

State of Arizona
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Disposition of Complaint 21-171

Judge:

Complainant:

ORDER

January 26, 2022

The Complainant alleged that a superior court judge took part in improper political 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. Formal Ethics Advisory Opinion No. 16-03 notes that the Code does not preclude spouses or significant others who share an ownership interest with the judge in a property from placing political signs on their jointly-owned property. The opinion requires a judge to explain the public perception issues to his or her spouse or significant other and request that they not place political signs on their property. Further, the opinion states, "The judge has complied with the Arizona Code of Judicial Conduct by engaging in this discussion and making this request even if the spouse or significant other ultimately decides to place a political sign on their property." The complaint is therefore dismissed pursuant to Commission Rules 16(a) and 23(a).

The Commission also granted the judge's request for a protective order as to the GPS coordinates of his address that appear in the complaint.

Commission members Roger D. Barton and Joseph C. Kreamer did not participate in the consideration of this matter.

Copies of this order were distributed to all appropriate persons on January 26, 2022.

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

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21-171

COMPLAINT AGAINST A JUDGE

Name: _____ **Judge's Name:** _____

Instructions: Use this form or plain paper of the same size to file a complaint. Describe in your own words what you believe the judge did that constitutes judicial misconduct. Be specific and list all of the names, dates, times, and places that will help the commission understand your concerns. Additional pages may be attached along with copies (not originals) of relevant court documents. Please complete one side of the paper only, and keep a copy of the complaint for your records.

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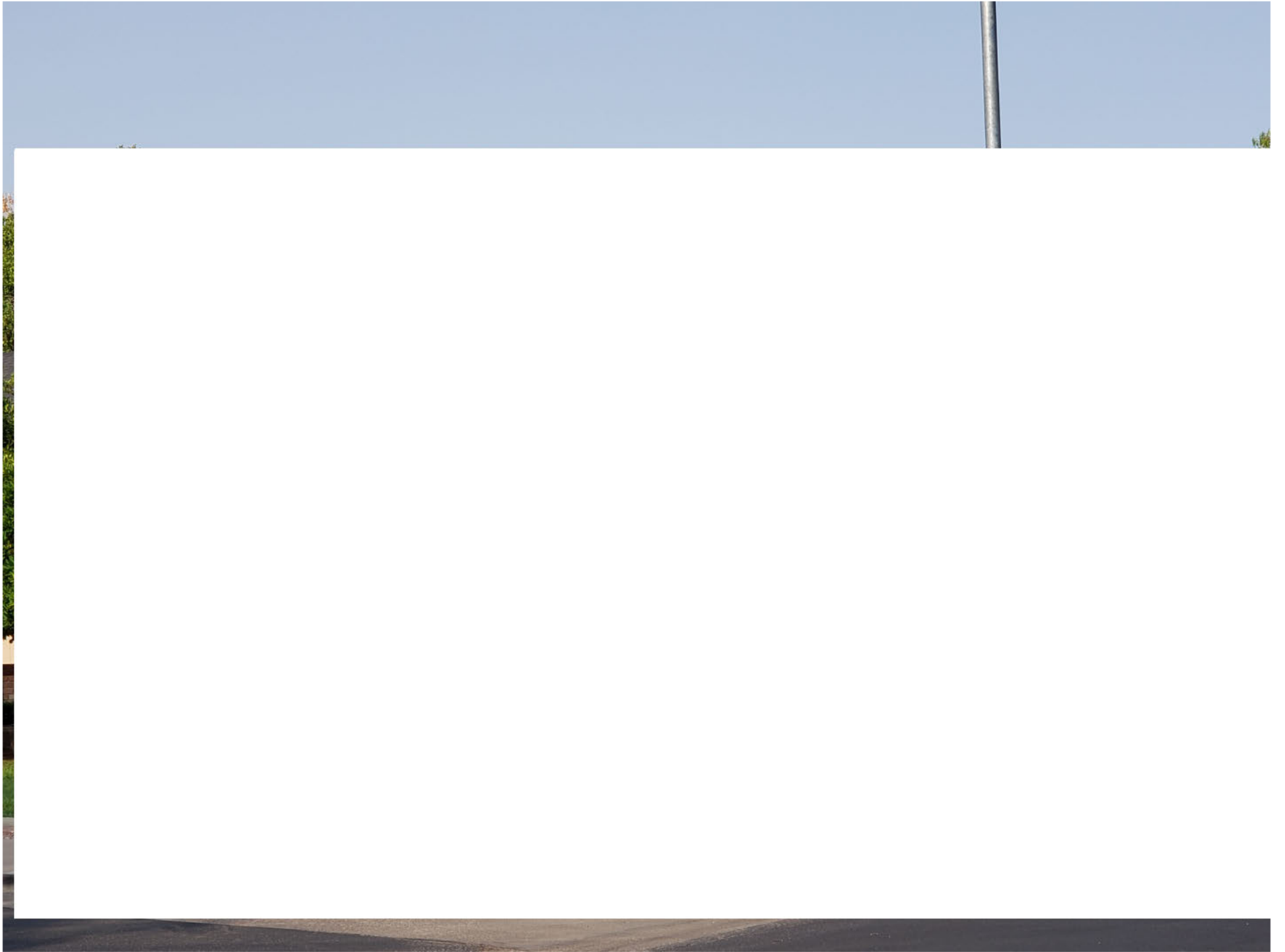
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GPS

Latitude

Longitude

Altitude

File

Name

Item type

Folder path

Date created

Date modified

Size

Attributes

Availability