

State of Arizona
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Disposition of Complaint 10-323

Complainant: No. 0308110270A

Judge: No. 0308110270B

ORDER

After reading Advisory Opinion 10-02, a superior court judge discovered she violated the Code of Judicial Conduct when she used photos of herself in the courtroom during her campaign for re-election. She voluntarily reported the conduct and apologized for violating the rule. The commission concluded the violation was unintentional and decided to dismiss the complaint with an advisory comment reminding the judge of her obligation to comply with Rule 4.1(A)(8). The complaint is dismissed pursuant to Rules 16(a) and 23(a).

Dated: March 18, 2011

FOR THE COMMISSION

/s/ Louis Dominguez

Louis Frank Dominguez
Commission Chair

Copies of this order were mailed to the complainant and the judge on March 18, 2011

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

Wanlass, Barbara

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

Dear Mr. Stott,

This is to self-report a violation of Rule 4.1 (A)(8). I recently received the newly issued Advisory Opinion 10-02 and realized that I have violated the above Rule. This year I ran for re-election as Judge and it was a contested election. I used photos of myself in the courtroom and in chambers for my brochure/advertisements. I am embarrassed by the oversight of Rule 4.1 . I remained steadfast in my election to run a clean, transparent and dignified campaign that would represent the best of the judicial system. I am disappointed in myself but want the Commission to know that I did not knowingly violate the rule. I went through the Rules and past opinions prior to beginning my re-election campaign to ensure I was in full compliance with each aspect of the Rules for Judicial Conduct. I recognize that I failed to give a proper application of Rule 4.1 to the photos I used in my campaign.

Following certain court hearings (primarily adoption, guardianships, change of name etc) as well as during weddings, I allow picture taking with family, friends, as well as with me, either on the bench or standing next to participants while wearing my robe. Therefore, the idea of pictures of me in these same settings for my campaign did not set off any alarm. I do not offer this to minimize my responsibility or respect for the Rule, I simply want to underscore my violation was not intentional but was due to a failure to properly apply the Rule as it was intended.

Having read the new opinion, I believe that the right thing to do is to promptly report my violation. I regret my actions and regret the burden I have now placed on the commission to review this matter. I am so sorry for the reflection this has on the judicial system and judges running for election. I am grateful for the opinion and accept full responsibility for my actions.

I am happy to provide any additional information you may need.

Respectfully,