by the defense will affirm that when all others have left the courthouse,
24 she remains there working into the night.

25 h. The computer system was antiquated and disturbingly slow.

26 i. There have been personal problems relating to the care and
27 death of Respondent's mother.

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RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 5th day of April, 2010.

JONES, SKELTON & HOCHULI, P.L.C.

By A. Melvin McDonald
A. Melvin McDonald
2901 North Central Avenue, Suite 800
Phoenix, Arizona 85012
Attorneys for Judge Patty Nolan

ORIGINAL hand-delivered this 5th day
of April, to:

Commission on Judicial Conduct
1501 W. Washington, Suite 229
Phoenix, AZ 85007

COPY mailed to:

Jennifer M. Perkins
Disciplinary Counsel
Commission on Judicial Conduct
1501 W. Washington, Suite 229
Phoenix, AZ 85007

FILED

JUN 15 2010

**ARIZONA COMMISSION ON
JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

Jennifer M. Perkins
Disciplinary Counsel (Bar #023087)
Commission on Judicial Conduct
1501 W. Washington St., Suite 229
Phoenix, Arizona 85007
Telephone: (602) 452-3200

**STATE OF ARIZONA
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

Inquiry concerning)	
)	
Judge Patty Nolan	)	Case Nos. 09-088 and 09-244
Justice of the Peace)	
Globe Regional Justice Court	)	STIPULATED RESOLUTION
Gila County)	
State of Arizona)	
Respondent.)	

COME NOW Judge Patty Nolan, Respondent, through her attorney, A. Melvin McDonald, and Jennifer M. Perkins, Disciplinary Counsel for the Commission on Judicial Conduct ("Commission"), and hereby submit the following proposed resolution of this case pursuant to Rule 30 of the Commission Rules.

JURISDICTION

1. The Commission has jurisdiction over these matters pursuant to Article 6.1 of the Arizona Constitution.
2. Respondent has served as a justice of the peace in Gila County since 1998 and was serving as a judge at all times relevant to the allegations contained herein.
3. As a judge, Respondent is and has been subject to the Code of Judicial Conduct ("Code") as set forth in Supreme Court Rule 81.

BACKGROUND

4. On March 18, 2010, Disciplinary Counsel filed a formal Statement of Charges ("Statement") against Respondent after a duly appointed investigative panel found reasonable cause to commence formal proceedings. The Statement is hereby incorporated into this stipulated resolution in its entirety.

5. On April 5, 2010, Respondent filed a Response to the Statement. The Response is hereby incorporated into this stipulated resolution in its entirety.

UNDISPUTED FACTS SUPPORTING COMMISSION ACTION

6. Judge Nolan agrees that on numerous occasions she failed to issue warrants and judgments in a timely manner as required by law.

7. Judge Nolan agrees that on other occasions she failed to set timely hearings or trials causing some cases to be later dismissed.

8. Judge Nolan further agrees that, on some occasions, she failed to issue rulings within 60 days as required by A.R.S. § 11-424.02(A). Cases were dismissed solely because of these delays in deciding cases.

9. On at least one occasion, she submitted a declaration indicating no cases were under advisement when one or more cases were under advisement in violation of A.R.S. § 11-424.02(A).

MUTUAL CONSIDERATION

10. Respondent admits to the conduct in paragraphs 6 through 9. Respondent further admits that her conduct violated the Code.

11. The parties agree that resolving this matter by stipulation is in their mutual best interests and in the best interests of the judicial system.

AGREED UPON SANCTION

12. Respondent acknowledges that her misconduct warrants a formal sanction. As part of this sanction, Respondent agrees to resign from her position as a justice of the peace effective July 30, 2010. In addition, the parties agree that an appropriate sanction, in light of her resignation, is a written censure. Respondent agrees not to run for or accept appointment to any position as a judge or judicial officer at any time in the future.

13. Disciplinary Counsel acknowledges Respondent's acceptance of responsibility for her misconduct, her cooperation with the Commission, and her agreement to resign.

OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS

14. This agreement, if accepted by the hearing panel, fully resolves all issues raised in the Statement of Charges and fully resolves any complaints against Respondent, whether pending or not, that arise out of or relate to the facts contained in the Statement of Charges and Response. This agreement may be used as evidence in later proceedings in accordance with the Commission's Rules. If the hearing panel does not accept this agreement as a full resolution, the matter will be set for hearing without any use of this agreement.

15. Both parties waive their right to appeal the charges at issue in this matter, including the appeal procedures set out in Commission Rule 29.

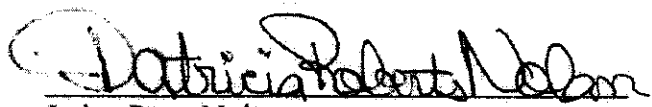
16. Both parties agree not to make any statements to the press that are contrary to the terms of this agreement.

17. Both parties will pay their own costs and attorneys' fees associated with this case.

18. Respondent understands the terms and conditions of this agreement, has reviewed these terms with her legal counsel, and fully agrees with its terms.


19. This agreement constitutes the complete understanding between the parties.

SUBMITTED this 15 day of June, 2010



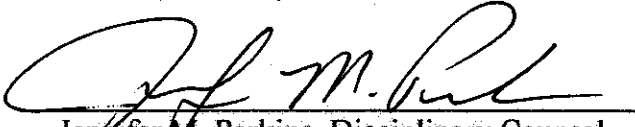
Judge Patty Nolan
Respondent

June 15, 2010
Date Signed



A Melvin McDonald
Attorney for Respondent

June 15, 2010
Date Signed



Jennifer M. Perkins, Disciplinary Counsel
Commission on Judicial Conduct

June 15, 2010
Date Signed

Commission on Judicial Conduct
1501 W. Washington, Suite 229
Phoenix, AZ 85007-3327
602-452-3200

FILED
JUN 16 2010
ARIZONA COMMISSION ON
JUDICIAL CONDUCT

STATE OF ARIZONA
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT


Inquiry concerning Judge	)	Case Nos. 09-088 and 09-244
)	
PATTY NOLAN)	
Justice of the Peace	)	ACCEPTANCE OF STIPULATED
Gila County	)	RESOLUTION AND ORDER
State of Arizona)	
Respondent)	
)	

The duly appointed hearing panel of the Commission on Judicial Conduct in the above-entitled case hereby accepts the Stipulated Resolution signed by the Respondent for the following reasons: The issues set forth in the Statement of Charges have been adequately resolved; the Respondent has resigned and promised to never again serve in any judicial capacity within the State of Arizona; and the prompt and expeditious resolution of this case is in the best interests of the public and the judiciary. Therefore, pursuant to Rule 30,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the executive director of the Commission shall promptly prepare and transmit the Commission's Recommendation, along with the official record of these proceedings, to the Supreme Court as required by Rule 29.

DATED this 16th day of June 2010.

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT


Hon. Louis Frank Dominguez
Presiding Member of the Hearing Panel

Copies of this pleading were delivered via fax
and mail this 17th day of June 2010 to:

A. Melvin McDonald
Counsel for the Respondent
2901 N. Central Avenue, Suite 800
Phoenix, AZ 85012

Jennifer M. Perkins
Commission on Judicial Conduct
1501 W. Washington Street, Suite 229
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

By: Barbara Warless
Clerk of the Commission

Arizona Commission on Judicial Conduct
1501 West Washington Street, Suite 229
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Telephone: (602) 452-3200
Facsimile: (602) 452-3201

FILED

JUN 16 2010

ARIZONA COMMISSION ON
JUDICIAL CONDUCT

STATE OF ARIZONA
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Inquiry concerning Judge)	
	)	Supreme Court No. JC-10-001
PATTY NOLAN)	
Justice of the Peace	)	Commission Case Nos. 09-088 and 09-244
Gila County)	
State of Arizona	)	RECOMMENDATION
)	
Respondent)	

On March 18, 2010, the Commission on Judicial Conduct (“Commission”) filed a Statement of Charges against Justice of the Peace Patty Nolan (“Respondent”) following a finding of reasonable cause by a three-member investigative panel assigned to oversee the investigation in this case. Simultaneously, the Commission chairperson appointed an eight-member hearing panel to hear and take evidence in the case and designated the undersigned as the presiding member of the panel. On April 5, 2010, counsel for Respondent filed a Response to the Charges.

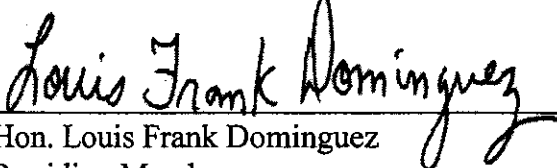
Counsel for Respondent and Disciplinary Counsel subsequently submitted a Stipulated Resolution (“Resolution”) to the hearing panel in which Respondent agreed to accept a public censure for misconduct in office, to resign from her position as a justice of the peace, and to not run for or accept appointment to any position as a judge or judicial officer at any time in the future. The hearing panel unanimously accepted the Resolution and the Respondent submitted the attached letter of resignation on June 15, 2010, with an effective date of July 30, 2010. As part of the Resolution,

Resolution, the Respondent waived her right to appeal and all other procedural rights set forth in Rule 29 of the Rules of the Commission on Judicial Conduct.

All of the conditions in the Resolution having been met, the hearing panel now recommends to the Arizona Supreme Court that the Respondent be censured for misconduct in office and that she not be permitted to run for or accept appointment to any position as a judge or judicial officer at any time in the future.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 16th day of June 2010.

FOR THE HEARING PANEL


Hon. Louis Frank Dominguez
Presiding Member

Copies of this pleading were delivered and mailed this 16th day of June 2010 to:

Mel McDonald
Counsel for Respondent
2901 North Central Avenue, Suite 800
Phoenix, AZ 85012

Jennifer Perkins
Disciplinary Counsel
Commission on Judicial Conduct
1501 W. Washington Street, Suite 229
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

By: 
Clerk of the Commission



Patricia R. Nolan
Justice of the Peace
Presiding Globe Magistrate

Deborah Mayo
Globe Magistrate

June 15, 2010

GLOBE REGIONAL JUSTICE COURT

Globe Magistrate Court
1400 East Ash Street
Globe, Arizona 85501
(928) 425-3231

FILED

JUN 16 2010

ARIZONA COMMISSION ON
JUDICIAL CONDUCT



Rebecca Baeza
Miami Magistrate
Judge Pro Tempore

Hon. Peter Cahill
Presiding Gila County Superior Court Judge

After prayerful consideration, and after discussions with my husband, family, and many friends, I have this day decided to retire from my position as Justice of the Peace and Globe Magistrate. My retirement will take effect July 30, 2010.

I have served the people of southern Gila County for the past thirty-one years. Eleven and a half of those years were spent as an elected Justice of the Peace. On three separate occasions, I have been rewarded by the people of this county with their support and their vote. I have built treasured memories of my service to this community, and have created friendships that will last through my lifetime.

I will sorely miss serving the people of Gila County as a judge. I have a genuine affection for the attorneys, officers, and citizens who have come to my court. We live in the greatest country in the world, and enjoy the blessings of a great judicial system. I am grateful that I have been a small part of this great system.

I will always be grateful for the citizens of this county who placed their trust in me. Although I have made mistakes in my years of service, I have tried to work hard and be worthy of the peoples trust. As I retire from public service, I will look back with great affection upon many of the good people who served with me. I wish for Gods blessings upon the interim appointee, and upon the successor who is voted into office in November to fill the vacancy created by my resignation.

Sincerely,

Patricia Roberts Nolan
Justice of the Peace
Presiding Globe Magistrate

Original copies to:

Hon. Robert Duber II,

Gila County Superior Court

Gila County Board of Supervisors

Mike Pastor, Charlman

Globe Mayor Fernando Shipley and Council

Hon. Dorothy Little, Presiding Justice of the Peace

Jennifer Perkins, Disciplinary Counsel (Commission on Judicial Conduct)