

State of Arizona
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Disposition of Complaint 19-384

Judge:

Complainant:

ORDER

A superior court judge self-reported improper fund-raising activity.

The role of the Commission on Judicial Conduct is to impartially determine whether a judicial officer has engaged in conduct that violates the Arizona Code of Judicial Conduct or Article 6.1 of the Arizona Constitution. There must be clear and convincing evidence of such a violation in order for the Commission to take disciplinary action against a judicial officer.

The Commission reviewed all relevant available information and concluded there was not clear and convincing evidence of ethical misconduct in this matter. The Commission approved sending the judge an advisory letter reminding her of the fund-raising prohibitions under Rule 3.7(A) of the Code. The complaint is therefore dismissed pursuant to Commission Rules 16(a) and 23(a).

Commission member Louis Frank Dominguez did not participate in the consideration of this matter.

Dated: June 10, 2020

FOR THE COMMISSION

/s/ Christopher P. Staring
Hon. Christopher P. Staring
Commission Vice-chair

Copies of this order were distributed to all appropriate persons on June 10, 2020.

From:
Sent:
To:
Cc:
Subject: self report

Dear _____,
I imagine you get tired of hearing from _____ judges and their stumbling attempts at compliance with the judicial conduct rules. Once again, I am informed by _____ that I have stumbled.

_____ approached me with the idea of a _____ and _____, and I told them I thought it would be a great idea. _____ with the _____ reserved a space, and asked me if I would notify _____. She sent me the following email which she sent to the _____:

*Hey _____,
We are having a _____ and _____ on _____
_____ at the _____ of _____
_____. Judge _____ is inviting the _____, current and
retired, and I agreed to reach out to _____ . If I have missed someone,
please pass along the word. Also, staff and children are welcome.*

*_____ and there will be _____ . If you
would like to donate or be a sponsor please contact me or Judge _____ .
The date is firm. When we finalize the program and sponsorships we will
send out an invitation flyer. Judge _____ save the date flyer is
attached.*

*We look forward to seeing everyone and getting the
s!!!*

I simply reformatted _____ email and send out the following email to members of _____, _____ and court staff. **Somehow, I did not give the underlined portion a thought, honestly, as a possible violation of the judicial code of ethics; it did not even register with me as ethically questionable** – which I now recognize was an error on my part.

*Dear Colleagues,
We are having a _____ and _____ on:*

at the _____ of

Staff and children are welcome.

*_____ and there will be
If you would like to donate or be a sponsor please contact me.
The date is firm. When we finalize the program and sponsorships we will send out an invitation flyer. A “save the date” flyer is attached.
We look forward to seeing everyone and getting
!!!*

So. Coming off of _____ of _____ in this _____, into this role as a judicial officer is a challenge for me, especially when it comes to my relationships with _____. I want to encourage good relationships between the _____, and with the bench, and strengthen the legal community here in our county, which has dwindled and who are disengaged from each other. My good intentions and exuberance got ahead of my careful analysis of my _____, and I tripped over this issue. Obviously, now having received guidance from my _____ and _____ having scrutinized the issue, I will not be accepting donations or sponsorships _____. _____ will do that, if any are forthcoming.

My apologies for the blunder. If this requires referral to the Judicial Conduct Committee, then I will submit to their further guidance.

Sincerely,

Arizona

Save The Date!

Attire:

Where:

When:

Time: